

The Jobs Report: What's in It and What All the Jargon Means

Confused by all the language used to describe the labour market? Read on!

What is the jobs report?

The jobs report is a **government document detailing the state of the labour market**.

Is it sometimes called something else?

Yes. The jobs report is officially called the **Labour Force Survey**.

Who publishes it?

The jobs report is published monthly by **Statistics Canada**.

What's in it?

It contains estimates of **net job creation**, the **employment rate**, the **unemployment rate**, the **labour force participation rate** and other measures of the job market. It also breaks down employment trends by industry, province/territory and demographic group.

Where does the data come from?

The data in the jobs report comes from a **monthly survey of households**.

What is net job creation?

Net job creation is the **number of jobs created minus the number of jobs lost**.

What is the labour force?

The labour force includes **all working-age people who are employed or looking for work**.

Who is considered "working age"?

Everyone **15 and older** is considered working age.

What is the labour force participation rate?

The labour force participation rate is the **percentage of the working-age population** that is in the labour force, meaning **employed or actively looking for work**.

Is the labour force participation rate the same thing as the employment rate?

No. **The employment rate is the percentage of working-age people who are employed**. It doesn't include people who are looking for work.

Who is included in the unemployment rate?

The **unemployment rate** is the percentage of working-age people who are **not working but are actively looking for work, about to start a job or on temporary layoff**.

Here's a recap:

| | Employed | Looking for work | Not looking for work |
|---------------------------------|----------|------------------|----------------------|
| Employment rate | ● | | |
| Unemployment rate | | ● | |
| Labour force participation rate | ● | ● | |

As you can see, none of these rates includes people who aren't looking for work.

How does Statistics Canada define full-time vs. part-time work?

Workers are considered full time if they work **30 hours** or more per week. They're considered part time if they work less than 30 hours per week.

Factors that can affect the job market

The employment, unemployment and labour force participation **rates can change quite a bit from month to month** depending on what is happening in the economy. Here are some of the factors that can impact the job market and the effects they typically have.

| Factor | Typical effects |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Economic growth | Job creation, lower unemployment |
| Recession | Job losses, higher unemployment |
| Aging population | Smaller labour force, lower labour force participation rate |
| Population growth and immigration | Larger labour force, higher labour force participation rate |
| Automation | Job losses in manufacturing |
| Technological advances | Job creation in emerging industries |
| Tariffs | Job losses, higher unemployment |

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