



**Tourism & Hospitality**  
Emergency Recovery



# Labour Force Survey: Summary Report January 2022



Tourism **HR**  
Canada



**RH** Tourisme  
Canada

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# Tourism Employment Remained Suppressed in January

Although total employment in Canada has recovered to pre-pandemic levels, tourism employment remains significantly suppressed.

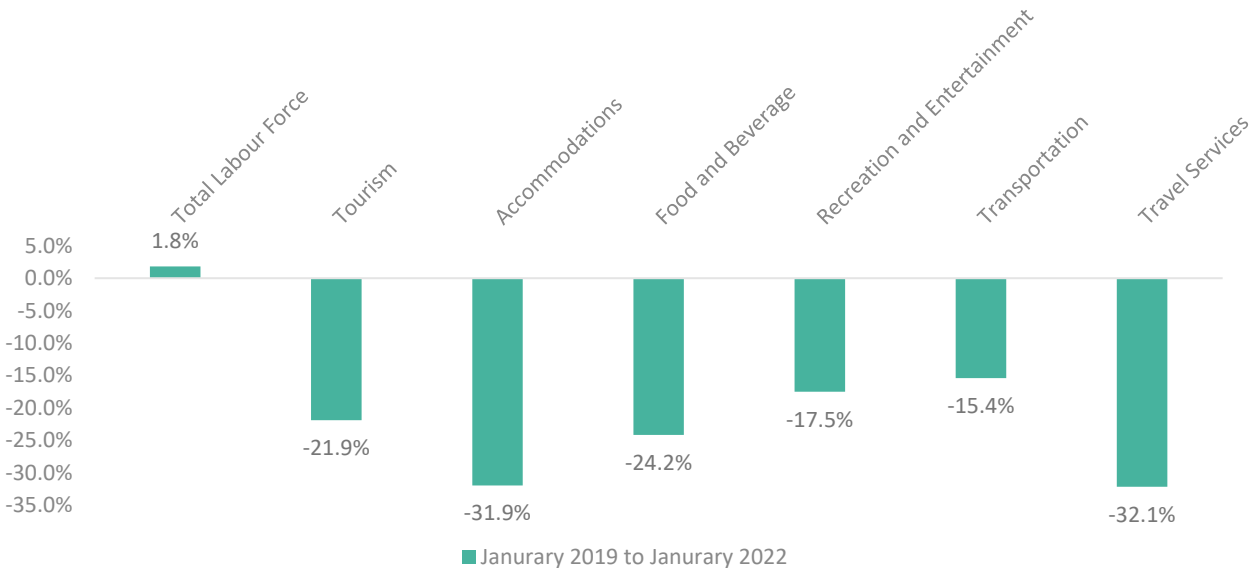
## Employment Gain/Loss by Industry Group

Compared to January 2019, total seasonally unadjusted employment in Canada was up 1.8% (see Figure 1). However, tourism employment remains down 21.9%, following a sharp decline in tourism employment from December to January. After months of increase in tourism employment since April 2021, unfortunately, as of January 2022, tourism employment dropped back to the March 2021 levels, which is close to the March 2020 levels when the COVID-19 struck Canada.

Among the five tourism industry groups, transportation was down the least in employment (-15.4%). Although the travel services group still has seen the most significant employment drop, the gap in employment compared to pre-pandemic levels is getting smaller. In each month from September to December 2021, the employment within the travel services group had a decline of over 45% compared to two years prior. In January 2022, it dropped 32.1% compared to January 2019.

With overall employment having recovered but tourism employment suppressed, many former tourism workers have found jobs in other industries. Fewer workers will be available for tourism businesses to hire when demand picks up for the 2022 summer season.

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



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

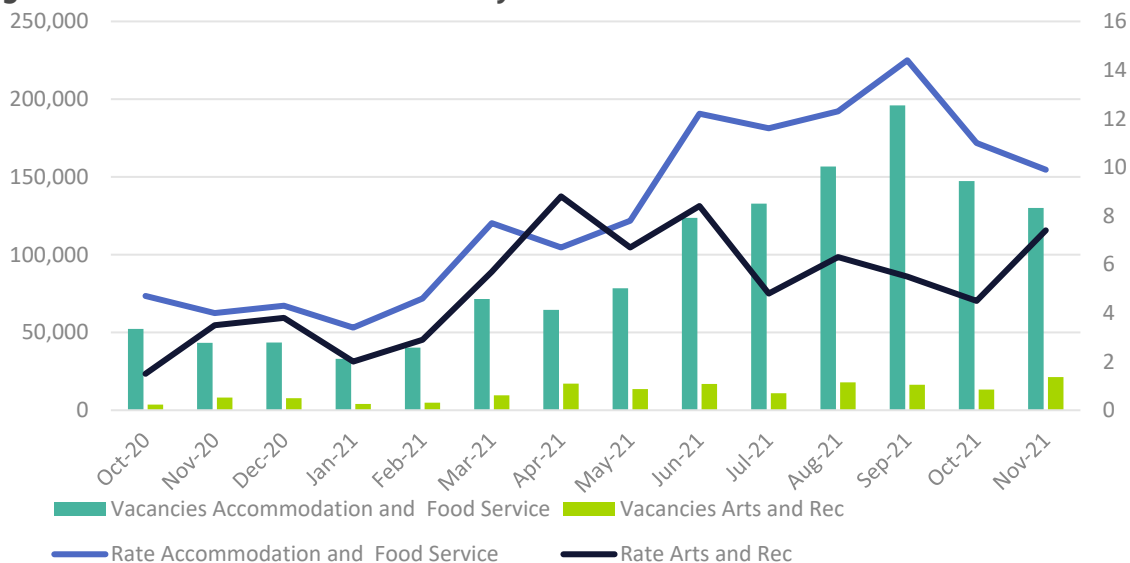
## Vacancies

The number of job vacancies in the accommodation and food service sector across Canada continued to decline. As of November 2021, it decreased to 130,070, back to the June 2021 level (see Figure 2). The number of job vacancies in the arts, entertainment, and recreation sector in November 2021 was 21,310, 60.3% up from October 2021, reaching the historically high levels since monthly vacancy data became available.

**The vacancy rate in accommodation and food services is the highest job vacancy rate for any sector of the economy since Statistics Canada began tracking vacancies using the job vacancy and wage survey in 2015.**

The vacancy rate in the accommodation and food service sector remained higher than in the arts, entertainment, and recreation sector. However, a much smaller gap has emerged between the vacancy rates of the two sectors. The vacancy rate in the accommodation and food service sector continued to decrease in November, at 9.9%, lower than in the previous five months. On the other hand, the vacancy rate in the arts, entertainment, and recreation sector increased dramatically from October, at 7.4%. Compared to November 2020, the vacancy rate in both sectors was up – 6% and 4% 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>**



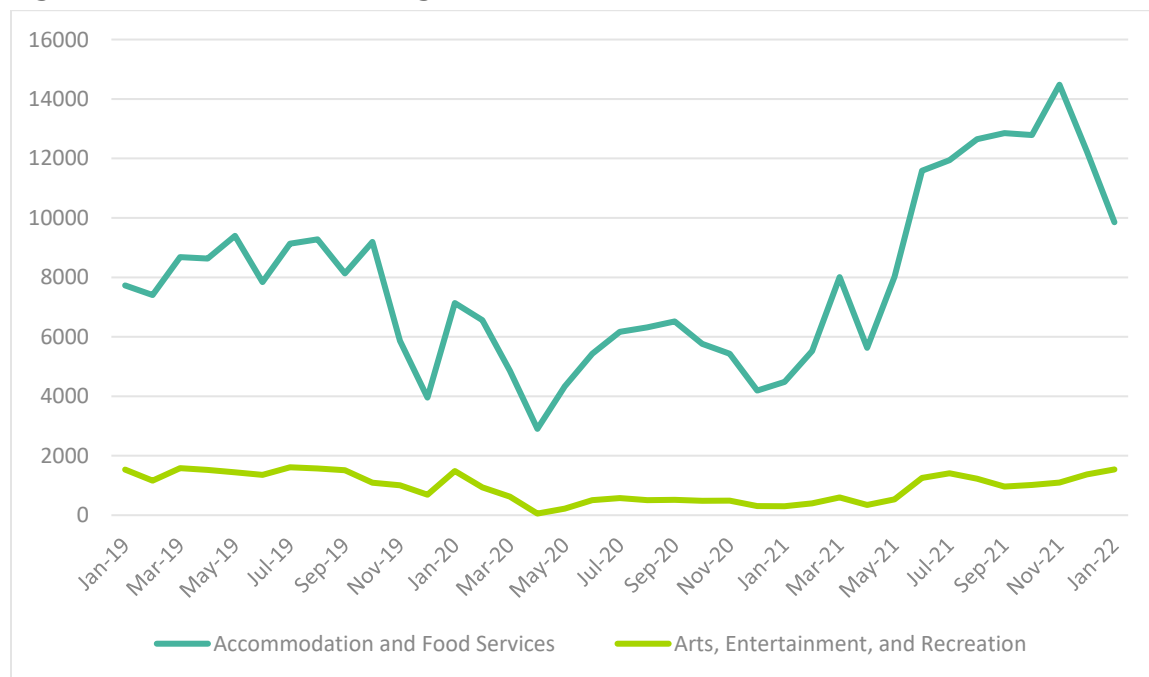
<sup>2</sup> Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0372-01 Job vacancies, payroll employees, and job vacancy rate by industry sector, monthly, unadjusted for seasonality

## Demand in Tourism Related Sectors

Peaked in November 2021 since 2019, the total number of job postings in the accommodation and food services sector declined to 9,857 this January. Although this was 31.9% down from the peak, this was 27.5% more than in January 2019. Overall, the demand in the accommodation and food services sector remained higher than pre-pandemic levels.

The number of job postings in the arts, entertainment, and recreation sector was slightly up from December 2021, reaching 1,540 - the highest level seen since 2020. Overall, the demand in the arts, entertainment, and recreation sector had recovered to pre-pandemic levels this January.

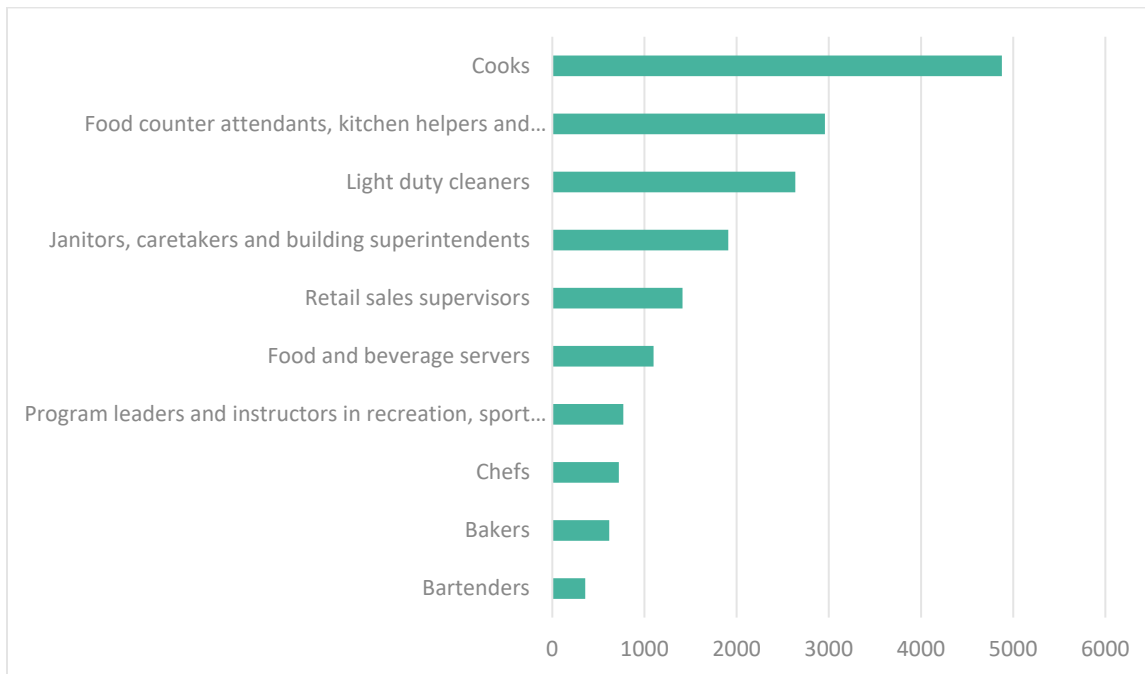
**Figure 3: Number of Job Postings**



## Demand by Occupation

The top ten tourism occupations that were highest in demand in January 2022 are shown in Figure 4. Cooks continued to be the occupation that had the highest demand, with 4,877 job postings, which was almost the double of its job postings in December 2021. Food counter attendants, kitchen helpers and related support occupations ranked second, with 2,958 job postings. Overall, the number of job postings increased greatly this January from December 2021.

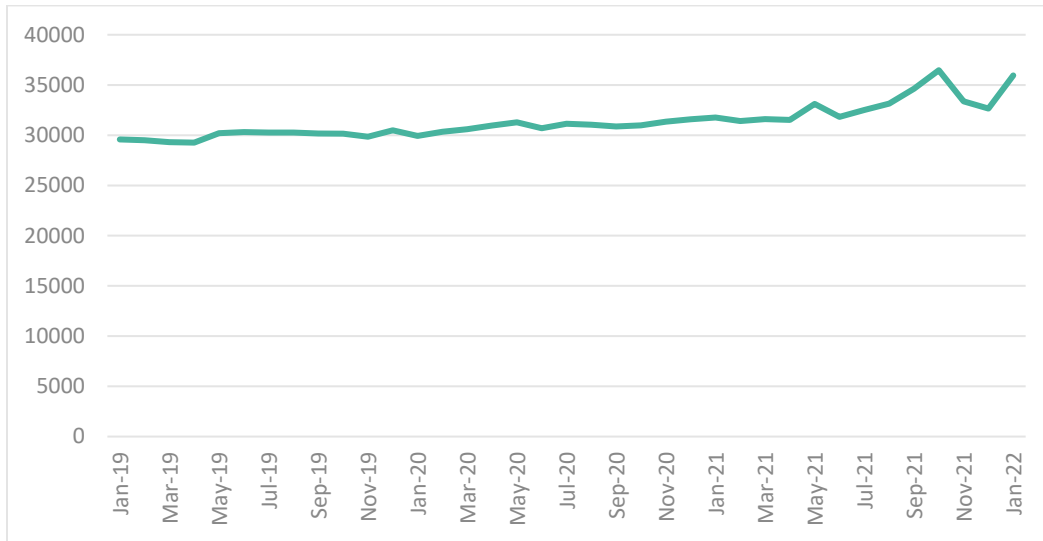
**Figure 4: Number of Job Postings by Occupation**



## 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). Peaking at \$36,469 in October 2021, the average salary fell to \$32,659 in December 2021. This January, the average salary bounced back to the peak level, at \$35,955. To view the average salary of other tourism occupations (e.g., cooks, food and beverage servers, travel counsellors, etc.), please refer to the dashboard.

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

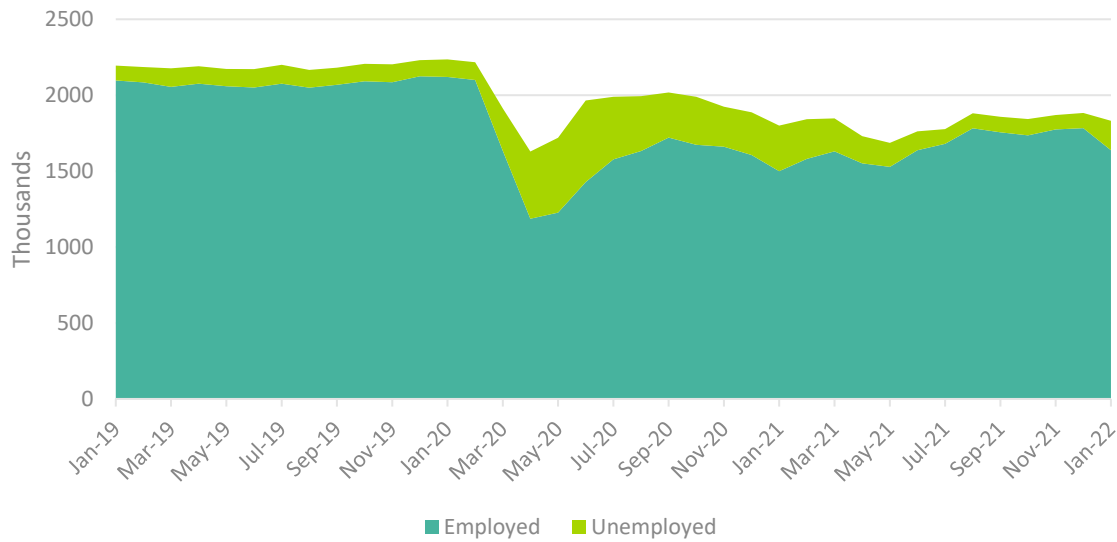


## Change in the Tourism Labour Force

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 January 2022, the size of labour force plummeted. Compared to its size pre-pandemic, the tourism labour force has shrunk significantly. In January 2022, it was 21.9% smaller than in January 2019. Compared to one year prior, there is an elevation of approximately 137,900 employed tourism workers. This implied that the tourism labour force is in a better situation compared to one year prior. However, there is still a long way to go to recover to pre-pandemic levels.

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



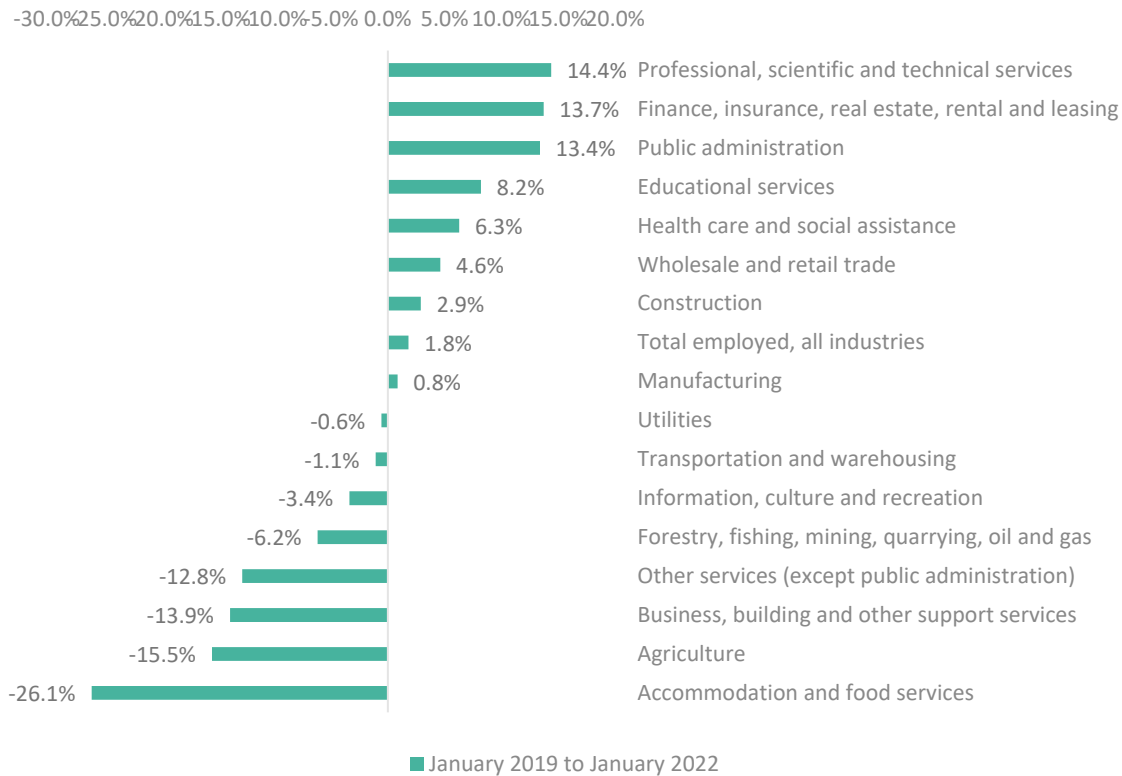
### Change in Employment by Industry

Overall, seasonally unadjusted employment in Canada has recovered to pre-pandemic levels. Seasonally unadjusted employment in Canada was up 1.8% from January 2019 (see Figure 7). As of January, employment was up in professional, scientific and technical services (14.4%), followed by finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing (13.7%), and public administration (13.4%) compared to January 2019. The employment in tourism related sectors is suppressed - Information, culture and recreation employment had a loss of 3.4% and accommodation and food services employment had dropped 26.1% compared to January 2019 – the biggest drop in employment seen among all sectors. A number of non-tourism sectors such as agriculture also had a huge loss in employment.

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



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



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

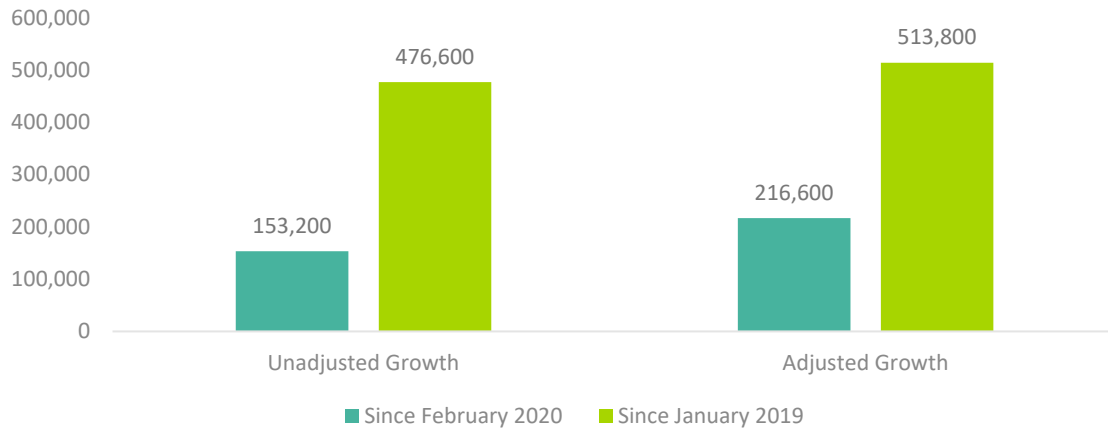
It is important to note that Canada’s total labour force has also grown since the height of the pandemic. There are more employed workers than there were three years ago, but more people are also looking for work. Since January 2019, the seasonally unadjusted labour force had grown by 476,600 (see Figure 8). Compared to February 2020, the labour force only had a growth of 153,200.



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 216,600 workers since February 2020 and 513,800 workers since January 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 fell in November 2021. In November, 439,118/121,182 U.S./non-U.S. travellers visited Canada—a decrease of 10.1%/24.6% from October 2021. Compared to November 2019, the number of U.S. travellers and non-U.S. travellers was down 233.4% and 166.4% 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