



## THE LABOUR FORCE

MONTHLY SURVEY, WEEK ENDED MAY 21, 1960

## Introduction

This report presents the results of the monthly labour force survey covering the week ended May 21, 1960. 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 155 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% <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 21, 1960, April 23, 1960, and May 16, 1959, Canada (1)

(estimates in thousands)

	May 21 1960	April 23 1960	May 16 1959
Population 14 years of age and over (1)	11,759	11,735	11,531
Labour force	6,391	6,259	6,186
With jobs	5,992	5,742	5,852
Agriculture	675	641	724
Non-agriculture	5,317	5,101	5,128
Without jobs and seeking work (2)	399	517	334
Not in the labour force	5,368	5,476	5,345
With jobs	5,992	5,742	5,852
Usually work 35 hours or more	5,592	5,382	5,466
At work 35 hours or more	5,253	4,683(3)	5,182
At work less than 35 hours due to short time and turnover	73	84	63
(a) on short time	41	52	39
(b) laid off for part of week	*	13	*
(c) lost job during week	*	*	*
(d) found job during week	19	15	13
Not at work due to temporary layoff	19	34	20
At work less than 35 hours, or not at work, for other reasons	247	581(3)	201
(a) bad weather	36	22	16
(b) illness	88	88	94
(c) industrial dispute	*	*	*
(d) vacation	64	128(4)	45
(e) miscellaneous	57	342(3)	43
Usually work less than 35 hours	400	360	386

- (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) An unusually large number worked less than 35 hours due to Easter Monday being in the survey week.
- (4) Of those included under "Vacation", 105,000 did not work at all during the survey week; the majority were school teachers on Easter holidays.

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 21, 1960, Canada (1)

(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Males	Females
Population 14 years of age and over (1)	11,759	5,861	5,898
Labour force	6,391	4,752	1,639
With jobs	5,992	4,402	1,590
Agriculture	675	629	46
Non-agriculture	5,317	3,773	1,544
Without jobs and seeking work (2)	399	350	49
Not in the labour force	5,368	1,109	4,259
With jobs	5,992	4,402	1,590
Usually work 35 hours or more	5,592	4,269	1,323
At work 35 hours or more	5,253	4,007	1,246
At work less than 35 hours	185	144	41
Short time and turnover	73	56	17
(a) on short time	41	30	11
(b) laid off part of the week	*	*	*
(c) lost job during week	*	*	*
(d) found job during week	19	16	*
Other reasons	112	88	24
(a) bad weather	31	31	*
(b) illness	28	19	*
(c) industrial dispute	*	*	*
(d) vacation	12	*	*
(e) miscellaneous	40	30	10
Not at work	154	118	36
On temporary layoff	19	17	*
Other reasons	135	101	34
(a) bad weather	*	*	*
(b) illness	60	44	16
(c) industrial dispute	*	*	*
(d) vacation	52	38	14
(e) miscellaneous	17	13	*
Usually work less than 35 hours	400	133	267
At work less than 35 hours	395	131	264
Not at work	*	*	*

(1)(2) See footnotes Table 1.

Table 3. - Persons looking for work during the week ended May 21, 1960, Canada

(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Seeking full-time work	Seeking part-time work
Total looking for work	431	416	15
Without jobs	399	385	14
Worked	32	31	*
1-14 hours	10	10	*
15-34 hours	22	21	*

Table 4. - Age distributions, week ended May 21, 1960, Canada

(estimates in thousands)

	Total	14-19 years	20-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over
The labour force	6,391	589	813	2,943	1,818	228
Males	4,752	344	520	2,274	1,425	189
Females	1,639	245	293	669	393	39
Persons with jobs	5,992	519	745	2,784	1,723	221
Males	4,402	293	459	2,129	1,338	183
Females	1,590	226	286	655	385	38
Persons without jobs and seeking work	399	70	68	159	95	*
Persons not in the labour force	5,368	1,063	347	1,724	1,191	1,043
Males	1,109	490	47	40	103	429
Females	4,259	573	300	1,684	1,088	614

Table 5. - Percentage of the population 14 years of age and over in the labour force, by age and sex, week ended May 21, 1960, Canada

	Total	14-19 years	20-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over
Both sexes	54.3	35.7	70.1	63.1	60.4	17.9
Males	81.1	41.2	91.7	98.3	93.3	30.6
Females	27.8	30.0	49.4	28.4	26.5	6.0

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 21, 1960, Canada

(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Paid workers	Own account workers (1)	Employers (2)	Unpaid family workers (3)
Both sexes	5,992	4,887	608	333	164
Agriculture	675	112	379	67	117
Non-agriculture	5,317	4,775	229	266	47
Males	4,402	3,443	559	310	90
Agriculture	629	106	375	65	83
Non-agriculture	3,773	3,337	184	245	*
Females	1,590	1,444	49	23	74
Agriculture	46	*	*	*	34
Non-agriculture	1,544	1,438	45	21	40

Table 7. - Number of hours worked by persons with jobs during the week ended May 21, 1960, 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	5,992	159	163	233	184	3,368	997	888
Agriculture	675	*	25	27	22	62	99	434
Non-agriculture	5,317	153	138	206	162	3,306	898	454
Males	4,402	120	68	105	102	2,368	830	809
Agriculture	629	*	*	14	16	56	97	431
Non-agriculture	3,773	114	59	91	86	2,312	733	378
Females	1,590	39	95	128	82	1,000	167	79
Agriculture	46	*	16	13	*	*	*	*
Non-agriculture	1,544	39	79	115	76	994	165	76
<u>Paid Workers (Non-agriculture)</u>								
Both sexes	4,775	140	117	175	144	3,148	748	303
Males	3,337	102	51	77	76	2,183	600	248
Females	1,438	38	66	98	68	965	148	55

Table 8. - Reason for absence of persons with jobs not at work during the week ended May 21, 1960, Canada

(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Illness	Bad weather	Vacation	Industrial dispute	Temporary layoff (4)	Other
Both sexes	159	62	*	52	*	20	19

(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 21, 1960, Canada

(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Single	Married	Other (1)
Total	1,590	703	716	171
Agriculture	46	*	36	*
Non-agriculture	1,544	696	680	168

Table 10. - Number of months looking for work for persons without jobs, week ended May 21, 1960, 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	399	75	119	135	50	*	13

Table 11. - Class of non-worker of persons not in the labour force, week ended May 21, 1960, Canada

(estimates in thousands)

	Total	Permanently unable or too old to work	Keeping house	Going to school	Retired or voluntarily idle	Other
Both sexes	5,368	147	3,575	993	635	18
Males	1,109	100	*	508	483	13
Females	4,259	47	3,570	485	152	*

Table 12. - Regional distributions, week ended May 21, 1960

(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	11,759	275	909	3,329	4,137	2,013	1,096
Males	5,861	145	446	1,644	2,043	1,025	558
Females	5,898	130	463	1,685	2,094	988	538
<u>The Labour Force</u>							
Both sexes	6,391	121	441	1,780	2,379	1,104	566
Agriculture	682	*	58	124	171	297	29
Non-agriculture	5,709	118	383	1,656	2,208	807	537

(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 21, 1960 - 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	4,752	102	339	1,336	1,714	832	429
Agriculture	636	*	55	121	159	272	26
Non-agriculture	4,116	99	284	1,215	1,555	560	403
Females	1,639	19	102	444	665	272	137
Agriculture	46	*	*	*	12	25	*
Non-agriculture	1,593	19	99	441	653	247	134
All ages	6,391	121	441	1,780	2,379	1,104	566
14-19 years	589	14	46	201	193	99	36
20-24 years	813	21	59	260	272	136	65
25-44 years	2,943	55	182	817	1,119	495	275
45-64 years	1,818	29	135	453	702	327	172
65 years and over	228	*	19	49	93	47	18
<u>Persons with Jobs</u>							
All status groups	5,992	92	410	1,630	2,268	1,067	525
Males	4,402	73	310	1,203	1,621	799	396
Females	1,590	19	100	427	647	268	129
Agriculture	675	*	58	122	168	296	28
Non-agriculture	5,317	89	352	1,508	2,100	771	497
14-19 years	519	10	40	169	176	93	31
20-24 years	745	15	53	233	253	131	60
25-44 years	2,784	42	169	758	1,075	482	258
45-64 years	1,723	24	129	423	673	315	159
65 years and over	221	*	19	47	91	46	17
Paid workers	4,887	73	324	1,367	1,949	723	451
Males	3,443	55	234	978	1,352	492	332
Females	1,444	18	90	389	597	231	119
<u>Persons without jobs and seeking work</u>							
Both sexes	399	29(1)	31	150	111	37	41
<u>Persons not in the Labour Force</u>							
Both sexes	5,368	154	468	1,549	1,758	909	530
Males	1,109	43	107	308	329	193	129
Females	4,259	111	361	1,241	1,429	716	401

(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.