



CANADA

# CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION • DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS • OTTAWA, CANADA

June 29, 1960

Vol. 15 No. 26

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## EMPLOYMENT SITUATION IN MAY

During April and May this year the number of persons with jobs increased by 250,000 to 5,992,000, according to the monthly joint news release by the Department of Labour and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This advance, which was greater than that of the same month during the past two years, followed a relatively small increase in the previous month. Most hiring took place in seasonal industries. Total employment in May was 2.4 per cent higher than a year earlier, and non-farm employment 3.7 per cent higher.

Employment in Quebec increased more than is usual for the month, while in the Pacific region it was below normal. In Ontario and the Prairie and Atlantic regions employment gains were about equal to the seasonal average.

### LABOUR FORCE

In May the increase in the labour force over the previous year was more than 3 per cent, the largest gain in two years and considerably greater than the year-to-year increase in employment. Female workers accounted for more than half the increase, reflecting the growing number of job opportunities for women in the trade and service industries.

The number of persons without jobs and seeking work declined by 118,000, to 399,000, during the month, 65,000 higher than a year earlier. Nearly all the decline in the number of job-seekers during April and May was among males, and over half of it was in Quebec. The

number seeking work represented 6.2 per cent of the labour force, compared to 5.4 per cent in May 1959 and 6.0 per cent in May 1958. The estimated number on temporary layoff declined by 15,000 in May to 19,000, about the same total as a year ago.

### JOB-SEEKERS

Of the 399,000 seeking work in May, 350,000 were men and 49,000 women. About half the total number of job-seekers had been looking for work less than three months. Another one-third had been seeking work for four to six months and 70,000 or 17 per cent had been seeking work for more than six months.

The classification of the 110 labour market areas across the country was as follows (last year's figures in brackets): in substantial surplus, 33 (28); in moderate surplus, 67 (60); in balance, 10 (22).

Canada's labour force was estimated at 6,391,000 in the week ended May 21 against 6,259,000 a month earlier. Of the current total, 5,592,000, or 87.5 per cent of those in labour force, usually worked 35 hours or more at the jobs they held in the survey week, 400,000, or 6.3 per cent, usually worked less than 35 hours, and 399,000 or 6.2 per cent were without jobs and seeking work. Classed as not in the labour force are such groups as those keeping house, going to school, retired or voluntarily idle, too old or unable to work. These numbered 5,368,000.

(Over)