

4.—Employment.

The total number of persons engaged in the manufacturing industries of Canada in 1921 was 517,141, as compared with 685,349 in 1920 and 682,434 in 1919. The employees consisted in 1921 of 76,777 persons on salaries and 440,364 wage earners. This latter figure, representing the average number of wage earners employed during the entire year, was ascertained by dividing twelve into the sum of the numbers on the payrolls on the 15th of each month.

A comparison of the average number of wage earners is an excellent measure of industrial activity. In Table 11 index numbers, based on data for 1915 equalling 100, are given to show the variation in employment. The index numbers of the volume of products are also inserted for comparative purposes. Aside from the considerable drop in 1921, the indices of employment indicate less violent change than those of production. For example, the index of employment increased from 150.2 in 1919 to 150.6 in 1920, while the index of production increased from 118 to 133. In 1921 the number of wage earners was 11.3 p.c. greater than in 1915 and production was 27 p.c. greater.

11.—Wage-earners in Manufacturing Industries, 1915 to 1921.

Years	Average Number of Wage Earners. ¹	Index Numbers.	
		Average Number of Wage Earners.	Volume of Manufactured Products.
1915.....	395,681	100.0	100
1917.....	601,305	152.0	142
1918.....	603,116	152.4	137
1919.....	594,118	150.2	118
1920.....	596,052	150.6	133
1921.....	440,364	111.3	127

¹ Exclusive of outside piece workers.

Employment by Provinces.—The concentration of manufacturing establishments in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec is shown by the fact that in 1921 the employees in the former province were 50 p.c. and in the latter 30.8 p.c. of the total. The proportions in the other provinces were 5.5 p.c. in British Columbia, 4 p.c. in Manitoba and 3.3 p.c. in Nova Scotia, the employment in the remaining provinces ranging from .21 p.c. to slightly more than 3 p.c. The striking feature of the six year interval between 1915 and 1921 was the extraordinary industrial growth of the prairie provinces and the steady development in the industrialized area of Ontario and Quebec. Employees in the factories of Saskatchewan and Alberta increased 107.6 p.c. and 51.4 p.c. respectively. The ratio of increase in Quebec was 19.2 p.c., and in Ontario 16.2 p.c. The average employment throughout Canada of workers of all ranks, exclusive of outside piece workers, was 448,364 in 1915, (497,170 on Dec. 15, 1915), which increased by 15.3 p.c. to 517,141 in 1921.

Sex Distribution of Employees.—In Ontario the ratio of the number of female wage earners employed in factories to the number of males during 1915 was 22.7 p.c., while in 1921 the ratio increased to 23.2 p.c. In Quebec the ratio was 27.1 p.c. in 1915 and 32.5 p.c. in 1921. The employment of women was, however, largely confined to a few trades, the expansion of the textile and clothing industries being a chief cause of the increase in female employment. In addition the preparation of food, book-binding and other light factory work were specifically regarded as women's trades. From 1915 to 1921, the male wage earners of Canada increased