

CHANGES IN THE LABOUR FORCE SURVEY 2000

General:

In 2000, changes were introduced into the survey questionnaire: new questions were added and changes were made in the flow, the numbering, and the location of some of the questions.

Data for 2000 were processed according to the new questions on the basis annual data on the “highest diploma received”, whereas data on “discouraged workers” and “employees hired through employment agencies” were based on processing conducted during three-quarters of the survey year (beginning in April 2000).

A. Questions added:

1. Labour Force Survey January-March 2000: **Highest Diploma Received**

- Until 2000, survey data were obtained for years of schooling, type of school last attended, and whether the participant is currently studying or studied in the past. However, these data did not provide an adequate basis for evaluating the individual’s level of education. Therefore, it was decided to begin collecting data on the highest diploma received by survey participants.
- Highest diploma received: The highest diploma that a person received from a school or from educational settings that grant official diplomas (not including certificates for completion of courses, certificates for completion of in-service training, etc.).
- The added question: “What is the highest diploma (or degree) [you] received?”

2. Labour Force Survey April-June 2000: **Discouraged Workers**

- According to the definition of the Labour Force Survey, discouraged workers are not in the weekly civilian labour force. This group, like the group of unemployed persons, grows when there is unemployment and recession in the economy, and diminishes when the state of employment in the economy improves.
- Discouraged workers: All persons aged 15 and over who are not in the weekly civilian labour force but sought work over the 12 months preceding the survey. They are interested in working and could have begun to work during the determinant week had they been offered appropriate jobs (“availability for work”). They did not seek work over the four weeks preceding the survey for the following reasons: they believe there are no appropriate jobs for them in their field or in their area of residence in terms of wages, work hours, or interesting work; they lack appropriate experience or training; they have difficulty with the language or their age is not appropriate (too young or too old).
- The added questions:
 - “Did you actively **seek** work over the past 12 months?”
 - “Are you **interested** in working in an appropriate job now?”
 - “What is the main **reason** you haven’t sought work over the past four weeks?”
 - “Had you been offered appropriate work, would you have been able to begin last week?”

3. Labour Force Survey April-June 2000: Employees hired through employment agencies or employment contractors

- Hiring through employment agencies has increased considerably over the past decade, and it is important to examine the characteristics of those employees.
- Employees hired through employment agencies or employment contractors: Employees who are placed in jobs and receive their wages from the employment agency or employment contractor, while the place of work they were referred to is responsible for the implementation and quality of their work.

The following are not included in this definition:

- Employees on the staff of the employment agency;
- Employees working through a subcontractor. In these cases, the subcontractor bears responsibility for the implementation and quality of the work. These employees work in two main industries: Security and cleaning (code 750), and Home-help services (code 862).
- The added question to employees:
 - “Do you receive your salary from your place of work or from an employment agency?”

B. Change in Flow

Labour Force Survey **April-June 2000:**

1. Question 17 – Participants who did not seek work during the four weeks preceding the survey should proceed to Column 6, question 42 – “Discouraged Workers”. Afterwards, they should proceed to Question 46 (Question 18 on the questionnaire before the change was introduced) – “Did you work during the last 12 months?”
2. Question 28 – Participants who were temporarily absent from work and did not seek work during the four weeks preceding the survey should proceed to Column 6, Question 42 – “Discouraged Workers” (instead of proceeding to Question 38 “Have you ever worked in Israel? When?”)

C. Question Eliminated

Labour Force Survey **January-March 2000:** “Did you seek work last week?”