



Catalogue no. 71-544-XIE

# Labour Force Survey Products and Services

2004



Statistics  
Canada

Statistique  
Canada

Canada

## How to obtain more information

Specific inquiries about this product and related statistics or services should be directed to: Client Services, Labour Statistics Division, telephone: 1 866 873-8788, email: [labour@statcan.ca](mailto:labour@statcan.ca).

For information on the wide range of data available from Statistics Canada, you can contact us by calling one of our toll-free numbers. You can also contact us by e-mail or by visiting our Web site.

<b>National inquiries line</b>	<b>1 800 263-1136</b>
<b>National telecommunications device for the hearing impaired</b>	<b>1 800 363-7629</b>
<b>Depository Services Program inquiries</b>	<b>1 800 700-1033</b>
<b>Fax line for Depository Services Program</b>	<b>1 800 889-9734</b>
<b>E-mail inquiries</b>	<b>infostats@statcan.ca</b>
<b>Web site</b>	<b>www.statcan.ca</b>

## Ordering and subscription information

This product, Catalogue no. 71-544-XIE, is available on Internet free. Users can obtain single issues at <http://www.statcan.ca/cgi-bin/downpub/freepub.cgi>.

## Standards of service to the public

Statistics Canada is committed to serving its clients in a prompt, reliable and courteous manner and in the official language of their choice. To this end, the Agency has developed standards of service which its employees observe in serving its clients. To obtain a copy of these service standards, please contact Statistics Canada toll free at 1 800 263-1136.



Statistics Canada

# Labour Force Survey Products and Services

2004

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada

© Minister of Industry, 2004

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without prior written permission from Licence Services, Marketing Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0T6.

February 2004

Catalogue no. 71-544-XIE

ISSN: 1710-2464

Frequency: Annual

Ottawa

La version française de cette publication est disponible sur demande (n° 71-544-XIF au catalogue).

---

## Note of appreciation

*Canada owes the success of its statistical system to a long-standing partnership between Statistics Canada, the citizens of Canada, its businesses, governments and other institutions. Accurate and timely statistical information could not be produced without their continued cooperation and goodwill.*

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction .....	3
<b>Products and Services</b>	
Labour Force Information .....	4
Perspectives on Labour and Income .....	4
Labour Force Historical Review on CD-ROM .....	5
Guide to the Labour Force Survey .....	5
Methodology of the Canadian Labour Force Survey .....	6
CANSIM .....	6
Special Requests .....	6
Microdata File .....	7
Free Data on the Internet .....	7
<b>More About the LFS</b>	
Why Use LFS Data and Who Uses It? .....	8
Geographic Detail .....	8
Information Collected .....	9
<b>How to Order</b>	
See page .....	10



## INTRODUCTION

### ***What is the LFS?***

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a monthly survey involving around 54,000 Canadian households. The goal of the survey is to provide a detailed, current picture of the labour market across the country.

### ***What does it measure?***

The LFS is the only Statistics Canada source of current, monthly estimates of total employment (including self-employment) and unemployment. Many people know it as the source of the unemployment rate but LFS data are also used to produce other standard labour market indicators such as the employment rate and the participation rate. Along with these popular measures, the LFS also provides employment estimates by industry, occupation, hours worked and much more, all cross-classifiable by a variety of personal characteristics. For employees, wage, union status, job permanency and workplace size are also produced.

### ***About this catalogue***

This catalogue briefly describes all LFS products offered on a monthly, annual and occasional basis. It includes products, uses, general release dates, formats available and prices.

### ***Essential tools of the trade***

These products are aimed at labour market economists, analysts, consultants, planners, forecasters and academics in both the private and public sector. They provide current and historical labour market snapshots in a variety of formats. Whether you want to analyze the data yourself, to read analysis on a certain topic, to know more about the survey or to learn how a certain variable is measured, these products are designed to help you.

## PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

### *Labour Force Information*

This monthly publication provides timely labour market statistics. It also offers a brief commentary highlighting recent developments in the Canadian labour market. It includes a series of charts and tables on a variety of labour force characteristics such as employment and unemployment for Canada, the provinces, metropolitan areas and economic regions.

This publication is useful for those who need to be informed on current labour market conditions across the country.

This publication is available electronically in PDF and HTML formats on the Statistics Canada website. You can have access to this publication on the day of release by 7 a.m., usually the first Friday of the month. (For LFS release dates, visit: [www.statcan.ca/english/Release/index.htm](http://www.statcan.ca/english/Release/index.htm).)

To retrieve the publication visit [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca), then click on "Our Products and Services", "For Sale", then "Labour".

Catalogue no.	Annual subscription	Single issue
71-001-XIE		
Electronic version (PDF & HTML)	\$ 84	\$ 9

### *Perspectives on Labour and Income*

This publication brings together and analyzes a wide range of labour and income data. It covers topics such as youth in the labour market, pensions and retirement, work arrangements, education and training, and trends in the family income, to name a few. The publication also devotes sections to new products, surveys, research projects, conferences, and selected data from our extensive database of labour and income statistical indicators.

*Perspectives* is available in a monthly electronic format on the Internet as well as quarterly in print format. The print format provides you with the durability and portability of paper along with 5 to 6 feature articles every quarter. For more timeliness, view the monthly online issue which provides you with 1 to 2 articles every month and the ability to copy, search and sort the data right into your own documents or databases.

For free online articles, visit [www.statcan.ca/english/studies/75-001/archive/peixsuca.htm](http://www.statcan.ca/english/studies/75-001/archive/peixsuca.htm) and click on "Subject Index".

Catalogue no.	Annual subscription	Single issue
75-001-XIE		
Electronic version (PDF)	\$ 52	\$6 (Monthly)
75-001-XPE ñ Paper version	\$ 63	\$20 (Quarterly)



## ***Labour Force Historical Review on CD-ROM***

This annual CD-ROM is designed to provide a historical perspective of a wide variety of Labour Force Survey estimates. At the click of a mouse, you can easily access key variables, such as employment and unemployment levels and rates, as well as demographic characteristics like age, sex, educational attainment and family relationships. Also available are data by provincial level, metropolitan area and economic region, industry, occupation, wages, union membership levels, job tenure, workplace size, hours worked and much more. Included are annual and monthly series (with some seasonally adjusted), generally going back to 1976.

This CD allows you to do your own analysis of the labour market over time. If you need labour market data for presentations, for quick answers or in-depth analysis, or if you need to see historical movements or current trends, to forecast employment or unemployment trends, or to see labour trends in a specific province, metropolitan city or economic region, this CD will be helpful.

For more information on this CD-ROM (list of tables, prices for networks or more than one user, system requirements, etc.), visit: [www.statcan.ca/english/ads/71F0004XCB/index.htm](http://www.statcan.ca/english/ads/71F0004XCB/index.htm).

---

<b>Catalogue no.</b>	<b>Annual issue</b>
71F0004XCB	\$209 ( <i>Released in February</i> )

---

## ***Guide to the Labour Force Survey***

This publication discusses relevant concepts and terminology of the Labour Force Survey and explores the survey questionnaire on an item-by-item basis. It also briefly covers the background and objectives of the LFS, describes how labour force status is determined, and looks at survey methodology, collection procedures, data processing and quality measures. It provides a useful dictionary of definitions of survey terms and variables, as well as defining subprovincial regions.

This publication is useful for anyone using any of the Labour Force Survey products.

This publication is available free on the Statistics Canada website:  
[www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/71-543-GIE/free.htm](http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/71-543-GIE/free.htm).

---

<b>Catalogue no.</b>	<b>Single issue</b>
71-543-GIE	<i>Free on the Internet</i>

---

## ***Methodology of the Canadian Labour Force Survey***

This publication offers an in-depth look at the methodological and operational aspects of the LFS, covering stratification, sampling, survey operations, weighting, estimation and data quality.

This document would be of interest to those who would like more in-depth methodological information on the Labour Force Survey than provided by the *Guide to the Labour Force Survey*.

---

<b>Catalogue no.</b>	<b>Single issue</b>
71-526-XPB	\$50

---

## ***CANSIM***

A large selection of high-demand LFS monthly and annual average time series is also available through CANSIM, Statistics Canada's electronic online database. Over 90 tables or 1.4 million series are updated at the time of release (by 7 a.m. on the day of each monthly release), and revised when appropriate. This database is useful for those who want online access to a specific series of LFS estimates.

You can find CANSIM on the Statistics Canada website [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca), under "Our Products and Services" or at the following address: [www.statcan.ca/english/CANSIM/](http://www.statcan.ca/english/CANSIM/).

CANSIM tables 282-0001 to 282-0095 include LFS estimates. The price is \$3.00 per data series selected.

## ***Special Requests***

Custom tabulations can be arranged on an ad hoc or regular basis. This service enables you to specify tables and time series to meet your own requirements. For example, you may wish to have labour force estimates for age groups or educational levels that differ from those available in the LFS catalogued products. Subject matter and tabulation expertise is also provided to ensure that the customized data package is accurate and appropriate.

The cost for this service varies according to the request. For more information, contact our toll-free phone number at 1 866 873-8788 or e-mail us at [labour@statcan.ca](mailto:labour@statcan.ca).



## Microdata File

This public use microdata file contains non-aggregated data for a wide variety of variables collected from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). This product is for users who prefer to do their own analysis by focusing on specific subgroups in the population or by cross-classifying variables that are not in our catalogued products.

This file contains both personal characteristics for all individuals in the household and detailed labour force characteristics for household members 15 years of age and over. See page 9 of this publication for a list of the variables in this product. These variables are available by province and for the three largest census metropolitan areas (Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver). This is a monthly file, and is available going back to 1976.

Catalogue no.	Annual subscription	Monthly issue
71M0001XCB	\$3,210	\$321

To order or for more information, contact our toll-free phone number at 1 866 873-8788 or e-mail us at [labour@statcan.ca](mailto:labour@statcan.ca).

## Free Data on the Internet

Each month, on the release day of LFS data, selected tables are updated on the Statistics Canada website [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca), in "Canadian Statistics". The list of the tables (in HTML) include:

### Labour

- ▶ labour force characteristics for both sexes, aged 15 and over, seasonally adjusted
- ▶ labour force characteristics for both sexes, aged 15 and over, unadjusted for seasonality
- ▶ labour force characteristics by census metropolitan area, three-month moving averages, seasonally adjusted
- ▶ labour force characteristics by census metropolitan area, three-month moving averages unadjusted for seasonality
- ▶ labour force characteristics by economic region, three-month moving averages unadjusted for seasonality
- ▶ employment by age, sex, type of work, class of worker and province, seasonally adjusted
- ▶ employment by major industry groups and province, seasonally adjusted
- ▶ actual hours worked per week by industry, seasonally adjusted
- ▶ average hourly wages of employees by selected characteristics, profession and by province, unadjusted data

Also released this day on the Statistics Canada website is the *The Daily*, which has a brief commentary with some tables and charts, highlighting movements in the labour market in the last month.



## MORE ABOUT THE LFS...

### *Why Use LFS Data and Who Uses It?*

The Labour Force Survey offers a wide range of timely labour market indicators. It also provides historical context, with data going back to 1976. LFS data are available on a monthly and annual basis, and seasonally adjusted data are available for many series. The data are easily accessed online, in paper or electronic format, on CD-ROM, or through special requests.

Some of the major users of LFS data include

- ▶ journalists who want both background and current employment or unemployment figures for their stories;
- ▶ labour market researchers who want to study work patterns of a certain sector of the labour market like older workers, youths, women or the self-employed;
- ▶ consultants who need overall labour market trends for a large city;
- ▶ policy analysts who need to forecast employment trends for the next few years;
- ▶ economists who need to predict whether the economy will continue to grow and for how long;
- ▶ government departments and financial organizations who need to keep current with the latest labour market developments.

### *Geographic Detail*

LFS estimates are available nationally, as well as by province, census metropolitan area, economic region and some census agglomerations. It should be noted, however, that the smaller the population, the greater the likelihood of sampling variability. Data subject to high sampling variability may not be usable for decision-making purposes.

## *Information Collected*

The LFS collects both demographic and labour related data. Here is a list of the major variables available.

**Demographic** detail includes age, sex, education, marital status, family relationship and household composition.

Some of the major **labour** related data includes:

- ▶ employment
- ▶ unemployment
- ▶ full- or part-time employment status
- ▶ usual and actual hours of work
- ▶ employee hourly and weekly wages
- ▶ industry of current or most recent job
- ▶ occupation of current or most recent job
- ▶ class of worker (employee, self-employed, unpaid family worker)
- ▶ public/private sector
- ▶ union status
- ▶ overtime hours, paid or unpaid
- ▶ permanent/temporary work
- ▶ workplace and firm size
- ▶ school attendance (full- or part-time and type of institution)
- ▶ summer employment or unemployment for returning students
- ▶ hours of work lost, by reason
- ▶ job tenure
- ▶ duration of unemployment
- ▶ methods of job search and type of job sought
- ▶ reasons for working part time
- ▶ discouraged workers
- ▶ involuntary part-timers
- ▶ multiple jobholders
- ▶ retirement age
- ▶ supplementary measures of unemployment.

## HOW TO ORDER

To order any of the above products, contact the Statistics Canada Regional Office nearest you.

**National toll-free enquiries line** (Canada and the United States):

1-800-263-1136

**Telecommunications device for the hearing impaired:**

1-800-363-7629

**National toll-free fax order line** (Canada and the United States):

1-877-287-4369

You can also address your queries by e-mail to [infostats@statcan.ca](mailto:infostats@statcan.ca).

### EASTERN REGION

***Serving Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick***

Local calls: (902) 426-5331

Fax: (902) 426-9538

***Serving Quebec (except the National Capital Region)***

Local calls: (514) 283-5725

Fax: (514) 283-9350

### NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

***Serving the National Capital Region***

Local calls: (613) 951-8116

Fax: (613) 951-0581

### CENTRAL REGION

***Serving Ontario (except the National Capital Region)***

Local calls: (416) 973-6586

Fax: (416) 973-7475

### WESTERN REGION

***This region has 3 Reference Centres serving Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, British Columbia and the Yukon Territory.***

***Serving Manitoba:***

Local calls: (204) 983-4020

Fax: (204) 983-7543

***Serving Saskatchewan:***

Local calls: (306) 780-5405

Fax: (306) 780-5403

***Serving Alberta, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut:***

Local calls: (780) 495-3027

Fax: (780) 495-5318

***Serving British Columbia and the Yukon Territory***

Local calls: (604) 666-3691

Fax: (604) 666-6966