



Tell us how Canada works

THE LABOUR FORCE SURVEY



Canada

What is the Labour Force Survey (LFS)?

Every month, Statistics Canada produces timely and reliable estimates of employment and unemployment for Canada and the provinces and territories. The **Labour Force Survey** also provides other labour market information about Canada's working-age population such as hours of work, industry, occupation, and wages. These important data are based on results from the **LFS**. Your household was randomly selected to complete this survey along with nearly 65,000 others across Canada. Every member of your household represents approximately 300 Canadians of the same age and gender, therefore your participation in the **Labour Force Survey** has an importance that extends far beyond your household.

Why is it important?

A reliable way to take the country's economic temperature is to look at its employment and unemployment data. The **Labour Force Survey** does exactly that. Governments, labour unions, businesses and social agencies use Statistics Canada's **Labour Force Survey** information to make important decisions that affect the day-to-day lives of all Canadians. This also includes those who are retired or not in the labour force.

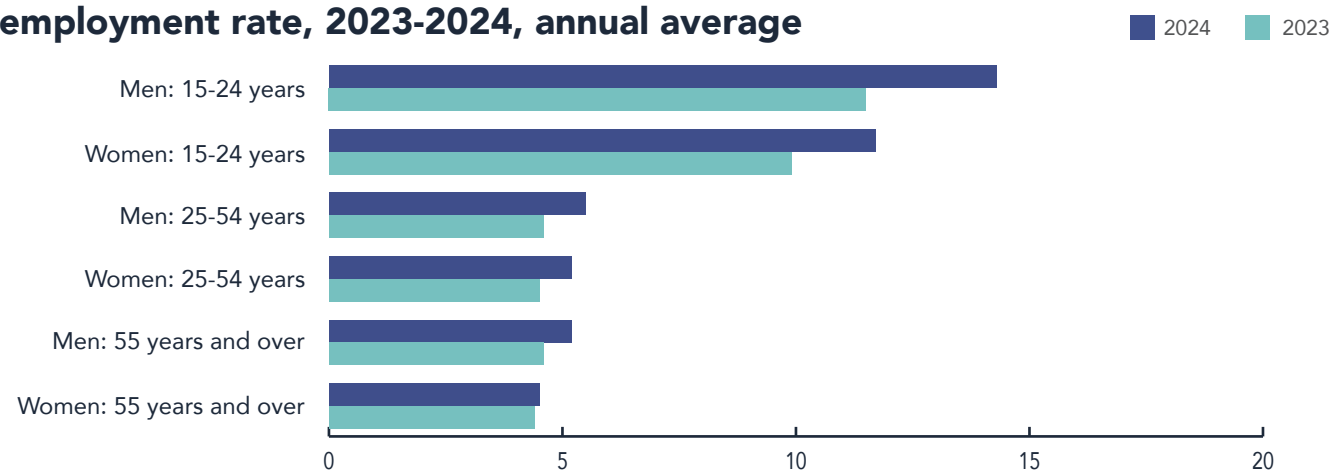
What does this survey involve?

Once a month for six consecutive months, you will be asked to complete a short survey related to employment and unemployment for each member of your household aged 15 and over.

In 2024, the unemployment rate was 6.3%, up from 5.3% in 2022 and 5.4% in 2023, the lowest annual unemployment rates since comparable data became available in 1976.



Unemployment rate, 2023-2024, annual average



Source: Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada, table 14-10-0327-01



What about confidentiality?

The confidentiality of the data you provide is our number one priority, which is the reason every Statistics Canada employee takes an oath of secrecy. Information which could identify an individual is never released to anyone, not even other government departments. Statistics Canada will use the information you provide for statistical purposes only. If you have any questions or if you would like to verify the identity of a Statistics Canada interviewer, please contact us using our toll free number.



To complete the questionnaire by phone, or for survey related enquiries, contact us 7 days a week, including evenings (except holidays):

1-833-977-8287
TTY: 1-866-753-7083*
Visit www.statcan.gc.ca/LFS



For technical assistance or other enquiries, contact us Monday to Friday (except holidays) from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)

1-877-949-9492
TTY: 1-800-363-7629*
Email: infostats@statcan.gc.ca

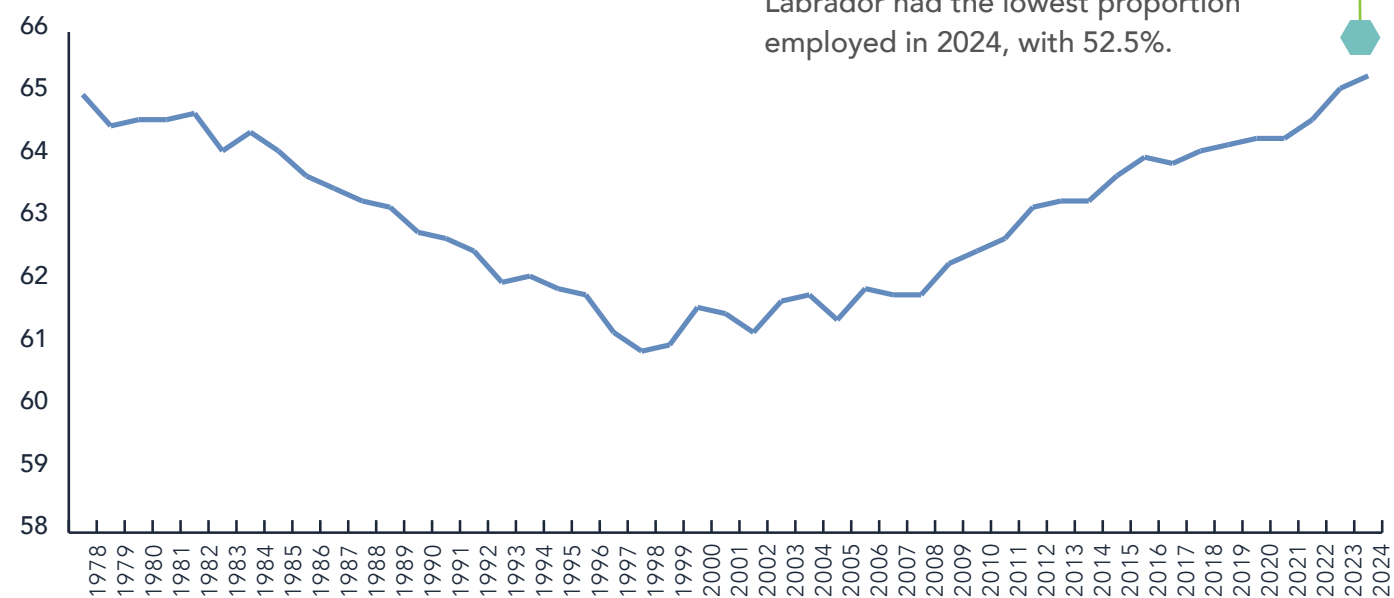
*If you use an operator-assisted relay service, you can call us during regular business hours. You do not need to authorize the operator to contact us.

When is your interview?

In the near future, Statistics Canada will contact you by email, telephone, or in person to complete the LFS questionnaire. Telephone and in-person interviews are scheduled at a time most convenient for you. The survey will occur around the same time each month, for six consecutive months. You may complete the survey in the official language of your choice or, whenever possible, in another language.

In 2024, employment increased among individuals aged 25 to 54 years old. Year-over-year, men in this age group experienced the largest proportional increase in employment.

Average Retirement Age



Source: Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada, table 14-10-0060-01

Why are seniors and retirees important to the LFS?

Labour Force Survey data are used to describe changes in the labour market. These include trends related to population aging and changes in retirement ages.

Many government departments rely on the **Labour Force Survey** to track these changing trends. This information leads to evidence-based policy decisions about retirement, pension funding, employment of older workers, and more. As such, whether you are employed, looking for work, retired, in school or unable to work, by participating, you will join the thousands of Canadians who, each month, play an important role in producing reliable data on unemployment rates and labour market conditions in Canada.

Among all provinces, Alberta had the highest employment rate in 2024, with 64.4% of the population aged 15 years and older employed. Newfoundland and Labrador had the lowest proportion employed in 2024, with 52.5%.



Can I complete this survey online?

The **Labour Force Survey** offers an online option available for certain eligible households. For these respondents, a secure access code will be emailed to enable completion of the questionnaire online through our secure questionnaire portal.



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