

## **2017 Changes to the Labour Force Survey Public Use Microdata Files**

The Public Use Microdata Files (PUMFs) for the Labour Force Survey (LFS) are anonymized, non-aggregated data collected through the LFS on a monthly basis, which are available to users outside of Statistics Canada and its facilities through post-secondary institutions or subscribing institutions. The methodology used to create the LFS PUMFs has largely been unchanged since 1996, despite several additions to the questionnaire. However, some variables have been added, modified or removed at various times in order to protect the confidentiality of respondents. For example, occupation was not included in the LFS PUMFs for 2016. Although occupation has been reinstated for 2017, and immigrant status has been introduced, doing so necessitated that variables pertaining to family and spouse/partner's education, labour force status, occupation and education be dropped.

This document provides an overview of changes made to the variables in the LFS PUMFs for 2017. Users should be aware that these changes are not applied retroactively, as they are for the LFS confidential microdata, due to the risk of residual disclosure associated with comparison of current and previous versions of a given variable. By implication, users are responsible for establishing concordance between variables over time when the series is broken through re-categorization or replacement.

### ***Variables added, expanded or reintroduced***

- The census metropolitan area (CMA) variable has been expanded from the three largest CMAs in Canada (Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver) to nine CMAs: Québec, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Hamilton, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver.
- Two occupation variables, based on the 2016 National Occupational Classification, have been reintroduced: a generic, 10-category variable (NOC\_10) and a detailed 40-category variable (NOC\_40).
- A new variable on immigrant status (IMMIG) has been introduced, which distinguishes between recent immigrants, landed 10 or less years ago; established immigrant, landed more than 10 years ago; and non-immigrant.

### ***Variables removed or collapsed***

- The labour force status variable (LFSSTAT) has been collapsed from six categories to four categories: employed, at work; employed, absent from work; unemployed; and not in the labour force. Unemployed people who are temporarily laid off, searching for a job or starting work in the future will not be distinguished, as they had been previously.
- Two industry variables—one with 18 categories and the other with 43 categories—based on the 2012 North American Industry Classification System will be replaced with one industry variable, based on the same classification system. The 21 categories of the new industry variable are consistent with the level of detail provided in the relevant LFS CANSIM tables.
- The age of youngest child variable (AGYOWNK) has been collapsed from six categories to four: under 6 years; 6 to 12 years; 13 to 17 years; and 18 to 24 years.
- The school attendance variable (SCHOOLN) has been collapsed from nine categories, which include information on the type of school attended, to three categories indicative of student status only: non-student; full-time student; and part-time student.

- Fourteen variables related to family and spouse/partner's labour force characteristics have been removed: number of people in the economic family (EFAMSIZE); number of employed people in the economic family (EFAMEMPL); number of unemployed people in the economic family (EFAMUNEM); age of spouse/partner (SP\_AGE); labour force status of spouse/partner (SP\_LFSST); highest level of educational attainment of spouse/partner (SPED7689 and SPED1990); occupational classification of spouse/partner's main job (SP\_SOC80 and SP\_NOCS01); usual hours of spouse at main job (SP\_UHRSM); usual hours of spouse/partner at all jobs (SP\_UHRST); class of worker for spouse/partner's main job (SP\_COWM); and presence of at least one child in school (SCH1624).
  - Users should note that key family variables remain in the LFS PUMFs for 2017, including marital status (MARSTAT), economic family type (EFAMTYPE) and age of youngest child (AGYOWNK).
- Eight out-of-date variables have also been removed from the record layout: highest level of educational attainment (1976-1986: ED76to89); 2002 North American Industrial Classification System (1976-2015: NAICS\_18); 1980 Standard Occupational Classification (1984-1986: SOC80\_21 and SOC80\_49); 2001 National Occupational Classification for Statistics (1976-2015: NOCS\_01\_25 and NOCS\_01\_47); reasons for working part-time (1976-1996: WHYP TOLD); reasons for not looking for work in the past four weeks, after looking for work in the last 6 months (1976-1996: YNOLKOLD).

Previous Iteration			2017 Iteration	
Concept	Variable Name	Coding		
<b>Labour force Status</b>	LFSSTAT	<p>1976-2016:</p> <p>1=Employed, at work 2=Employed, absent from work 3=Unemployed, temporary layoff 4=Unemployed, job searcher 5=Unemployed, future start 6=Not in labour force</p>	LFSSTAT	<p>1=Employed, at work 2=Employed, absent from work 3=Unemployed 4=Not in labour force</p>
<b>Census metropolitan areas</b>	CMA	<p>1987-2016:</p> <p>1=Montréal 2=Toronto 3=Vancouver 4=Other CMA or non-CMA</p>	CMA	<p>1=Québec 2=Montréal 3=Ottawa 4=Toronto 5=Hamilton 6=Winnipeg 7=Calgary 8=Edmonton 9=Vancouver 0=Other CMA or non-CMA</p>
<b>Immigrant status</b>			IMMIG	<p>1=Immigrant, landed 10 or less years earlier 2=Immigrant, landed more than 10 years earlier 3=Non-immigrant</p>
<b>National Occupational Classification (NOC) of main job</b>	NOCS_01_25 (2001 version of the National Occupational Classification - Statistics)	<p>1987-2015 (note that occupational data are not available for 2016 in the PUMFs):</p> <p>1=Senior Management Occupations 2=Other Management Occupations 3=Professional Occupations in Business and Finance 4=Financial, Secretarial and Administrative Occupations 5=Clerical Occupations, Including Supervisors 6=Natural and Applied Sciences and Related Occupations 7=Professional Occupations in Health, Nurse Supervisors and Registered Nurses 8=Technical, Assisting and Related Occupations in Health 9=Occupations in Social Science, Government Service and Religion 10=Teachers and Professors 11=Occupations in Art, Culture, Recreation and Sport 12=Wholesale, Technical, Insurance, Real Estate Sales Specialists, and Retail, Wholesale and Grain Buyers</p>	NOC_40 (2016 version of NOC)	<p>1=Senior management occupations 2=Specialized middle management occupations 3=Middle management occupations in retail and wholesale trade and customer services 4=Middle management occupations in trades, transportation, production and utilities 5=Professional occupations in business and finance 6=Administrative and financial supervisors and administrative occupations 7=Finance, insurance and related business administrative occupations 8=Office support occupations 9=Distribution, tracking and scheduling co-ordination occupations 10=Professional occupations in natural and applied sciences 11=Technical occupations related to natural and applied sciences</p>

	<p>13=Retail Salespersons, Sales Clerks, Cashiers, Including Retail Trade Supervisors  14=Chefs and Cooks, and Occupations in Food and Beverage Service, Including Supervisors  15=Occupation in Protective Services  16=Childcare and Home Support Workers  17=Sales and Service Occupations n.e.c., Including Occupations in Travel and Accommodation, Attendants in Recreation and Sport as well as Supervisors  18=Contractors and Supervisors in Trades and Transportation  19=Construction Trades  20=Other Trades Occupations  21=Transportation and Heavy Equipment Operators  22=Trades Helpers, Construction and Transportation Labourers and Related Occupations  23=Occupations Unique to Primary Industry  24=Machine Operators and Assemblers in Manufacturing, Including Supervisors  25=Labourer in Processing, Manufacturing and Utilities</p> <p>1=Senior Management Occupations  2=Specialist Managers  3=Managers in Retail Trade, Food and Accommodation Services  4=Other Managers n.e.c.  5=Professional Occupations in Business and Finance  6=Finance and Insurance Administrative Occupations  7=Secretaries  8=Administrative and Regulatory Occupations  9=Clerical Supervisors  10=Clerical Occupations  11=Professional Occupations in Natural and Applied Sciences  12=Technical Occupations Related to Natural and Applied Sciences  13=Professional Occupations in Health  14=Nurse Supervisors and Registered Nurses  15=Technical and Related Occupations in Health  16=Assisting Occupations in Support of Health Services  17=Judges, Lawyers, Psychologists, Social Workers, Ministers of Religion, and Policy and Program Officers  18=Teachers and Professors</p>	<p>12=Professional occupations in nursing  13=Professional occupations in health (except nursing)  14=Technical occupations in health  15=Assisting occupations in support of health services  16=Professional occupations in education services  17=Professional occupations in law and social, community and government services  18=Paraprofessional occupations in legal, social, community and education services  19=Occupations in front-line public protection services  20=Care providers and educational, legal and public protection support occupations  21=Professional occupations in art and culture  22=Technical occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport  23=Retail sales supervisors and specialized sales occupations  24=Service supervisors and specialized service occupations  25=Sales representatives and salespersons - wholesale and retail trade  26=Service representatives and other customer and personal services occupations  27=Sales support occupations  28=Service support and other service occupations, n.e.c.  29=Industrial, electrical and construction trades  30=Maintenance and equipment operation trades  31=Other installers, repairers and servicers and material handlers  32=Transport and heavy equipment operation and related maintenance occupations  33=Trades helpers, construction labourers and related occupations  34=Supervisors and technical occupations in natural resources, agriculture and related production  35=Workers in natural resources, agriculture and related production  36=Harvesting, landscaping and natural resources labourers  37=Processing, manufacturing and utilities supervisors and central control operators  38=Processing and manufacturing machine operators and related production workers  39=Assemblers in manufacturing</p>
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		19=Paralegals, Social Services Workers and Occupations in Education and Religion, n.e.c. 20=Professional Occupations in Art and Culture 21=Technical Occupations in Art, Culture, Recreation and Sport 22=Sales and Service Supervisors 23=Wholesale, Technical, Insurance, Real Estate Sales Specialists, and Retail, Wholesale and Grain Buyers 24=Retail Salespersons and Sales Clerks 25=Cashiers 26=Chefs and Cooks 27=Occupations in Food and Beverage Service 28=Occupations in Protective Services 29=Occupations in Travel and Accommodation Including Attendants in Recreation and Sport 30=Childcare and Home Support Workers 31=Sales and Service Occupations n.e.c. 32=Contractors and Supervisors in Trades and Transportation 33=Construction Trades 34=Stationary Engineers, Power Station Operators and Electrical Trades and Telecommunications Occupations 35=Machinists, Metal Forming, Shaping and Erecting Occupations 36=Mechanics 37=Other Trades n.e.c. 38=Heavy Equipment and Crane Operators Including Drillers 39=Transportation Equipment Operators and Related Workers, Excluding Labourers 40=Trades Helpers, Construction and Transportation Labourers and Related Occupations 41=Occupations Unique to Agriculture Excluding Labourers 42=Occupations Unique to Forestry Operations, Mining, Oil and Gas Extraction and Fishing, Excluding Labourers 43=Primary Production Labourers 44=Supervisors in Manufacturing 45=Machine Operators in Manufacturing 46=Assemblers in Manufacturing 47=Labourers in Processing, Manufacturing and Utilities		40=Labourers in processing, manufacturing and utilities
<b>North American Industry Classification</b>	NAICS_18 (2002 version of NAICS)	1976-2016: 1=Agriculture 2=Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas	NAICS_21 (2012 version of NAICS)	1=Agriculture 2=Forestry and logging and support activities for forestry 3=Fishing, hunting and trapping

<b>System (NAICS) of main job</b>	NAICS_43 (2002 version of NAICS)	3=Utilities 4=Construction 5=Manufacturing - durable goods 6=Manufacturing - non-durable goods 7=Wholesale Trade 8=Retail Trade 9=Transportation and Warehousing 10=Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing 11=Professional, Scientific and Technical Services 12=Business, building and other support services 13=Educational Services 14=Health Care and Social Assistance 15=Information, Culture and Recreation 16=Accommodation and Food Services 17=Other Services 18=Public Administration  1=Agriculture 2=Forestry and Logging and Support Activities for Forestry 3=Fishing, Hunting and Trapping 4=Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction 5=Utilities 6=Prime Contracting 7=Trade Contracting 8=Food, Beverage and Tobacco Product Manufacturing 9=Textile Mills and Textile Product Mills 10=Clothing Manufacturing and Leather and Allied Product Manufacturing 11=Wood Product Manufacturing 12=Paper Manufacturing 13=Printing and Related Support Activities 14=Petroleum and Coal Products Manufacturing 15=Chemical Manufacturing 16=Plastics and Rubber Products Manufacturing 17=Non-Metallic Mineral Product Manufacturing 18=Primary Metal Manufacturing 19=Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing 20=Machinery Manufacturing 21=Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing 22=Electrical Equipment, Appliance and Component Manufacturing 23=Transportation Equipment Manufacturing 24=Furniture and Related Product Manufacturing 25=Miscellaneous Manufacturing 26=Wholesale Trade	4=Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction 5=Utilities 6=Construction 7=Manufacturing - durable goods 8=Manufacturing - non-durable goods 9=Wholesale trade 10=Retail trade 11=Transportation and warehousing 12=Finance and insurance 13=Real estate and rental and leasing 14=Professional, scientific and technical services 15=Business, building and other support services 16=Educational services 17=Health care and social assistance 18=Information, culture and recreation 19=Accommodation and food services 20=Other services (except public administration) 21=Public administration
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		27=Retail Trade 28=Transportation 29=Warehousing and Storage 30=Finance 31=Insurance Carriers and Related Activities and Funds and Other Financial Vehicles 32=Real Estate 33=Rental and Leasing Services and Owners and Lessors of Other Non-Financial Assets 34=Professional, Scientific and Technical Services 35=Management, Administrative and Support Services 36=Educational Services 37=Health Care and Social Assistance 38=Information, Culture and Recreation 39=Accommodation and Food Services 40=Other Services 41=Federal Government Public Administration (including Defence Services) 42=Provincial and Territorial Public Administration 43=Local, Municipal and Regional Public Administration and Aboriginal, International and Other Extra-Territorial Public Administration		
<b>Age of youngest child, if applicable</b>	AGYOWNKN (1976-2016)	1=Youngest child less than 3 years 2=Youngest child 3 to 5 years 3=Youngest child 6 to 12 years 4=Youngest child 13 to 15 years 5=Youngest child 16 to 17 years 6=Youngest child 18 to 24 years	AGYOWNK	1=Youngest child less than 6 years 2=Youngest child 6 to 12 years 3=Youngest child 13 to 17 years 4=Youngest child 18 to 24 years
<b>Current student status</b>	SCHOOLN	1976-2016:  1=Non-student 2=Primary or secondary school, full-time 3=Primary or secondary school, part-time 4=University full-time 5=University part-time 6=Community college or CEGEP, full-time 7=Community college or CEGEP, part-time 8=Other full-time 9=Other part-time	SCHOOLN	1=Non-student 2=Full-time student 3=Part-time student
<b>Relationship to reference person</b>	RELREFN (1976-2016)	1=Reference person 2=Spouse 3=Son or daughter (birth, adopted or step)	N/A	

		4=Parent (or parent-in-law) 5=Son-in-law or daughter-in-law 6=Other relative		
<b>Number of individuals in economic family</b>	EFAMSIZE (1976-2016)	1 to 5 or more	N/A	
<b>Number of employed persons in the economic family</b>	EFAMEMPL (1976-2016)	0 to 3 or more	N/A	
<b>Number of unemployed persons in the economic family</b>	EFAMUNEM (1976-2016)	0 to 2 or more	N/A	
<b>Age of spouse, if applicable</b>	SP_AGE (1976-2016)	1=15 to 19 2=20 to 24 3=25 to 34 4=35 to 44 5=45 to 54 6=55 to 64 7=65 and over	N/A	
<b>Spouse's labour force status, if applicable</b>	SP_LFSST (1976-2016)	1=Employed full-time 2=Employed part-time 3=Unemployed 4=Not in labour force 5=Out of scope (military)	N/A	
<b>Educational attainment of spouse, if applicable</b>	SPED7689 (1976-1989)	0=0 to 8 years 1=Some or complete high school 2=Some postsecondary 3=Postsecondary certificate or diploma 4=University degree	N/A	
<b>Educational attainment of spouse, if applicable</b>	SPED1990 (1990-2016)	0=0 to 8 years 1=Some secondary education 2=Graduate from high school 3=Some postsecondary 4=Postsecondary certificate or diploma 5=University degree	N/A	



<b>Occupation of spouse, if applicable</b>	SP_SOC80 (1976-1986)	1=Managerial, Administrative and Related Occupations 2=Occupations in Natural Sciences, Engineering and Mathematics 3=Occupations in Social Science and Related Fields 4=Occupations in Religion 5=Teaching and Related Occupations 6=Occupations in Medicine and Health 7=Artistic, Literary, Recreational and Related Occupations 8=Clerical and Related Occupations 9=Sales Occupations 10=Service Occupations 11=Farming, Horticultural and Animal Husbandry Occupations 12=Fishing, Trapping and Related Occupations 13=Forestry and Logging Occupations 14=Mining and Quarrying Including Oil and Gas Field Occupations 15=Processing Occupations 16=Machining and Related Occupations 17=Product Fabricating, Assembling and Repairing Occupations 18=Construction Trades Occupations 19=Transport Equipment Operating Occupations 20=Material Handling and Related Occupations, n.e.c. 21=Other Crafts and Equipment Operating Occupations	N/A	
<b>Occupation of spouse (if applicable)</b>	SP_NOCS01 (1987-2016)	1=Senior Management Occupations 2=Other Management Occupations 3=Professional Occupations in Business and Finance 4=Financial, Secretarial and Administrative Occupations 5=Clerical Occupations, Including Supervisors 6=Natural and Applied Sciences and Related Occupations 7=Professional Occupations in Health, Nurse Supervisors and Registered Nurses 8=Technical, Assisting and Related Occupations in Health 9=Occupations in Social Science, Government Service and Religion 10=Teachers and Professors 11=Occupations in Art, Culture, Recreation and Sport 12=Wholesale, Technical, Insurance, Real Estate Sales Specialists, and Retail, Wholesale and Grain Buyers 13=Retail Salespersons, Sales Clerks, Cashiers, Including Retail Trade Supervisors	N/A	

		14=Chefs and Cooks, and Occupations in Food and Beverage Service, Including Supervisors 15=Occupation in Protective Services 16=Childcare and Home Support Workers 17=Sales and Service Occupations n.e.c., Including Occupations in Travel and Accommodation, Attendants in Recreation and Sport as well as Supervisors 18=Contractors and Supervisors in Trades and Transportation 19=Construction Trades 20=Other Trades Occupations 21=Transportation and Heavy Equipment Operators 22=Trades Helpers, Construction and Transportation Labourers and Related Occupations 23=Occupations Unique to Primary Industry 24=Machine Operators and Assemblers in Manufacturing, Including Supervisors 25=Labourer in Processing, Manufacturing and Utilities		
<b>Employed spouse's usual hours at main job (if applicable)</b>	SP_UHRSM (1976-2016)	1=1 to 14 2=15 to 29 3=30 to 34 4=35 to 39 5=40 6=41 to 49 7=50 and over	N/A	
<b>Employed spouse's usual hours at all jobs (if applicable)</b>	SP_UHRST (1976-2016)	1=1 to 14 2=15 to 29 3=30 to 34 4=35 to 39 5=40 6=41 to 49 7=50 and over	N/A	
<b>Employed spouse's class of worker at main job (if applicable)</b>	SP_COWM (1976-2016)	0=Spouse present, not applicable 1=Public sector employees 2=Private sector employees 3=Self-employed incorporated, with paid help 4=Self-employed incorporated, no paid help 5=Self-employed unincorporated with paid help 6=Self-employed unincorporated, no paid help 7=Unpaid family worker	N/A	

<b>At least one child aged 16 to 24 in school</b>	SCH1624 (1976-2016)	1=yes	N/A	
<b>Educational attainment</b>	ED76to89 (1976-1989)	0=0 to 8 years 1=9 to 10 years of schooling 2=11 to 13 years of schooling 3=Some postsecondary 4=Postsecondary certificate of diploma 5=University degree	N/A	
<b>Standard Occupational Classification (SOC)</b>	SOC80_21 (1976-1998)	1=Managerial, Administrative and Related Occupations 2=Occupations in Natural Sciences, Engineering and Mathematics 3=Occupations in Social Science and Related Fields 4=Occupations in Religion 5=Teaching and Related Occupations 6=Occupations in Medicine and Health 7=Artistic, Literary, Recreational and Related Occupations 8=Clerical and Related Occupations 9=Sales Occupations 10=Service Occupations 11=Farming, Horticultural and Animal Husbandry Occupations 12=Fishing, Trapping and Related Occupations 13=Forestry and Logging Occupations 14=Mining and Quarrying Including Oil and Gas Field Occupations 15=Processing Occupations 16=Machining and Related Occupations 17=Product Fabricating, Assembling and Repairing Occupations 18=Construction Trades Occupations 19=Transport Equipment Operating Occupations 20=Material Handling and Related Occupations, n.e.c. 21=Other Crafts and Equipment Operating Occupations	N/A	
	SOC80_49 (1984-1986)	1=Officials and administrators unique to government 2=Other managers and administrators 3=Occupations related to management and administration 4=Occupations in physical and life sciences 5=Occupations in mathematics, statistics, systems analysis and related fields 6=Architects, engineers and community planners 7=Other occupations in architecture and engineering		

		8=Occupations in social science and related fields 9=Occupations in religion 10=University teaching and related occupations 11=Elementary and secondary school teaching and related occupations 12=Other teaching and related occupations 13=Health diagnosing and treating occupations 14=Nursing, therapy and related assisting occupations 15=Other occupations in medicine and health 16=Artistic, literary, recreational and related occupations 17=Stenographic and typing occupations 18=Bookkeeping, account-recording and related occupations 19=Office machine and electronic data-processing equipment operators 20=Material recording, scheduling and distributing occupations 21=Reception, information, mail and message distribution occupations 22=Library, file and correspondence clerks and related occupations 23=Sales occupations, commodities 24=Sales occupations, services and other sales occupations 25=Protective service occupations 26=Food and beverage preparation and related service occupations 27=Personal, apparel and furnishings service occupations 28=Other service occupations 29=Farmers 30=Other farming, horticultural and animal husbandry occupations 31=Fishing, hunting, trapping and related occupations 32=Forestry and logging occupations 33=Mining and quarrying including oil and gas field occupations 34=Food, beverage and related processing occupations 35=Other processing occupations 36=Metal shaping and forming occupations, except machining 37=Other machining and related occupations 38=Fabricating and assembling occupations: metal products, n.e.c. 39=Fabricating, assembling, installing and repairing occupations: electrical, electronic and related equipment		
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		40=Fabricating, assembling and repairing occupations: textile, fur and leather products 41=Fabricating, assembling and repairing occupations: wood, rubber, plastic and related products, and other product fabricating, assembling and repairing occupations 42=Mechanics and repairers, n.e.c. 43=Excavating, grading, paving and related occupations 44=Electrical power, lighting and wire communications equipment erecting, installing and repairing occupations 45=Other construction trades occupations 46=Motor transport operating occupations 47=Other transport operating occupations 48=Material handling and related occupations, n.e.c. 49=Other crafts and equipment operating occupations, n.e.c.		
<b>Reason for part-time work</b>	WHYPTOLD (1976-1996)	0=Other reasons 1=Own illness or disability 2=Personal or family responsibilities 3=Going to school 4=Could only find part-time 5=Did not want full-time 6=Full-time, less than 30 hours 7=Not asked, multiple job holder, more than 29 hours	N/A	
<b>Looked for work in the past 6 months, reason for not looking for work in the last 4 weeks</b>	YNOLKOLD (1976-1996)	0=Other 1=Own illness or disability 2=Personal or family responsibilities 3=Going to school 4=Waiting for recall or reply 5=Discouraged searcher	N/A	