

LABOUR FORCE SURVEYS:
CHANGES IN THE METHODOLOGY,
DEFINITIONS, AND QUESTIONNAIRE
1954-2003

Technical Publication No. 78
www.cbs.gov.il

JERUSALEM, JULY 2006

Preface

The following publication documents the development of the Labour Force Survey, at all its levels, from its beginning in 1954 up to 2003.

This is the first paper of its kind produced by the Central Bureau of Statistics, and with its publication the CBS will rise to international standards in the field of documentation.

This publication is intended to serve as a tool for researchers conducting long-term research on subjects arising from the Labour Force Survey. The transparency of the procedures which results from documentation presents an opportunity for re-examination of the methods used in the Labour Force Survey, which is the basis for other surveys conducted by the CBS.

This publication appears only on the Internet.

For the convenience of those using this publication, all Labour Force Survey questionnaires in which changes were made have been scanned, and they appear in the appendix attached to the publication.

Yoel Finkel

Associate to the Government Statistician

Jerusalem, 2006

**This Publication was Prepared at the Labour, Wages
and Classifications Sector, by Merav Pasternak**

**Other staff of the Central Bureau of Statistics who participated
in preparing this publication:**

The Directorate:	Yoel Finkel
Labour, Wages and Classifications Sector:	The Late Aviva Battat Ruth Sehayek Mark Feldman Edith Noy Tom Caplan
Publication Division:	Keren Zerubavel Tamar Ben Yishai

For further information regarding this publication, please contact Ruth Sehayek,
Tel. 02-6592821, or Mark Feldman, Tel. 02-6592815

1. General

The Labour Force Survey is the biggest household survey that the Central Bureau of Statistics has been conducting since 1954. Within the framework of the survey approximately 11,000 households have been surveyed every quarter, since 1981. Although the main purpose of the survey is to provide information regarding the labour market in Israel, it also contains an abundance of demographic and economic information, and is widely used by researchers in the social sciences, both in the private and the public sector.

As will be seen below, the Labour Force Survey has undergone many changes since its beginnings; first as a limited survey conducted once or several times a year, and up to its becoming an on-going survey.

The purpose of this publication is to document the changes that have occurred in the Labour Force Survey during the years – in its sampling and estimation methods, its definitions and its questionnaire. Concurrently with a description of the changes, an effort has been made to understand the background to them –whether they are substantive changes which were made to resolve problems, or changes which occurred with the appearance of additional opportunities in the field, etc.

Documentation is of great importance, and its contribution is expressed mainly in two fields: The first – specific: enables researchers who use Labour Force Survey variables for long periods of time to form an opinion regarding the changes in the survey variables and definitions, in order to use them correctly and accurately. And indeed, there were many enquiries on the subject.

And the second – general: the transparency of the procedures, which is the result of documentation, is a tool for learning past methods on the one hand, and an opportunity for raising questions for discussion in the future, on the other hand. This is especially true because of the fact that the Labour Force Survey, due to its long history, constitutes a base for other surveys at the CBS.

It is important to note that this publication fills a gap in documentation and transparency of procedures, which have been lacking for a long time in Israel, as opposed to other countries; and its appearance raises both the CBS and particularly the Labour Force Survey to an international level on these issues.

Sources and Data Collection Method:

The written sources used to prepare the publication were:

1. Annual publications of labour force surveys, 1954-2003
2. Statistical abstracts
3. Books of localities
4. Standard Classification of Economic Activities books
5. Standard Classification of Occupations books
6. Labour force survey questionnaires by quarters, 1955-2003
7. Questionnaires attached to labour force surveys

Collecting the material was based mainly on reading all the introductions to the annual publications of labour force surveys which the CBS has been issuing since the beginning of conducting the survey in 1954 (approximately 50 publications), and extracting the changes made from year to year in the various variables. These changes formed the basis for Chapters 3-5 (which deal with changes in the methods of sampling and estimation, in definitions and in classifications).

The main difficulty encountered during the research was in the documentation of changes made in the first years of conducting the survey. The survey was in its initial stages, and those conducting it – who were engaged in a constant learning process – made changes in it almost every time they went out into the field. In addition, the recording process at that time left much to be desired; explanations of the methods used, for example, were not always detailed enough, and the text not always clear and unequivocal. Sometimes a revised text was inserted to – supposedly – expand the definition, but it did not actually change it.

Therefore, in addition to reading labour force surveys, there was a need for additional data, and these were found in annuals, books of classification of economic activities and occupations, and books of localities. But these also did not suffice, and in order to complete the picture and find the real changes that were made, there was a need for the assistance of people at the Central Bureau of Statistics, to fill the gaps in the written material, especially during periods, when such information was necessary.

In order to prepare Chapters 6-7 (which deal with changes in the questionnaire and in the surveys accompanying the Labour Force Survey), all the quarterly labour force survey questionnaires were reviewed (approximately 200 in number), as well as the questionnaires accompanying the Labour Force Survey, and the changes that were made in each quarter in the questionnaire were extracted. Here, too, the greatest difficulty was in the initial decades. The questionnaire changed almost every quarter; questions were inserted, removed and inserted again, until the structure of the questionnaire was stabilized in 1978. The fact that the sources used in this case were complete, made the task easier.

3.4 Changes in the Sampling Method – Summary Table

	Sampling Framework	Sampling Method	Sampling Layers	Survey Frequency	Rotation of Survey Families	Rotation of Sampling Framework
1954	Uniform for all types of localities: food rationing lists of the Residents Registry	Cluster sampling: 1. Regional sampling 2. Store sampling (and sampling of families in each store)	Two sampling layers (Jewish and non-Jewish localities)	Once a year	-	-
1955	Not uniform for all types of localities: <u>For Jewish localities</u> (not including kibbutzim and agricultural schools): 1. For the new sample – lists of voters for the third Knesset 2. For repeat sample – questionnaire s of the previous survey. <u>For kibbutzim and agricultural schools</u> : List of residents <u>For non-Jewish localities</u> : Questionnaires of previous survey	<u>In Jewish localities</u> : New sample – 1. Sample of voting booths 2. Family sample. Repeat sample – random sample of half of the questionnaires of the previous survey. <u>In kibbutzim and agricultural schools</u> : 1. Sample of kibbutzim/ agricultural schools 2. List of residents. <u>In non-Jewish localities</u> : Sample out of questionnaires of the previous survey			One-half of the families surveyed in previous survey are surveyed again	-
1956	Supplement to the framework: List of new immigrants				-	-

	Sampling Framework	Sampling Method	Sampling Layers	Survey Frequency	Rotation of Survey Families	Rotation of Sampling Framework
1957	Three supplements to the framework (which replace the supplement to the framework of new immigrants): 1. Regions 2. New houses 3. Closed institutions			Twice a year	-	-
1958	<u>For the non-Jewish population:</u> Lists of voters	<u>In urban localities and moshavot:</u> The repeat sample constitutes 2/3 of the total sample (1/3 of the previous survey questionnaires, 1/3 of the survey questionnaires prior to the above previous one)		Four times a year	1/3 of the families who were surveyed in the previous survey, and 1/3 of the families who were surveyed in the survey prior to that one are surveyed again	
1959		A repeat sample also in kibbutzim, moshavim, institutions and new houses; constructed from the same voting booths which were sampled in the previous survey, but a new family sample is chosen			<u>In kibbutzim, moshavim, institutions and new houses:</u> The repeat sample is the voting booths which were surveyed for the previous survey (a new family sample is chosen)	-
1960		Sample by sample layers	12 (by type of locality and population group)	On-going survey		A voting booth sampled three consecutive times – is removed from the framework for the following three surveys

	Sampling Framework	Sampling Method	Sampling Layers	Survey Frequency	Rotation of Survey Families	Rotation of Sampling Framework
1965	The Bedouin population in the South is represented by a permanent sample ("permanent card-file")					
1967	Data on soldiers in compulsory military service or in the permanent army are received from the field					
1968	<u>Main framework:</u> Municipal Tax (<i>Arnona</i>) lists (a sample was not drawn from the supplementary framework of new houses). <u>For East Jerusalem:</u> Census cells	<u>In urban localities and large villages:</u> 1. Sampling of localities 2. Sampling of dwellings (not families) (Unchanged: <u>In moshavim and kibbutzim:</u> Sampling of families <u>In institutions:</u> 1. Sampling of institutions 2. Sampling of residents) <u>In East Jerusalem:</u> 1. Sampling of census cells 2. Sampling of one section in each cell, and investigating the families living in it	Enlargement of the number of sample layers		<u>In urban localities:</u> Each family is investigated four times: two consecutive quarterly investigations, a break of two quarters, and then two additional quarterly investigations. <u>Non-urban localities:</u> Investigated four times, but the family sample is changed: in kibbutzim and institutions – every quarter; in moshavim – at the beginning of every two investigation quarters	
1971	Supplement to framework: Addition to new construction	Supplementary sample of addition to new construction is drawn once a year				

	Sampling Framework	Sampling Method	Sampling Layers	Survey Frequency	Rotation of Survey Families	Rotation of Sampling Framework
1975	The institutional population is represented by a permanent sample ("permanent card-file")	Sample of addition to new construction is drawn once every half year				
1979	Student dormitories were removed from the permanent card-file and they are investigated on an on-going basis (special framework)					
1985	Two sub-populations were removed from the permanent card-file and transferred to on-going investigation: 1. Immigrant dorms and absorption centres (special framework) 2. The Bedouin in the South, who live in the localities of Rahat, Kuseife, Arouar and Tel Sheva					
1989					<u>In villages and moshavim</u> : The household sample is drawn once for all investigations, like in the urban localities	

	Sampling Framework	Sampling Method	Sampling Layers	Survey Frequency	Rotation of Survey Families	Rotation of Sampling Framework
1991	Two supplements to the framework: 1. Hotels (populated by new immigrants) 2. Caravan sites	<u>In the supplements:</u> Once every quarter: 1. Sampling of hotels 2. Sampling of housing units in hotels				
1992		Sample of addition to new construction: once every quarter				
1997	Cancellation of caravan site framework					
1998					<u>In kibbutzim:</u> Sample of persons is drawn at the beginning of every two investigation quarters	
1999	Following an update of the permanent card-file, according to the 1995 Census: observation posts outside localities, persons living outside of localities and small localities that are not covered by the on-going sample, are represented by the permanent sample ("permanent card-file")					
2001		Sample of hotels is drawn once every half year (changing sample)				
2003	Cancellation of hotel framework					

	Sampling Framework	Sampling Method	Sampling Layers	Survey Frequency	Rotation of Survey Families	Rotation of Sampling Framework
Sampling method today (2003)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>For large localities:</u> Municipal Tax (<i>Arnona</i>) file lists • <u>For most of the villages and moshavim, and part of the urban localities:</u> Household lists • <u>For kibbutzim:</u> Lists of individuals • <u>For East Jerusalem:</u> Cells of 1995 Census <u>Students dorms and absorption centres:</u> Lists of housing units <u>Supplementary framework:</u> New dwellings in urban localities • Permanent samples: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Institutions 2. Bedouin in the South 3. Persons living outside localities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Main sampling:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sampling of localities 2. Sampling of dwellings/households/individuals • <u>Special samplings:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>East Jerusalem:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sampling of census cells 2. Sampling of one section in the cell, and investigating the families who live in it <u>Student dorms and absorption centres:</u> Sampling of housing units • <u>Supplementary sample:</u> Sampling of new dwellings – once every quarter 	The probability localities are divided into sampling layers by various characteristics	On-going survey	Each family is investigated four times: two consecutive quarterly investigations, a break of two quarters, and then two additional quarterly investigations. <u>Kibbutzim</u> – are investigated four times, but the family sample is drawn at the beginning of every two investigation quarters	-

4.1 Changes in the Estimation Method – Summary Table

	Estimation Method	Variables in the Weighting Factor	Changes in the Weighting Groups
1954	Ratio estimate: weighting coefficient per person	Age*sex*religion	Five age groups, sex and Jews/non-Jews
1965		Addition of type of locality: age*sex*religion*type of locality	
1976			1. Change in the classification of type of locality and in the definition of age of locality 2. Split of two age groups
1985		Combination of type of locality and geographical units (District and sub-District)	1. Separate weighting for population in institutions 2. More detailed age groups in Jewish urban localities
1990		<u>For immigrants:</u> Age*sex	Separate weighting for immigrants of 1990 and after (who are not in institutions)
1998 (actually from 1999)	New method: Uniform weighting coefficient for households	Every group in the population (Jewish localities, immigrants and non-Jewish localities) is divided by: geographical distribution*sex* age (regardless of religion) <u>For immigrants:</u> Number of years in the country also taken into account	1. Weighting groups were expanded – a more detailed distribution of geographical units and age groups was made. 2. Weighting groups for immigrants: In Jewish and mixed localities: Up to two years in the country – one group Rest of the immigrants – distribution into three groups by districts In kibbutzim and moshavim: Weighting together with veterans
2002			1. For immigrants: Up to four years in the country – one group Rest of immigrants – weighting together with veterans by geographical distribution 2. The city of Ashdod – separate geographic group 3. All kibbutzim – one geographic group 4. All moshavim – one geographic group 5. Union of age groups in Bene Beraq
Estimation method today (2003)	Uniform weighting coefficient for households	Every group in the population (Jewish localities, immigrants and non-Jewish localities) is divided by: geographical distribution*sex*age (regardless of religion) <u>For immigrants:</u> Number of years in the country also taken into account	See table of weighting groups on previous page

5.3 Changes in Definitions – Summary Table

	Survey Population	Weekly/yearly civilian labour force	Not in weekly/yearly civilian labour force	Employed during the year
1954	All residents of Israel (within the country's borders) aged 14+, except for Bedouin in the Negev. Not including temporary residents, tourists, members of the diplomatic corps, UN personnel, etc.	<u>Weekly labour force:</u> All the people in the survey population who were employed or unemployed in the previous week	<u>Not in the weekly labour force:</u> All the people in the survey population who were not employed or unemployed in the previous week	
1955			<u>Not in the weekly labour force:</u> Those who despair of looking for work will, from now on, be included among those who are not in the labour force (and are not yet defined as unemployed)	
1958		<u>Yearly labour force:</u> All the people in the survey population who were employed or unemployed during the past year	<u>Not in the yearly labour force:</u> All the people in the survey population who were not employed or unemployed during the past year	People who worked at least one week during the past year
1960	The permanent population of the State of Israel aged 14+, including the Bedouin in the Negev. Including Israelis staying abroad less than one year. Not including tourists, foreign diplomats and residents who stay out of the country for one year or more			
1961				People who worked at least one day during the past year
1966	Including all temporary residents and tourists aged 14+, staying in the country for more than a year			
1967			<u>Not in the weekly labour force:</u> Yeshiva students aged up to 18, who actually engaged in teaching – will be defined from now on as those not in the labour force (and are not employed)	

	Survey Population	Weekly/yearly civilian labour force	Not in weekly/yearly civilian labour force	Employed during the year
1968	Including residents of East Jerusalem			
1976	The permanent population also includes potential immigrants			
1982	Including the non-Jewish residents of the Golan Heights			
1985	Those aged 15+ (instead of those aged 14+)			
The definition today (2003)	<p>Israel's <i>de jure</i> permanent population aged 15+. Including Jewish residents in Judea and Samaria, the Gaza Area and the Golan Heights, potential immigrants and permanent residents staying abroad for less than one year.</p> <p>Not including: tourists and temporary residents staying in the country for less than one year.</p> <p>Including: residents of East Jerusalem and the Druze of the Golan sub-District</p>	<p><u>Weekly labour force:</u> Those aged 15+ who were employed or unemployed during the determinant week.</p> <p><u>Yearly labour force:</u> Those aged 15+ who belonged to the weekly labour force, and those who worked during the year but were not in the weekly labour force</p>	<p><u>Not in the weekly labour force:</u> Those aged 15+ who were not employed or unemployed during the determinant week.</p> <p><u>Not in the yearly labour force:</u> Do not belong to the weekly labour force and did not work during the past year</p>	Those aged 15+ who worked in the country at least one day in the past year (people who worked less than one month – are considered as those who worked for one month)

	Employed persons	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	Partially unemployed	Temporarily absent from work
1954	<p>1. Worked at least one hour during the last week for payment/profit.</p> <p>2. Family members who worked at least 15 hours without payment.</p> <p>3. Listed in kibbutz work schedules.</p> <p>4. Temporarily absent from work</p>	Worked last week 35 hours or more (including: overtime, waiting hours, etc.)	Worked less than 35 hours during the last week, and did not seek additional work (including part-time job which is considered full-time)	Worked less than 35 hours during the last week, but actively sought work	Did not work or seek work last week, but had an activity or a business from which they were temporarily absent due to army reserves service, illness, vacation, labour dispute or temporary disruption (up to 10 days)
1955			Worked less than 35 hours last week (even if sought additional work)	Cancellation of the definition	A temporary stop is defined as up to 30 days
1956		Including those who work less than 35 hours a week in occupations in which full-time job is less than 35 hours a week	Worked up to 34 hours a week, excluding workers in occupations in which full-time job is less than 35 hours a week	-	Included were people who had a promise of new work within 30 days
1967	Yeshiva students aged up to 18 who actually engaged in teaching – will not be defined as employed persons from now on (but rather: not in the labour force)	<p>1. Full-time workers are only those who work 35 hours or more.</p> <p>2. Including preparation hours for teachers, doctors, etc.</p>	Worked 1-34 hours weekly (also in occupations in which full-time job is less than 35 hours a week)	-	

	Employed persons	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	Partially unemployed	Temporarily absent from work
1995	A change in the definition of employed persons, resulting from a change in the definition of temporarily absent from work/ unemployed: 1. Those with a promise of work – will be considered unemployed 2. Those who were absent and sought work – will be considered absent			-	1. People who did not work last week, but were promised work within 30 days – will not be defined from now on as temporarily absent (but rather, unemployed) 2. People who did not work but were absent from work – will be defined from now on as temporarily absent even if they sought work (and will not be defined as unemployed)
The definition today (2003)	People who worked at least one hour during the determinant week for pay or any other remuneration, workers in kibbutzim, persons in institutions and family members who worked without pay for more than 15 hours a week, as well as those who were temporarily absent from their work	Worked 35 hours or more during the determinant week (including preparation hours)	Worked 1-34 hours during the determinant week (including preparation hours)	-	All those who were temporarily absent from their regular work during the determinant week due to illness, vacation, army reserves service, reduction of the number of work hours, labour dispute, temporary disruption, etc.

	Unemployed persons	Discouraged workers	Work hours per week	Head of household (economic)
1954	<p>1. People who did not work last week, but actively sought work (including those absent who sought work, and those who were ill but sought work before last week).</p> <p>2. Discouraged workers</p>	People who would seek work, if they did not think that it was impossible to find work	Including all the hours that the interviewee was busy in connection with his work or business, including overtime and waiting hours	Determined by age and sex
1955	Discouraged workers will not be defined from now on as unemployed persons (but rather, as not in labour force)			
1967			Including preparation hours for artists and those engaged in teaching	
1995	<p>1. People who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did not work at all in the determinant week. • Actively sought work during the last four weeks. • Were available for work. <p>2. People who did not work last week, but were promised work within 30 days – will be defined from now on as unemployed persons (and not as absent).</p> <p>3. People who were absent and sought work – will not be defined from now on as unemployed persons (but rather as absent)</p>			Determined by extent of belonging to the labour force, regardless of age or sex (contingent on being aged 18+)

	Unemployed persons	Discouraged workers	Work hours per week	Head of household (economic)
2000		Those aged 15+ who are not in the labour force, but sought work in the past year. They are interested in working and are available for work. They did not seek work during the past month for the following reasons: believe there is no suitable work for them in their field or residential area, with regard to wages, work hours or interest in the work; or because of lack of experience/suitable training or language difficulties; or because their age is unsuitable		
The definition today (2003)	Did not work at all, but sought work during the past month and were available to work	Those aged 15+, who are not in the labour force, but sought work in the past year. They were interested and available to work, and did not seek work during the past month for the above reasons (the year 2000)	The number of hours actually worked by the employed person. Including: overtime, preparation hours of teachers and artists, waiting hours, work hours of a non-paid family member who worked more than 15 hours	Determined by extent of belonging to the labour force, regardless of age and sex (contingent on being 18+)

6.1 New (Main) Questions and Special Subjects Studied in the Labour Force Survey – Summary Table

Notes:

1. The month or quarter noted in the table below refers to the month or quarter during which the subject was first investigated.
2. Addition or cancellation of modalities are not mentioned in the table, except for substantive cases.

Year	Month/quarter	Subject
1956	June	Those who worked part-time last week were asked regarding the usual extent of their weekly work
1958	May	Special subject: work during the past year. 1. Work (or search for work) during the past 12 months 2. Those working less than one year at their present place of work were asked about the duration of their yearly work, what they did when not working, as well as details about their work most of the time during the past year
	August	Special subject: reasons for extent of work less than usual/desired
1959	May	Special subject: work during the past year. 1. Work (or search for work) during the past 12 months 2. Those working less than one year at their present place of work were asked about the duration of their yearly work, what they did when not working, as well as details about their work most of the time during the past year 3. Usual extent of yearly work
	August	Work seekers were asked if they had ever worked in the country
	November	Special subject: usual extent of weekly work
1960	January-March	1. Usual extent of yearly work 2. Special subject: seniority and mobility at work
	April-June	Special subject: work during the past year. 1. Work (or search for work) during the past 12 months 2. Those working less than one year at their present place of work were asked about the duration of their yearly work, and what they did when not working 3. Usual extent of yearly work 4. Number of work days last month
	October-December	Special subject: absence from work
1961	January- March	Special subject: additional job last week
	April-June	Special subject: work during the past year. 1. Work (or search for work) during the past 12 months 2. Those working less than one year at their present place of work were asked about the duration of their yearly work, and what they did when not working 3. Usual extent of yearly work 4. Number of work days last month
	October-December	Special subject: reasons for usually part-time job during the past year
1962	January-March	Special subject: seniority and mobility at work
	April-June	Special subject: work during the past year. 1. Work (or search for work) during the past 12 months 2. Those working less than one year at their present place of work were asked about the duration of their yearly work, and what they did when not working 3. Usual extent of yearly work 4. Number of work days last month
	July-September	Reasons for usually part-time job during the past year
	October-December	1. Special subject: absence from work 2. Special subject: seniority at work

Year	Month/quarter	Subject
1963	January-March	Number of years of schooling
	April-June	Special subject: work during the past year. 1. Work (or search for work) during the past 12 months 2. Those working less than one year at their present place of work were asked about the duration of their yearly work, and what they did when not working Special subject: additional questions about work. All those who did not work even one day during the past year were asked about their last work, the last school they attended, professional courses and their intentions of working in the following year
1964	January-March	Special subject: seniority and mobility at work
1965	January-March	Special subject: absence from work
1966	January-March	Special subject: seniority and mobility at work
	July-September	Special subject: work during the past year. 1. Those working in the country during the past year were asked about the duration of their work during the past year, the usual extent of yearly work, and whether they sought additional work during the periods in which they usually worked part-time 2. Those who never worked in the country were asked what they did during the period in which they did not work, or when they worked part-time during the past year, and whether they have a disability/illness which affect their ability to work
1967	January-March	1. Israeli-born persons are asked about their father's country of birth 2. Those who worked part-time last week who also usually work part-time, were asked if they sought additional work/studied/did housework last week 3. Work during the past year, instead of a question about work at any time in the country 4. A question/comment was added which includes preparation hours for teachers, etc., in weekly work hours 5. Questions about duration of search for work, reasons for absence, usual extent of yearly work, reasons for usually part-time job were cancelled
	April-June	Domestic help for pay (including care giver)
1969	January-March	Special subject: present type of school
	April-June	Head of household's religion
1970	January-March	Special subject: seniority and mobility at work
	July-September	Special subject: last year of marriage
1972	January-March	Last year of marriage
	April-June	Special subject: duration and extent of work during the past year
1973	January-March	1. Reasons for absence 2. Those usually employed part-time were asked if their job is considered full-time
	October-December	Special subject: seniority at work and additional job
1974	January-March	Duration of search for work
	April-June	Special subject: employment mobility
1975	January-March	Special subject: seniority at work and additional job
	April-June	Special subject: number of work places in a month
1977	April-June	Special subject: number of work places in a month

Year	Month/quarter	Subject
1978	January-March	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of children in household by age group 2. Type of school last attended 3. Usual work hours 4. Extent of job sought 5. Questions about termination of last job held, or what he did before seeking work 6. Absence with pay 7. Reasons for part-time job 8. Length of yearly work, reasons for work during part of the year 9. Those in compulsory military service or in the permanent army were asked about (the duration of) work during the past year; those not absent from work were asked about work during the past year 10. The flow-chart splits according to the usual extent of work, not according to the actual extent of work
	April-June	Relationship to head of household
1979	April-June	Special subject: number of work places per month
	October-December	Reasons for not working during the past year
1980	January-March	Number of children per woman, by age group
	April-June	Special subject: pension arrangements at the work place Special subject: employment mobility
1981	April-June	Special subject: number of work places per month
1982	April-June	Number of households in the dwelling
1983	April-June	Special subject: number of work places per month
1984	October-December	Special subject: discouraged workers
1986	April-June	Special subject: former work seekers (discouraged)
1987	July-September	Additional modality: "separated" in the question on marital status
1988	July-September	Those serving in the permanent army are asked about work in the past year (and the period of service in the standing army is not included from now on in the number of work weeks in the past year)
1989	April-June	Special subject: number of work places in a month as an employee
1991	January-March	Those born abroad who immigrated to Israel in 1990-1991 were asked about the month of their immigration
1995	January-March	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Israeli-born persons were asked about the country of their mother's birth 2. A question was added about seeking work in the past month 3. Change in the order of questions, in accordance with the change in definitions of unemployed and absent 4. A change in the flow-chart following the change in definition of someone who was promised work within 30 days (as of now defined as a work seeker, not as absent) 5. A question has been added on the duration of absence 6. Questions have been added on availability for work (in accordance with the addition of a criterion of availability to the definition of 'unemployed'), and the reason for non-availability 7. Ways of searching for work during the past month, and not last week
2000	January-March	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A question was added about the highest certificate (or degree) received 2. A question about searching for work last week was cancelled
	April-June	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discouraged workers 2. Employed through employment agencies
2003	January-March	To the questions about the reason for working less than the usual last week, and the reason for absence last week, was added the modality of "reducing the extent of work"

7. Surveys Accompanying the Labour Force Survey

Year	Month/quarter	Survey name
1955	November	Housing conditions
1956	June	Languages spoken on a daily basis
1957	June	Languages spoken on a daily basis
	November	Housing conditions
1958	May	Smoking habits (preliminary test)
	November	Smoking habits
1959	February	Place of residence in the past
	August	Equipment in the dwelling (and equipment available for the use of the interviewee) Reading habits
	November	Housing conditions
1960	July-September	Household equipment and motor vehicles
	October-December	Languages
1961	July-September	Household equipment and motor vehicles
1963	July-September	Household equipment and motor vehicles
	October-December	Housing conditions
1964	July-September	Household equipment and motor vehicles
1965	The entire year	Income
	July-September	Household equipment and motor vehicles
1966	The entire year	Income
	January-March	Housing conditions
	July-September	Household equipment and motor vehicles
	October-December	Languages
1967	The entire year	Income
	July-September	Household equipment and motor vehicles
1968	The entire year	Income
	July-September	Household equipment and motor vehicles
1969	The entire year	Income
	January-March	Housing conditions
	July-September	Household equipment and motor vehicles
1970	The entire year	Income
	July-September	Household equipment and motor vehicles
1971	The entire year	Income
	January-March	Housing conditions
	July-September	Household equipment and motor vehicles
	October-December	Fertility of Jewish women
1972	The entire year	Income
	July-September	Household equipment and motor vehicles
	October-December	Birthrate (preliminary test)
1973	The entire year	Income
	January-March	Vacations Kindergarten attendance
	April-June	Birthrate (first set)
	July-September	Household equipment and motor vehicles Birthrate (first set)

Year	Month/quarter	Survey name
1974	The entire year	Income
	January-March	Kindergarten attendance Voting in 1973 Knesset elections (sent by mail)
	July-September	Housing conditions Household equipment and motor vehicles
	October-December	Birthrate (second set)
1975	The entire year	Income
	January-March	Kindergarten attendance
1976	The entire year	Income
	January-March	Kindergarten attendance
	July-September	Health insurance
	October-December	Commuting patterns Telephones and vehicles in the household
1977	The entire year	Income
	January-March	Kindergarten attendance
	April-June	Participation in elections (May-June, 1977)
	July-September	Household equipment and motor vehicles
	October-December	Health services
1978	The entire year	Income
	January-March	Kindergarten attendance
	July-September	Housing conditions Household equipment and motor vehicles
1979	The entire year	Income
	January-March	Kindergarten attendance
	October-December	Kindergarten attendance Victims of criminal activities
1980	The entire year	Income
	January-March	Commuting patterns
	April-June	Pension arrangements at the work place
	October-December	Kindergarten attendance Health services (preliminary test)
1981	The entire year	Income
	April-June	Health services
	July-September	Household equipment and motor vehicles Participation in elections of the tenth Knesset Visits to doctors (preliminary test)
	October-December	Kindergarten attendance Victims of criminal activities
1982	The entire year	Income
	April-June	Persons aged 65 and over (preliminary test)
	October-December	Kindergarten attendance Persons aged 65 and over
1983	The entire year	Income
	January-March	Persons aged 65 and over
	October-December	Kindergarten attendance

Year	Month/quarter	Survey name
1984	The entire year	Income Empty dwellings No investigation
	July-September	Refrain from voting (August, 1984)
1985	The entire year	Income
	October-December	Kindergarten attendance
1987	The entire year	Income (the Income Survey investigation was renewed, after a year in which it was not conducted, in 1986)
1988	The entire year	Income
	October-December	Participation in elections of the twelfth Knesset (November-December, 1988)
1989	The entire year	Income
	January-March	Kindergarten attendance
1990	The entire year	Income
	October-December	Victims of criminal activities
1991	October-December	Housing conditions
1992	The entire year	Income
1993	The entire year	Income
	January-March	Health services
	October-December	Kindergarten attendance
1994	The entire year	Income
1995	The entire year	Income
	April-June	Participation in activities of youth movements
1996	The entire year	Income
	April-June	Health services (investigation stage B)
	July-September	Health services (investigation stage B)
	October-December	Health services (investigation stage B)
1997	The entire year	Income
	January-March	Health services (investigation stage B)
1998	The entire year	Income
1999	The entire year	Income
	October-December	Health services (investigation stage C)
2000	The entire year	Income
2001	The entire year	Income
	January-March	Victims of criminal activities (investigation stages B, C)
2002	The entire year	Income
2003	The entire year	Income

8. Summary

The Labour Force Survey has undergone many changes during all the years of its existence. However, the nature of the changes which have been made is not uniform throughout the entire period, and it can be divided into two sub-periods.

The first period of conducting the survey is characterized by learning and many experiences, which expressed themselves in the following: a search for a suitable sampling framework, and accompanying frameworks (also due to the lack of suitable sampling frameworks at the time); a sampling method which crystallized over time; a questionnaire which changed almost every time it was used in the field; a weighting factor which, over the years, took into consideration additional variables; and survey definitions which changed a relatively large number of times. During this period many and frequent changes occurred at all levels of the survey, especially due to lack of experience.

The second period was characterized by major changes, which occurred only once or were made in groups once every few years, and they were the result of drawing conclusions or the appearance of new conditions; as well as minor changes that were inserted occasionally. During this period, the main changes which led to the final format of the survey were made, and they appear below in chronological order:

First, the sampling method was stabilized, in 1968. After years of using a main sampling framework which suffered from many deficiencies, such as lack of updating, inaccurate addresses, and discrepancies between the sampling unit and the individuals in the sampling frame, it was decided to change the sampling unit from a family to a dwelling, and thereby a more complete and representative sampling framework was found – the Municipal Tax (*Arnona*) file lists (in localities which have them). An additional advantage of changing the sampling unit was the reduction of “non-respondent” cases.

Later, in 1978, the questionnaire structure was also stabilized. For many years the Labour Force Survey questionnaire was relatively limited, and special topics were introduced occasionally into it, which made it impossible to compare data on a long-term basis. As indicated, in 1978 the questionnaire was expanded and acquired its final structure which has almost not changed at all to date, and a variety of subjects was determined, which have since been investigated within the survey framework on an on-going basis. Indeed, since the questionnaire was stabilized, an effort has been made to concentrate the necessary changes and new subjects and insert them into the survey only once every few years, in order to cause as few “breaks” as possible in the data series.

The two main additional changes, in the survey definitions and the estimation method, were introduced quite close together:

- A. In 1995 the most substantive changes were made in defining labour force characteristics since the beginning of the Labour Force Survey, in order to adjust them to the definitions of the ILO (International Labour Organization):
 - Only those not absent were asked whether they had sought work
 - Everyone who was promised work, is considered unemployed
 - The addition of the “availability for work” criterion, for purposes of defining “unemployed”.

These changes affected all the labour force characteristics, and caused a “break” in the data.

- B. In 1998 (and in practice, since 1999) the estimation method was changed, for the first time since 1954. According to the new method, a uniform weighting factor was determined for households, which expresses the number of households and the number of persons in the population, which the household represents.

Thus, it is possible to achieve estimates that connect between the characteristics of persons and the characteristics of their households, and prevent a bias in the estimates of households according to their size (compared with the previous method, in which a weighting factor was determined for each person, without relating to the household).

In conclusion, this is the first publication of its kind at the Central Bureau of Statistics, which enables researchers within the organization or outside it to easily identify changes which have been made in the Labour Force Survey at all levels, by years or subjects, and thereby use the survey variables correctly. In addition, the transparency of the procedures makes it possible to study the past, and creates an opportunity to raise issues for discussion.

Clearly, it is difficult to collect data when documentation is disorganized and there is a need to cross-reference information from various sources. This task becomes even more difficult with the passing of time since the change was made. Therefore, it is important to document within the unit framework in an orderly manner, every change made in the past in the survey methods, definitions or any other relevant aspect, and it is no less important to ensure continuous updating of the documentation.

Appendix – List of Questionnaires

Year	Quarter*	File name
1955	---	q0055.pdf
1956	06	q0656.pdf
1957	06	q0657.pdf
1957	11	q1157.pdf
1958	05	q0558.pdf
1958	08	q0858.pdf
1958	11	q1158.pdf
1959	05	q0559.pdf
1959	08	q0859.pdf
1959	11	q1159.pdf
1960	01	q0160.pdf
1960	02	q0260.pdf
1960	03	q0360.pdf
1960	04	q0460.pdf
1961	01	q0161.pdf
1961	02	q0261.pdf
1961	03	q0361.pdf
1961	04	q0461.pdf
1962	01	q0162.pdf
1962	02	q0262.pdf
1962	03	q0362.pdf
1962	04	q0462.pdf
1963	01	q0163.pdf
1963	02	q0263.pdf
1964	01	q0164.pdf
1965	01	q0165.pdf
1966	01	q0166.pdf
1966	03	q0366.pdf
1967	01	q0167.pdf
1967	02	q0267.pdf
1968	03	q0368.pdf
1969	01	q0169.pdf
1969	02	q0269.pdf
1970	01	q0170.pdf
1970	03	q0370.pdf
1972	01	q0172.pdf
1972	02	q0272.pdf
1972	03	q0372.pdf

* In 1955 there was only one survey conducted. In 1956-1959 the month in which the survey was conducted appears instead of the number of the quarter.

Year	Quarter	File name
1973	01	q0173.pdf
1973	04	q0473.pdf
1974	01	q0174.pdf
1974	02	q0274.pdf
1975	01	q0175.pdf
1975	02	q0275.pdf
1976	04	q0476.pdf
1977	01	q0177.pdf
1977	02	q0277.pdf
1977	03	q0377.pdf
1978	01	q0178.pdf
1978	02	q0278.pdf
1979	02	q0279.pdf
1979	04	q0479.pdf
1980	01	q0180.pdf
1980	02	q0280.pdf
1980	04	q0480.pdf
1981	02	q0281.pdf
1982	01	q0182.pdf
1982	02	q0282.pdf
1982	03	q0382.pdf
1983	02	q0283.pdf
1984	04	q0484.pdf
1986	02	q0286.pdf
1986	03	q0386.pdf
1987	01	q0187.pdf
1987	02	q0287.pdf
1987	03	q0387.pdf
1988	01	q0188.pdf
1988	03	q0388.pdf
1989	02	q0289.pdf
1991	01	q0191.pdf
1991	04	q0491.pdf
1995	01	q0195.pdf
2000	01	q0100.pdf
2000	02	q0200.pdf
2001	01	q0101.pdf
2001	04	q0401.pdf
2003	01	q0103.pdf