



**Tourism & Hospitality**  
Emergency Recovery



# Labour Force Survey: Summary Report February 2022



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# Tourism Employment Remains Suppressed as Canadian Economy Recovers

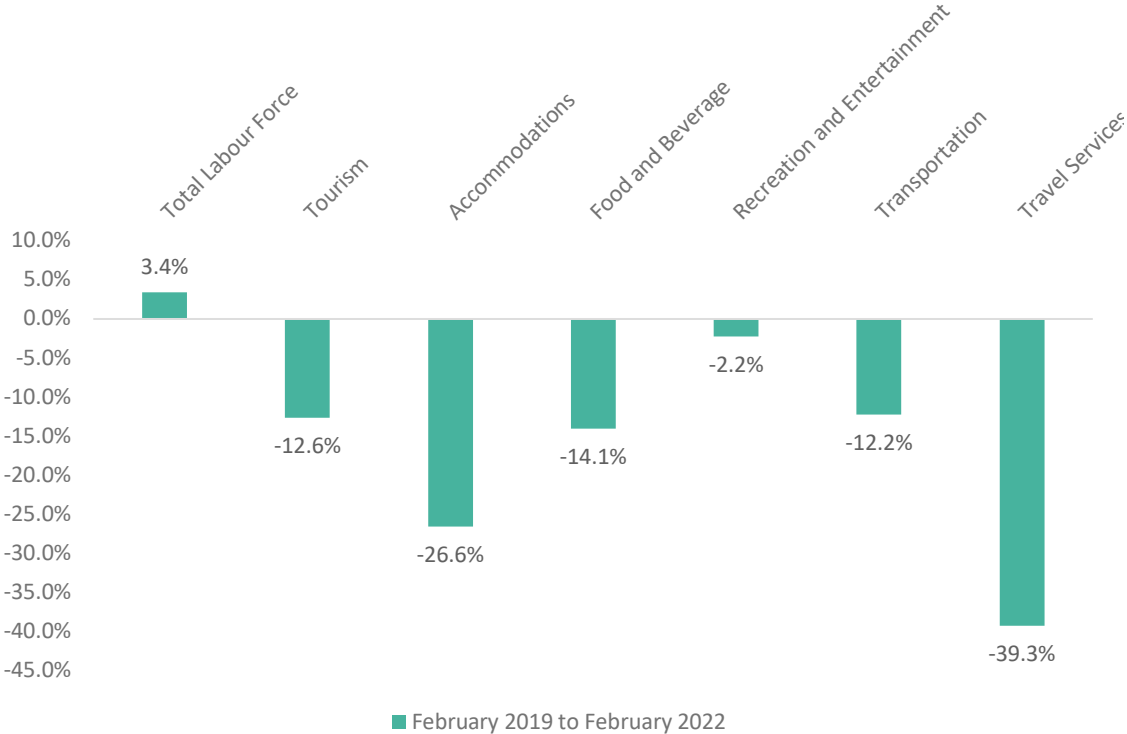
Total employment in Canada has bounced back to pre-pandemic levels; however, employment in key tourism industries such as accommodations and travel services remains well below 2019 precedents.

## Employment Gain/Loss by Industry Group

Compared to February 2019, total seasonally unadjusted employment in Canada was up 3.4% (see Figure 1). However, tourism employment remains down 12.6%, following a slight increase in tourism employment from January to February.

While employment in the recreation and entertainment group had almost recovered to the February 2019 levels, such positive gains were not seen across the other four tourism industry groups. Particularly, the employment in the accommodations group and the travel services group was still far behind the pre-pandemic levels.

Figure 1: Employment Gain/Loss by Industry Group <sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, customized tabulations

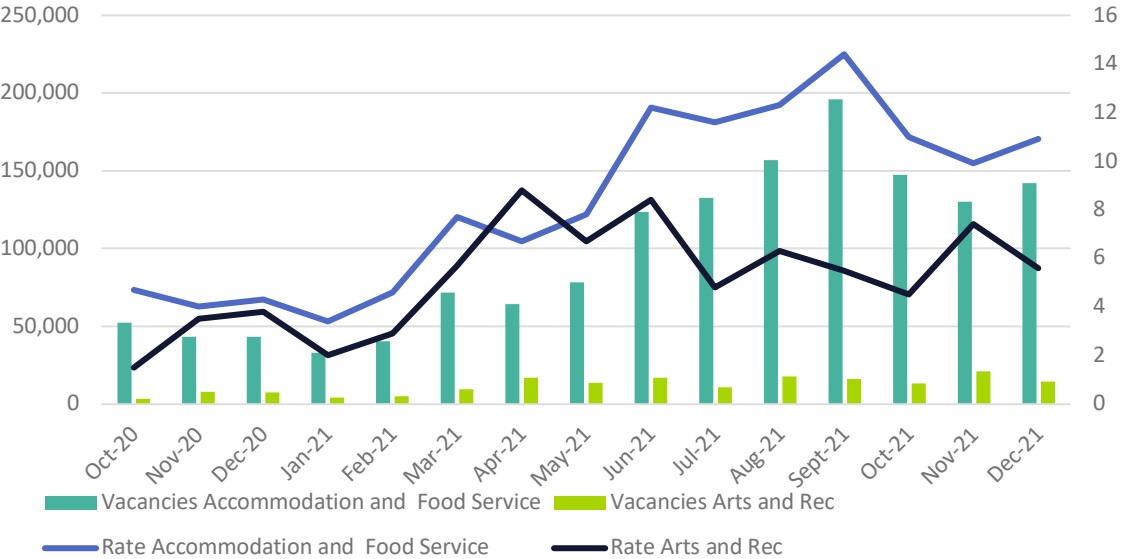
## Vacancies

Statistics Canada’s job vacancy data by industry was recently updated. New data current to December 2021 shows that the number of job vacancies in the accommodation and food service sector across Canada was 142,320, following a slight increase in job vacancies from November to December (see Figure 2). The number of job vacancies in the arts, entertainment, and recreation sector decreased to 14,665 in December 2021.

The vacancy rate in ‘accommodation and food services’ increased after two months of decline while the rate for ‘arts and recreation’ dropped in December after reaching near peak levels the previous month.

The vacancy rate in the accommodation and food service sector remained higher than in the arts, entertainment, and recreation sector. In December, the gap was enlarged between the vacancy rates of the two sectors. The vacancy rate in the accommodation and food service sector increased, at 10.9%. Conversely, the vacancy rate in the arts, entertainment, and recreation sector decreased, at 5.6%. Compared to December 2020, the vacancy rate in both sectors was up – 6.6% and 1.8% up for the accommodation and food service sector and the arts, entertainment, and recreation sector, respectively.

**Figure 2: Job Vacancies and Job Vacancy Rate in Tourism Related Sectors<sup>2</sup>**



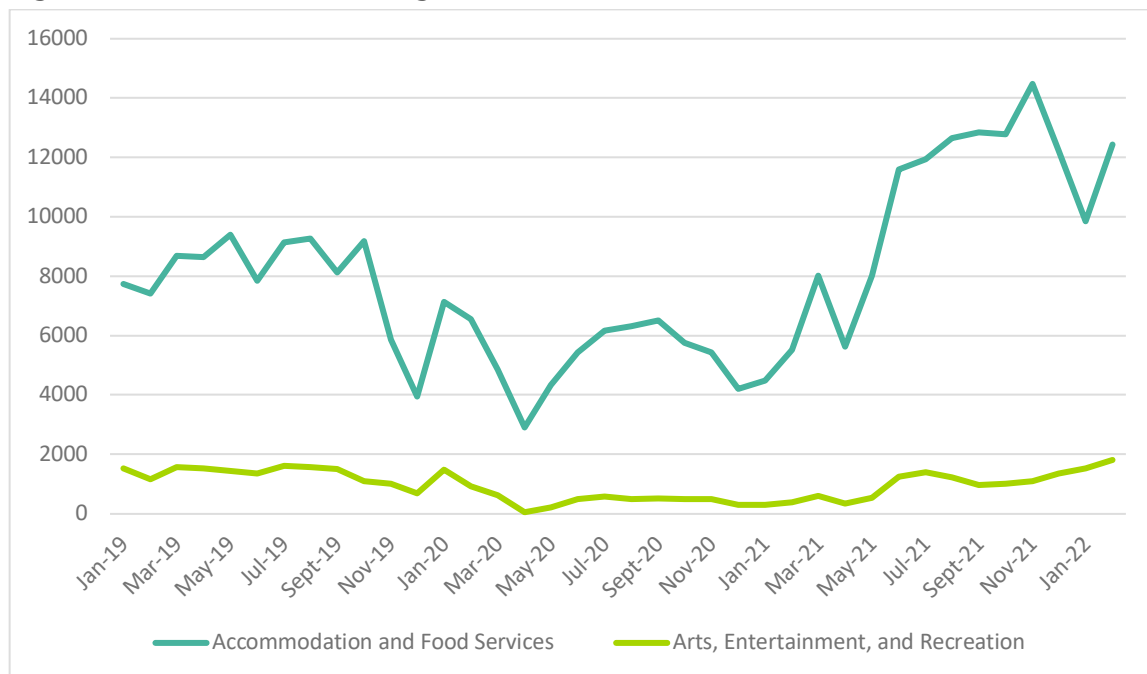
<sup>2</sup> Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0372-01 Job vacancies, payroll employees, and job vacancy rate by industry sector, monthly, unadjusted for seasonality

## Demand in Tourism Related Sectors

The total number of job postings in the accommodation and food services sector had a significant increase in February, reaching 12,427. This was 67.8% more than in February 2019. Overall, the demand in the accommodation and food services sector remained much higher than the pre-pandemic levels.

The number of job postings in the arts, entertainment, and recreation sector continued to grow, reaching 1,816 - the highest level seen since 2020. Overall, the demand in the arts, entertainment, and recreation sector had recovered to pre-pandemic levels.

**Figure 3: Number of Job Postings**

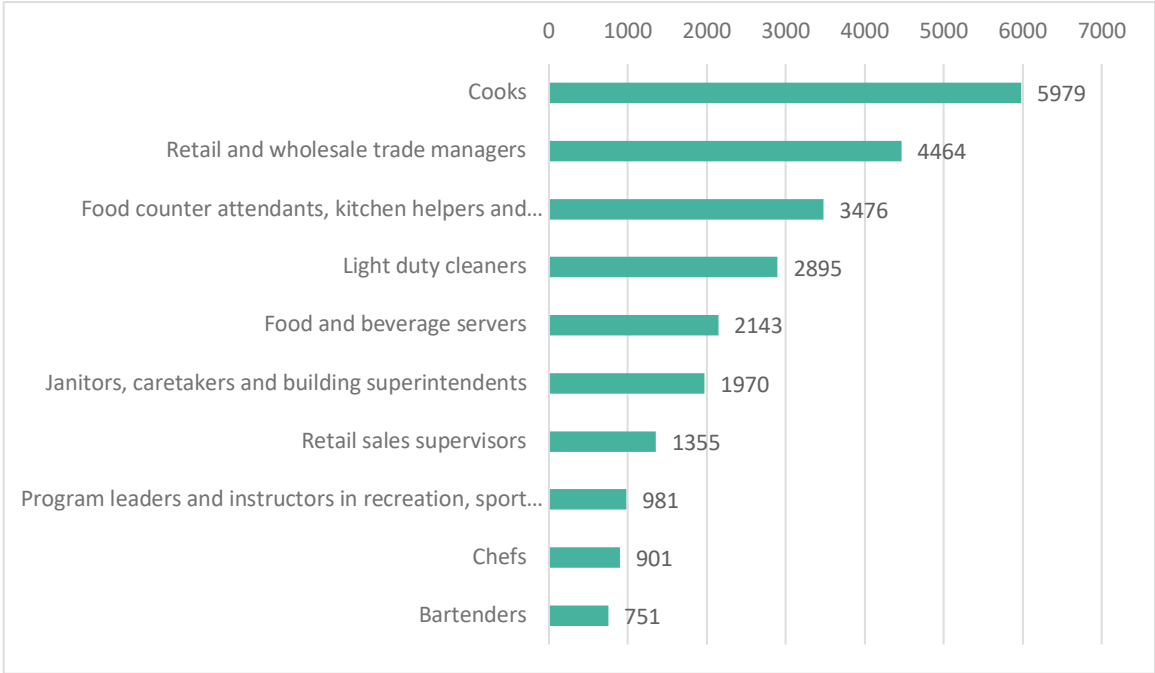


## Demand by Occupation

The top ten tourism occupations that were highest in demand in February 2022 are shown in Figure 4.

Cooks continued to be the occupation that had the highest demand, with 5,979 job postings, which was over 1,000 more than its job postings in the previous month. Retail and wholesale trade managers ranked second, with 4,464 job postings. Overall, the number of job postings increased this February from January 2022.

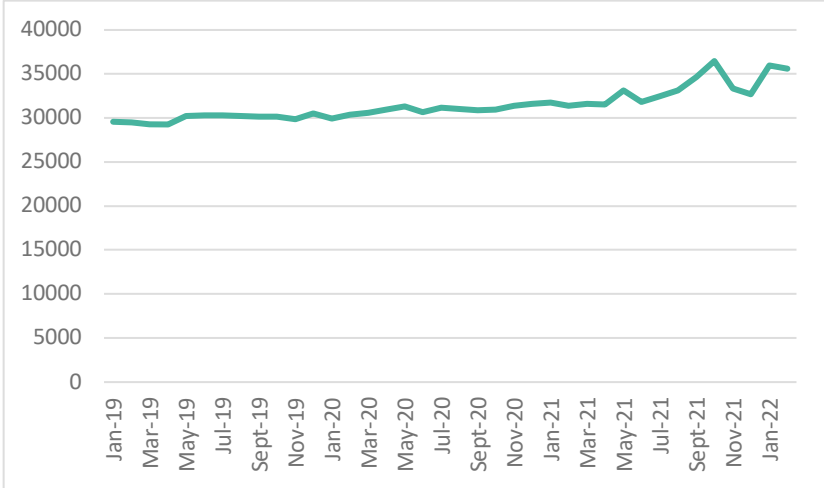
**Figure 4: Number of Job Postings by Occupation**



**Salary**

The average salary in the tourism industry varies from occupation to occupation. Take light duty cleaners as an example, the average salary went up slightly from January 2019 and had a more significant elevation since May 2021 (see Figure 5). After reaching one peak in October 2021 and another peak in January 2022, the average salary decreased slightly to \$35,577 in February. To view the average salary of other tourism occupations (e.g., cooks, food and beverage servers, travel counsellors, etc.), please refer to the THER dashboard.

**Figure 5: Average Salary of Light Duty Cleaners**

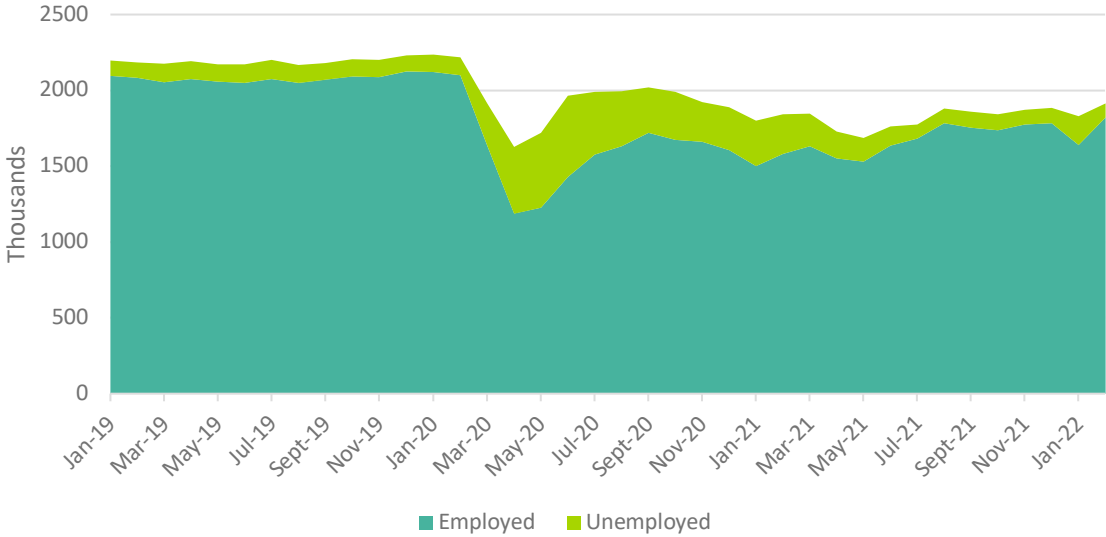


## Change in the Tourism Labour Force

The tourism labour force is the combined number of employed tourism workers, and former tourism workers who have been unemployed for less than a year and are actively seeking work. The data in Figure 6 is seasonally adjusted to account for the seasonal swings in employment within the tourism sector.

In February 2022, the size of labour force increased dramatically – the biggest size ever seen since February 2020. Compared to one year prior, there is an elevation of approximately 240,300 employed tourism workers, implying that the tourism labour force is in a better situation compared to one year prior. Despite of that, compared to February 2019, the tourism labour force was 12.6% smaller.

**Figure 6: Change in Tourism Labour Force – Seasonally Adjusted<sup>3</sup>**

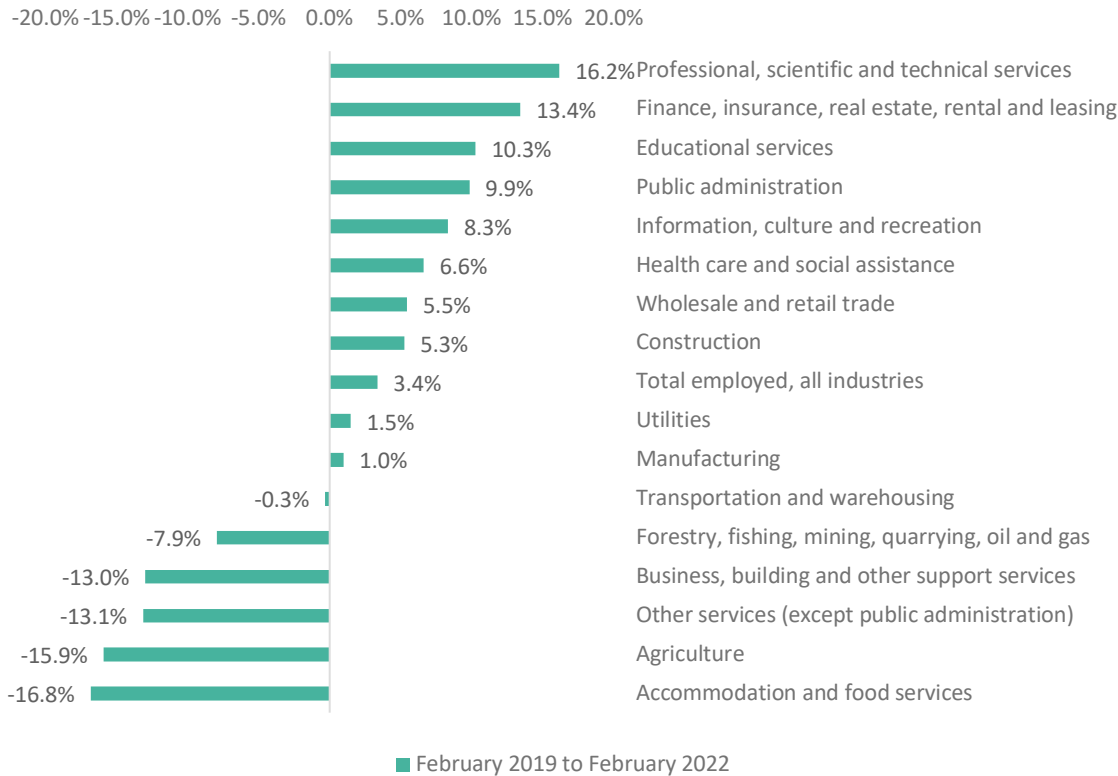


## Change in Employment by Industry

As of February, employment was up in professional, scientific and technical services (16.2%), followed by finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing (13.4%), and educational services (10.3%) compared to February 2019. The employment in tourism related sectors had a loss generally. While Information, culture and recreation employment was elevated by 3.4%, accommodation and food services employment had dropped 16.8%– the biggest drop in employment seen among all sectors.

<sup>3</sup> Adapted from Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, customized tabulations

**Figure 7: Employment Change by Industry February 2019 to 2022 (seasonally unadjusted) <sup>4</sup>**



**Total Labour Force Growth (Seasonally Adjusted and Unadjusted)**

It is important to note that Canada’s total labour force has also grown since the height of the pandemic. There are more employed workers than there were three years ago, but more people are also looking for work. Since February 2019, the seasonally unadjusted labour force had grown by 565,400 (see Figure 8). Compared to February 2020, the labour force had a growth of 332,300.

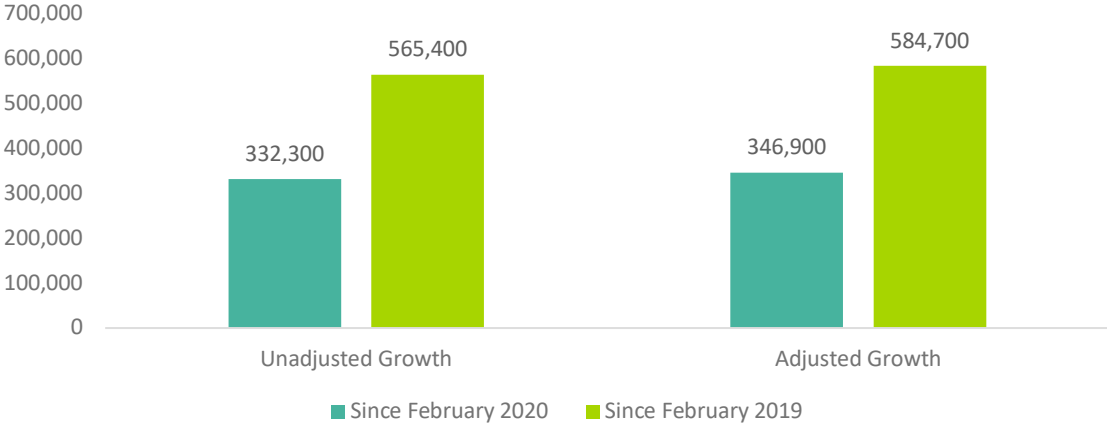


Seasonally adjusted data, which accounts for regular changes in the labour force, such as the addition of student workers in the summer, shows an increase of 346,900 workers since February 2020 and 584,700 workers since February 2019.

<sup>4</sup> Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0022-01 Labour force characteristics by industry, monthly, unadjusted for seasonality (x 1,000)



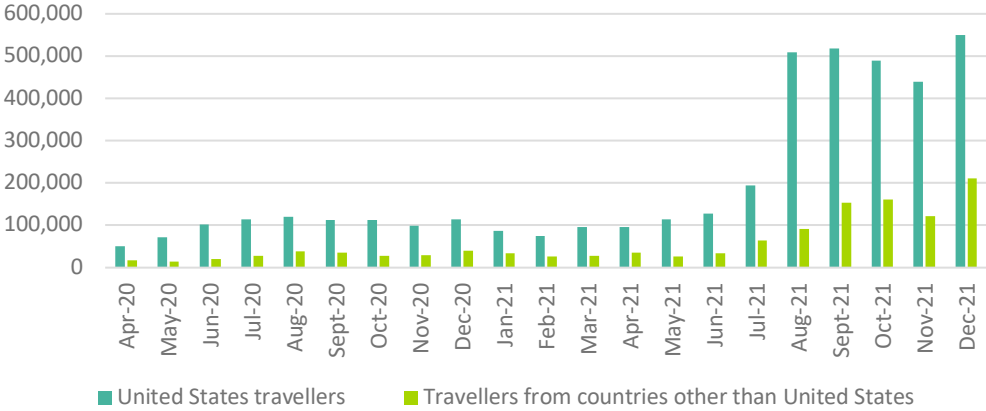
**Figure 8: Labour Force Growth (seasonally adjusted and unadjusted)<sup>5</sup>**



**Travellers in Canada**

The number of international travellers (both U.S. travellers and non-U.S. travellers) arriving in Canada increased. In December, 550,264/211,096 U.S./non-U.S. travellers visited Canada—an increase of 25.3%/74.2% from November 2021. Compared to December 2019, the number of U.S. travellers and non-U.S. travellers was down 208.5% and 134% respectively.

**Figure 9: International Tourist Arrivals in Canada by Month<sup>6</sup>**



<sup>5</sup> Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0287-01 Labour force characteristics, monthly, seasonally adjusted and trend-cycle, last 5 months & Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0017-01 Labour force characteristics by sex and detailed age group, monthly, unadjusted for seasonality (x 1,000)

<sup>6</sup> Statistics Canada. Table 24-10-0041-01 International travellers entering or returning to Canada, by type of transport