

5.—Employment.

The total number of persons engaged in the manufacturing industries of Canada in 1922 was 462,573, as compared with 439,889 in 1921 and 583,112 in 1920. The employees consisted in 1922 of 74,884 persons on salaries and 387,689 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 15 index numbers, based on data for 1917 equalling 100, are given to show the variation in employment. The index numbers of the volume of products, obtained by dividing the index numbers of the gross value of production by the index numbers of wholesale prices, both series being referred to 1917 as a base, 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. As compared with the record of the preceding year, the index of employment in 1922 increased 4 points, while the index of the volume of production increased 7.5 points. In 1922 the number of wage earners was 27 p.c. less than in 1917 and production was 13.7 p.c. less.

15.—Wage Earners in Manufacturing Industries, 1917-1922.

Years.	Average Number of Wage Earners. ¹	Index Numbers.	
		Average Number of Wage Earners.	Volume of Manufactured Products.
1917.....	531,466	100.0	100.0
1918.....	517,704	97.4	85.7
1919.....	499,557	94.0	81.5
1920.....	502,627	94.6	81.0
1921.....	366,694	69.0	78.8
1922.....	387,689	73.0	86.3

¹Exclusive 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 1922 the employees in the former province were 58.9 p.c. and in the latter 31.3 p.c. of the total. The proportions in the other provinces were 5.7 p.c. in British Columbia, 3 p.c. in Manitoba and 2.9 p.c. in Nova Scotia, the employment in the remaining provinces ranging from 0.24 p.c. to slightly more than 3 p.c. The average employment throughout Canada of workers of all ranks, exclusive of outside piece-workers, was 439,889 in 1921, which increased by 5.0 p.c. to 462,573 in 1922.

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 1922 the ratio increased to 30.4 p.c. In Quebec the ratio was 27.1 p.c. in 1915 and 37.6 p.c. in 1922. The more rapid increase of female employment was largely due to the special conditions arising out of the war. 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 1921 to 1922, the male wage earners of Canada increased 3.5 p.c., while the female workers increased 11.1 p.c.