

Volume of Manufacturing Production in Recent Years.—An investigation of the greatest importance, especially as applied to a period when values are rapidly changing, is that of the volume of manufacturing production as distinguished from its value. This is, however, a difficult as well as an important subject of research, particularly on account of the constant changes in the commodities manufactured and in their relative proportions. It is, however, a subject on which tentative conclusions are better than none, and accordingly an estimate of the volume of manufactured commodities in recent years has been attempted in Table 3, on the following plan. First, the gross value of the manufactured commodities produced in 1917, the first year of the annual census of manufactures, is taken as 100, and later years given as a percentage of this. Next, the average index numbers of the wholesale prices of the 129 manufactured commodities used in the Bureau's index number of wholesale prices are given for each year, and in the next column reduced to a percentage relative to 1917. Finally, the values, expressed as a percentage, are divided by the prices, also expressed as a percentage, and the quotient is considered to be the volume of manufacturing production. In the table which follows may be noted the decline in the volume of production between 1918 and 1920, in spite of increasing values, and the recovery in the volume of production in 1922 and 1923, in spite of diminished values.

3.—Volume of Manufacturing Production, 1917-1923.

Years.	Values.		Prices.		Index No. Volume of Manu- facturing Production.
	Gross Value Manu- facturing Production.	Percentage relative to 1917.	Index No. Prices of Manu- factured Commodi- ties.	Percentage relative to 1917.	
	\$				
1917.....	2,873,268,183	100.00	175.5	100.00	100.00
1918.....	3,289,764,146	114.49	196.9	112.19	102.05
1919.....	3,290,500,585	114.52	204.4	116.46	98.33
1920.....	3,772,250,057	131.28	242.0	137.89	95.20
1921.....	2,576,037,029	89.65	180.0	102.56	87.41
1922.....	2,482,209,130	86.38	155.0	88.31	97.81
1923.....	2,781,165,514	96.79	159.1	90.65	106.77

2.—Summary of Recent Manufacturing Statistics.

(NOTE.—For the scheme of reports issued annually on the manufacturing industries by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, the reader is referred to the subsection "The Dominion Bureau of Statistics" in the present volume, dealing with the organization of the bureau and its publications.)

According to the census of 1923, there were in Canada 22,642 manufacturing establishments, distributed throughout the nine provinces and Yukon Territory. The total number of employees was 525,267, the amount of capital invested \$3,380,322,950 and the output was valued at \$2,781,165,514. As compared with statistics of 1917, there was a decrease of 15.5 p.c. in the number of employees, an increase of over 25 p.c. in the amount of capital invested, and a decrease of over 3 p.c. in the value of products.

Statistics for recent years.—In Table 4 are given summary statistics of the manufactures of Canada for the years 1921 to 1923.