

Labour Force Survey, July 2017-2021

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a monthly labour and employment survey of approximately 80,000 individuals conducted by Statistics Canada. The LFS covers the civilian, non-institutionalized population 15 years of age and over. It is conducted nationwide, in both the provinces and the territories. However, it does exclude certain groups. These are persons living on reserves and other Indigenous settlements in the provinces; full-time members of the Canadian Armed Forces; the institutionalized population; and households in extremely remote areas with very low population density.

The LFS uses a probability sample that is based on a stratified multi-stage design. Each province is divided into large geographic stratum. The first stage of sampling consists of selecting smaller geographic areas, called clusters, from within each stratum. The second stage of sampling consists of selecting dwellings from within each selected cluster. Non-response to the LFS tends to average about 10% of eligible households with higher non-response rates during the pandemic.

More details on the survey can be found via this Statistics Canada [report](#) and the LFS [website](#).

Pooled July 2017-2021 Data

In order to examine outcomes over time, I have pooled data from the July 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021 surveys. This will let us, for example, study how earnings might have changed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

10% Subsample of Adults with Employment

For the purposes of this course, we are going to focus on a subsample of employed workers with earnings. To simplify analyses, I've taken a 10% sample from this larger sample and I have already cleaned the data for you.

Our sample has 24,086 cases with 22 variables. The unit of analysis is the individual.

Variables

The table below lists the variables included in our survey subset. Some of these come from the original data. Others are ones that I have created for the purposes of this course. Variable details are provided on the next page.

Name	Description
REC_NUM	ID number
FINALWT	Survey weight variable
SURVEAR	Survey year
AGYOWNK	Age of youngest child
LFSSTAT	Labor force status
PROV	Province
CMA	Census Metropolitan Area
AGE_12	Age in categories
SEX	Sex
MARSTAT	Marital status
EDUC	Education
IMMIG	Immigrant status
EFAMTYPE	Family type
HRLYEARN	Hourly earnings
UTOTHRS	Usual hours worked per week
COWMAIN	Class of job
PERMTEMP	Permanent or temporary
FIRMSIZE	Firm size
UNION	Union status
HRSTOT	Total hours worked per year
NOC_10	Occupation
TENURE	Job tenure in months

Variable Coding**REC_NUM ID number**

Individual respondent ID number

Number: 3 through 102898

FINALWT Survey weight variable

Survey weighting variable

Number: 8 through 3158

SURVYEAR Survey year

Survey wave year

Number: 2017 through 2021

AGYOWNK Age of youngest child

Age of respondent's youngest child under age 25

0 = No children under age 25

1 = Youngest child less than 6 years

2 = Youngest child 6-12 years

3 = Youngest child 13-17 years

4 = Youngest child 18-24 years

LFSSTAT Labor force status

Labor force status

1 = Employed, at work

2 = Employed, absent from work

PROV **Province**

Province of residence

10 = Newfoundland and Labrador
11 = Prince Edward Island
12 = Nova Scotia
13 = New Brunswick
24 = Quebec
35 = Ontario
46 = Manitoba
47 = Saskatchewan
48 = Alberta
59 = British Columbia

CMA **Census Metropolitan Area**

Nine largest CMAs

0 = Other CMA or non-CMA
1 = Québec
2 = Montréal
3 = Ottawa
4 = Toronto
5 = Hamilton
6 = Winnipeg
7 = Calgary
8 = Edmonton
9 = Vancouver

AGE_12 **Age in categories**

Five-year age group of respondent

- 1 = 15 to 19 years
- 2 = 20 to 24 years
- 3 = 25 to 29 years
- 4 = 30 to 34 years
- 5 = 35 to 39 years
- 6 = 40 to 44 years
- 7 = 45 to 49 years
- 8 = 50 to 54 years
- 9 = 55 to 59 years
- 10 = 60 to 64 years
- 11 = 65 to 69 years
- 12 = 70 and over

SEX **Self-identified sex**

Self-identified sex of respondent

- 1 = Male
- 2 = Female

MARSTAT **Marital status**

Marital status of respondent

- 1 = Married
- 2 = Living in a common-law partnership
- 3 = Widowed
- 4 = Separated
- 5 = Divorced
- 6 = Single, never married

EDUC Education

Highest educational attainment

- 0 = 0 to 8 years
- 1 = Some high school
- 2 = High school graduate
- 3 = Some postsecondary
- 4 = Postsecondary certificate or diploma
- 5 = Bachelor's degree
- 6 = Above bachelor's degree

IMMIG Immigrant status

Immigration status

- 1 = Immigrant, landed 10 or less years earlier
- 2 = Immigrant, landed more than 10 years earlier
- 3 = Non-immigrant

EFAMTYPE Family type

Type of economic family

- 1 = Unattached individual
- 2 = Husband-wife, dual earner couple, no children or none under 25
- 3 = Husband-wife, dual earner couple, youngest child 0 to 17
- 4 = Husband-wife, dual earner couple, youngest child 18 to 24
- 5 = Husband-wife, single earner couple, husband employed, no children or none under 25
- 6 = Husband-wife, single earner couple, husband employed, youngest child 0 to 17
- 7 = Husband-wife, single earner couple, husband employed, youngest child 18 to 24
- 8 = Husband-wife, single earner couple, wife employed, no children or none under 25
- 9 = Husband-wife, single earner couple, wife employed, youngest child 0 to 17
- 10 = Husband-wife, single earner couple, wife employed, youngest child 18 to 24
- 11 = Husband-wife, non-earner couple, no children or none under 25
- 12 = Husband-wife, non-earner couple, youngest child 0 to 17
- 13 = Husband-wife, non-earner couple, youngest child 18 to 24
- 14 = Single-parent family, parent employed, youngest child 0 to 17
- 15 = Single-parent family, parent employed, youngest child 18 to 24
- 16 = Single-parent family, parent not employed, youngest child 0 to 17
- 17 = Single-parent family, parent not employed, youngest child 18 to 24
- 18 = Other families

HRLYEARN Hourly earnings

Usual hourly earnings in dollars

Number: 3.14 through 125.49 Canadian dollars (adjusted for inflation to 2021 dollars using CPI)

COWMAIN Class of job

Class of worker, at their main job

- 1 = Public sector employees
- 2 = Private sector employees

PERMTEMP Permanent or temporary

Job permanency

- 1 = Permanent
- 2 = Temporary, seasonal job
- 3 = Temporary, term or contract job
- 4 = Temporary, casual or other temporary job

FIRMSIZE Firm size

Number of employees working at current firm

- 1 = Less than 20 employees
- 2 = 20 to 99 employees
- 3 = 100 to 500 employees
- 4 = More than 500 employees

UNION Union membership status

- 1 = Union member or covered by a collective agreement
- 2 = Non-unionized

NOC_10 Occupation at main job (2016 NOC)

- 1 = Management occupations
- 2 = Business, finance and administration occupations
- 3 = Natural and applied sciences and related occupations
- 4 = Health occupations
- 5 = Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services
- 6 = Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport
- 7 = Sales and service occupations
- 8 = Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations
- 9 = Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations
- 10 = Occupations in manufacturing and utilities

UTOTHRS Usual hours worked per week at all jobs

Hours per week

Number: 0.30-99 hours

TENURE Job tenure with current employer (months)

Months working with current employer

Number: 1-240 months (top-coded at 240 months)

HRSTOT Total hours worked per year

Hours per year

Number: 0-5049 hours (top-coded at 5049 hours)