

## 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. It 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 *Labour Force Survey*. Your household is among 56,000 others randomly selected to represent all of Canada in this survey. Every member of your household represents approximately 300 Canadians of the same age and sex, 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. Our governments, banks, 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 about employment and unemployment for each member of your household aged 15 and over.

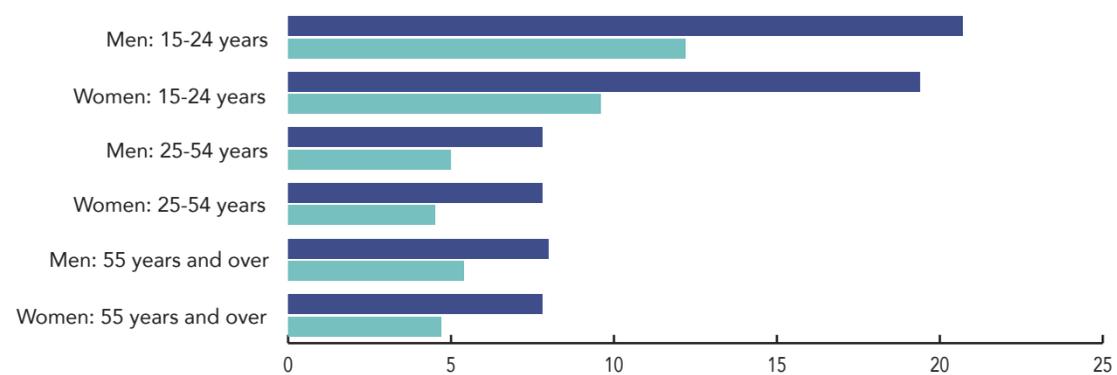
**Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the unemployment rate for 2020 rose to 9.5%, the highest annual rate since 1996. At the same time, the participation rate was 64.1%, the lowest it had been since 1979.**



# Tell us how Canada works

## THE LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

### Unemployment rate, 2019-2020, 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](http://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@canada.ca](mailto:infostats@canada.ca)

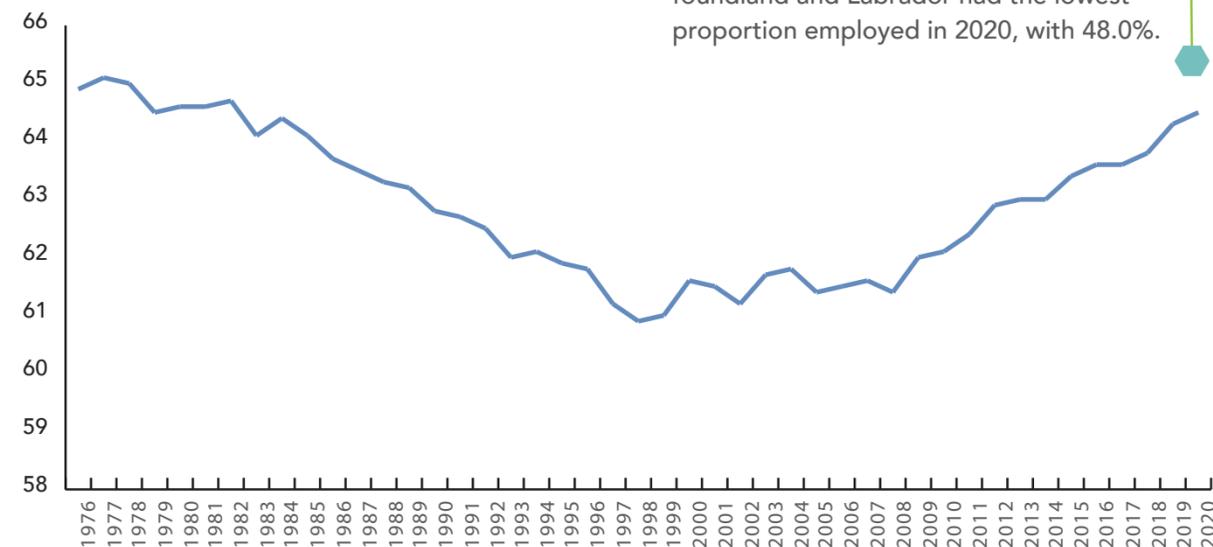
\*If you use an operator-assisted relay service, you can call us during regular business hours. You do not need to authorize the operator to contact us.

## When is your interview?

In the near future, a Statistics Canada interviewer will contact you to arrange a time that is most convenient for you to complete your survey. The survey will occur around the same time each month, for six consecutive months. You can complete the survey in the official language of your choice or, whenever possible, in another language. Following the first interview, you may be offered the possibility to complete the subsequent surveys online.

In 2020, employment fell in every major age group, with the largest decline for young women aged 15 to 24. For most demographic groups, the year-over-year decrease in employment was the largest on record.

## 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 is used to describe changes in the labour market. These include trends related to population aging and fluctuations in average retirement ages.

Many government departments rely on the *Labour Force Survey* to track these changing trends. This information leads to informed policy decisions regarding retirement and pension funding and accurate information on the employment situation of older workers. As such, whether you are retired, employed or are an unemployed senior, the information you provide is important in building reliable data that affects all Canadians.

Saskatchewan had the highest employment rate in 2020, with 61.3% of the population aged 15 years and over employed. Newfoundland and Labrador had the lowest proportion employed in 2020, with 48.0%.



## Can I complete this survey online?

The *Labour Force Survey* has an online option following the initial interview with one of our interviewers. This approach is to ensure the correct address and household membership are recorded. For the majority of our respondents, a secure access code will be emailed to allow subsequent interviews to be completed online through our secure questionnaire portal. Your interviewer will have more information when you complete the first interview.

