

Subsection 3.—Manufactures classified by Origin of the Materials.

Classification of Manufacturing Production according to the Origin of the Materials Worked Upon.—The principal statistics of the manufactures of Canada, classified upon the basis of "origin", are presented in Table 8 for the years 1924 to 1926. By this means Canadian manufacturing production may be analysed from a new angle, one by means of which interesting comparisons may be made with the external trade classification according to origin.

The manufacturing statistics for 1924 were the first to be analysed upon the origin basis. While the period available for review only covers, therefore, the short space of the three years 1924 to 1926, interesting changes have taken place in the relative importance of the industries based on materials from the different origins. Since the purpose of such a comparison is to discover the relative importance of the manufactures developed to work upon materials from the different origins, the figures of net value of products or the value added to the raw materials by the manufacturing processes will give a more accurate measure of the importance of the industrial groups than the figures of gross value of products. The values added by the manufacture of materials of farm origin, while increasing in amount, have dropped from 30.7 p.c. of the total for all industries in 1924 to 28.5 p.c. in 1926. Similarly, industries of the forest origin group have decreased from 23.8 p.c. in 1924 to 22.6 p.c. in 1926. The values added by industries of the mineral origin group on the other hand have increased from 27.9 p.c. of the total for all industries in 1924 to 33.0 p.c. in 1926. This rapid increase in the relative importance of the industries of the mineral origin group is probably due to a number of influences. The expansion of the motor vehicle industry, increasing activity in construction which absorbs large quantities of steel, cement and various other manufactured mineral products, and the development of metallurgical plants in Canada are some factors in the growing importance of the mineral group of industries. Another factor in this trend is the growing appreciation and development of the wealth of the mineral resources of Canada. Not only do the various mining activities make the raw materials for mineral industries more readily available, but those activities also require large quantities of machinery, electrical apparatus and other finished products of mineral origin.

In the year 1926, the industries of the mineral origin group exceeded those of any other group in the net value of products with 33.0 p.c. of the total, as compared with 28.5 p.c. for the farm and 22.6 p.c. for the forest origin groups. These three principal groups stood in the same order of importance with regard to employees engaged and salaries and wages paid. In the matter of capital invested the mineral group also leads with 30.2 p.c. of the total, followed by the forest group with 23.3 p.c., the farm group with 20.7 p.c. and central electric stations with 19.0 p.c.