

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 100 different areas in Canada. These areas include the 28 cities having a population of 30,000 or over in 1941, in addition to some of the smaller urban places and various rural areas.

The estimates of the labour force are restricted to the civilian labour force, since net strength of the Armed Forces is obtainable directly from official sources. Inmates of institutions and Indians living on reserves are also excluded because they are not in the competitive labour market. Because of inaccessibility and high cost of enumeration, certain remote areas of the country have been excluded from the sample.

The labour force surveys provide a classification of persons 14 years of age or over on the basis of their activity during a specified week, which is, in each case, the week that precedes the beginning of the survey. Information on the part of the population not in the labour force is also collected. These non-workers are classified as keeping house, going to school, retired or voluntarily idle, too old or permanently unable to work.

The information gathered on the labour force is divided into two groups: (1) persons with jobs and (2) persons without jobs and seeking work. The estimates of persons with jobs are classified by region, sex, age, hours worked, occupation, industry and occupational status. Special estimates are given for women employed in domestic service and employed women by marital status. Included in the estimate of persons with jobs are those who worked during the survey week, as well as those temporarily absent from their jobs because of illness, vacation, bad weather, labour disputes or temporary layoffs. The estimates of persons without jobs and seeking work are classified by region, sex, age and number of months looking for work.

The estimates obtained from the labour force surveys are all subject to sampling error; the relative error tends to increase as the size of the estimate decreases. Accordingly, the reliability of the smaller estimates is less than that of the larger estimates. Estimates of less than 10,000 persons should not be used without careful reservation.

Data in Table 12 for June 1, 1946 to 1953, are compiled from the results of labour force surveys conducted in late May or early June of those years. The information for years prior to 1946 is taken from estimates based upon 1931 and 1941 Census data rearranged according to the definitional system used in the labour force surveys, the revised census benchmarks being linked with the June 1946 survey on the basis of monthly and annual employment and unemployment data.

The labour force sample survey for June 1951 used the same reference week as the 1951 Census of population. The same general labour force definitions were used in each and comparisons can be made in the data obtained. In general, the results obtained from the sample survey compared favourably with those obtained from the Census having due regard to the sampling variability mentioned above.