

wage-earners out of a total of 596,052 wage-earners enumerated in the census of manufactures; for 1921 those statistics covered 319,845 wage-earners out of an ascertained total of 440,364. The statistics for 1920 and 1921 are given for comparative purposes in Table 25.

The changes in wages in recent years may best be measured by taking the median wage, that is, the wage of the middle individual in each group, who has as many persons receiving more wages than he does as receive less. On the assumption that the earnings of the members of the wage group containing these individuals were evenly distributed between the upper and lower limits, the median wages for 1915, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920 and 1921 are shown in Table 24. The percentages of increase in these years over 1915 are also shown. The median wages declined during 1921 as compared with the high level of 1920, by 7.2 p.c. for persons under 16, by 12.8 p.c. for males over 16 and by 2.3 p.c. for females over 16. The changes in the cost of living in the six years for which these wage statistics are available, are shown by the index numbers (compiled by the Department of Labour), also given in the table.

24.—Median Wages in Manufacturing Industries, 1915-1921.

Years.	Under 16 years of age.		Over 16 years of age.				Index number of retail prices.
	Males and Females.		Males.		Females.		
	\$	Increase over 1915 p.c.	\$	Increase over 1915 p.c.	\$	Increase over 1915 p.c.	
1915.....	4.48	-	12.64	-	6.87	-	104
1917.....	5.86	30.8	17.53	38.7	8.58	24.9	143
1918.....	6.90	54.0	20.28	60.4	9.75	41.9	162
1919.....	8.06	79.9	22.78	80.2	11.59	68.7	179
1920.....	9.06	102.2	25.97	105.5	12.80	86.3	192
1921.....	8.41	87.7	22.64	79.1	12.50	82.0	156

NOTE.—For explanation of term "median", see preceding paragraph.

25.—Weekly Wages of Employees in Canadian Manufacturing Industries, 1920 and 1921.

(Weekly pay for week ending Dec. 15 in each year.)

1920.

Weekly Wage Groups.	Under 16 years of age.	Over 16 years of age.		Total.
	Males and Females.	Males.	Females.	
Under \$5 per week.....	1,399	2,316	3,115	6,830
\$5 but under \$10.....	5,670	13,705	23,327	42,702
\$10 but under \$15.....	3,555	28,490	42,627	74,672
\$15 but under \$20.....	731	50,364	21,241	72,336
\$20 but under \$24.....	225	60,042	6,104	66,371
\$24 but under \$28.....	159	68,686	2,867	71,712
\$28 but under \$30.....	60	26,042	504	26,606
\$30 and over.....	212	128,006	843	129,061
Total.....	12,011	377,651	100,628	490,290
SUMMARY.				
Under \$10 per week.....	7,069	16,021	26,442	49,532
Per cent.....	58.85	4.24	26.28	10.10
Over \$10 per week.....	4,942	361,630	74,186	440,758
Per cent.....	41.15	95.76	73.72	89.90