

## Section 2.—The Labour Force

### Subsection 1.—Labour Force Statistics of the Census of 1951

Details of the labour force, as defined in the 1951 Census, relative to age, sex and occupation groups are given at pp. 692-704 of the 1954 Year Book.

### Subsection 2.—Current Labour Force Statistics

During World War II up-to-date information on the size and characteristics of the labour supply was a necessity and to meet the possibility of disturbed economic conditions in the post-war period a current and periodic analysis of the state of employment in Canada was organized. A labour force survey, on a sample basis, was conducted in the autumn of 1945, and quarterly surveys were carried on until November 1952, when the survey was placed on a monthly basis. A multi-stage area sample was used involving the selection of progressively smaller sample areas and ultimately of households. Random methods of choice were used at every stage of selection so that all members of the population had an equal chance of inclusion. The present sample includes about 30,000 households in over 110 different areas of Canada, which include 34 cities having a population of 30,000 or over in 1951 in addition to some smaller urban, and various rural, areas.

The estimates of the labour force are restricted to the civilian labour force; net strength of the Armed Forces is obtainable directly from official sources. Inmates of institutions and Indians living on reserves are also excluded. Because of inaccessibility and high cost of enumeration, certain remote areas of the country have been excluded from the sample, but estimates for remote areas of Ontario were included in 1954 although they are given no chance of selection for enumeration. This resulted in an increase of about 0.6 p.c. in the estimates for Canada as a whole. This percentage can be applied to figures for previous years to make them comparable.

The labour force surveys provide a classification of persons 14 years of age and over on the basis of their activity, during the week that precedes the beginning of the survey, and who had jobs or were seeking work during the survey week. These divisions of the labour force are defined as follows:—

(1) **Persons with jobs**—This category comprises:—

- (a) *persons at work*—those who did any work for pay or profit or who did unpaid work which contributed to the running of a farm or business operated by a relative; and
- (b) *persons with jobs not at work*—those who had jobs but did not work because of illness, bad weather, vacation, industrial dispute, or temporary layoff with definite instructions to return to work within 30 days of the time of being laid off.

Persons who worked part of the survey week and also looked for work are classed as “persons with jobs”

(2) **Persons without jobs and seeking work**.—This classification includes those persons who were looking for work during the survey week and did not work. Persons who were temporarily away from their jobs during the whole of the survey week seeking other 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.