

Applications for patents in Canada from inventors in other countries were first received in 1872. In that year the total number of applications for patents made to the Canadian Patent Office, Department of Agriculture, was 752, and the total fees amounted to \$18,652. The business of the Office has gradually continued to expand and the number of applications and total fees increased each year without a break from the beginning of the present century until the fiscal year ended March 31, 1913, when 8,681 applications were received, and the total fees amounted to \$218,125. In 1924 there were 10,441 applications with fees amounting to \$459,780, as compared with 10,806 and \$413,238 respectively in 1923. For the fiscal year ended March 31, 1924, the number of patents granted was 9,006, as compared with 12,542 in 1923, a decrease of 3,542, which, however, is accounted for by the amendment to the Patent Act, dated June 4, 1921, which extended the time limit set on the payment of fees. The result was a sharp decline in the number granted during 1922 and a corresponding increase in the following year. Of the patents of 1924, 5,860, or 65 p.c., were issued to United States inventors, 1,533 to Canadian and 855 to British patentees, while Germany with 219, and France with 164 came next in number of patents issued. Table 50 shows the distribution of the Canadian patentees by province of residence for the years 1914 to 1924.

**50.—Number of Canadian Patentees, by Province of Residence, for the fiscal years ended Mar. 31, 1914-1924.**

Provinces.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Prince Edward Island.....	2	2	3	3	3	—	9	2	4	9	7
Nova Scotia.....	39	33	21	29	18	21	29	29	22	35	41
New Brunswick.....	30	20	17	29	14	9	22	33	14	21	14
Quebec.....	278	278	237	287	220	172	312	331	276	430	312
Ontario.....	607	586	540	465	398	386	636	708	508	845	673
Manitoba.....	115	97	89	84	91	66	86	118	75	158	83
Saskatchewan.....	59	66	65	62	84	76	94	119	101	166	106
Alberta.....	46	71	60	59	61	75	116	127	96	155	123
British Columbia.....	157	126	92	72	83	70	147	177	103	202	174
Territories and Yukon.....	1	2	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>1,334</b>	<b>1,281</b>	<b>1,125</b>	<b>1,091</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>1,451</b>	<b>1,645</b>	<b>1,199</b>	<b>2,021</b>	<b>1,533</b>

It will be seen from the table that the more populous provinces of Ontario and Quebec obtained the largest absolute number of patents, but a calculation of the number of patentees in relation to the census population shows that, for the fiscal year 1924, the greatest relative inventiveness was displayed in British Columbia. Thus, in this province, in 1924, one patent was granted to every 3,266 persons, the other provinces, as regards the number of persons to each patent granted, being placed in order as follows: Ontario, 4,573, Alberta, 5,345, Manitoba, 7,946, Saskatchewan, 7,954, Quebec, 7,967, P. E. Island, 12,531, Nova Scotia, 13,101, and New Brunswick, 28,683.