

Subsection 3.—Wages and Salaries in Canadian Manufacturing Industries, 1926.

The total amount disbursed by manufacturers in salaries and wages during 1926 was \$653,850,933 paid to 581,539 workers, as compared with \$596,015,171 paid to 544,225 persons in 1925, and \$559,884,045 paid to 508,503 employees in 1924. Of the 1926 aggregate, \$152,705,944 or 23.4 p.c. was paid to 81,794 salaried employees who constituted 14.1 p.c. of the total number, and \$501,144,989 or 76.6 p.c. was paid in wages to 499,745 wage-earners, who formed 85.9 p.c. of the aggregate number of employees.

The average salary paid in the manufacturing industries during 1926 was \$1,867, compared with \$1,843 in 1925, \$1,831 in 1924, \$1,824 in 1923 and \$1,791 in 1922. The average wage paid was \$1,003 in 1926, \$971 in 1925, \$972 in 1924, \$959 in 1923 and \$939 in 1922.

The increase of 10.6 p.c. recorded in aggregate wages in 1926 as compared with the preceding year was accompanied by a 7.2 p.c. gain in the number of operatives employed, while the average wage increased by 3.4 p.c. Employees on salaries increased by 5.3 p.c. and aggregate salaries by 6.7 p.c., while average salaries advanced by 1.3 p.c.

The proportion of female wage-earners per 1,000 was 229 and of male operatives 771 during 1926, while in each 1,000 salary earners 224 were women and 776 were men. These proportions were practically the same as in the preceding year. The number of male salary earners increased by 5.1 p.c. in 1926 as compared with 1925, while there was a gain of 6.2 p.c. in the number of women office help employed. The percentages of increase among wage-earners were 7.2 for the males and 7.0 for the females.

Average Earnings, by Provinces, of Persons Employed in Manufactures.—Table 22 shows the number of salary and wage-earners and the average salary and wage paid in 1926 by manufacturers in the various provinces, also average earnings in 1925.

There were successive rises in average salaries from Prince Edward Island to Quebec, which showed the highest average of all the provinces, while the mean in Ontario was slightly lower than in Quebec. In the Prairie Provinces, the averages were also smaller, especially in Saskatchewan, where salaries were, on the whole, below those in New Brunswick. In British Columbia and the Yukon the average was \$1,884. Sixty-one p.c. of the total female salary earners were employed in Ontario, as compared with only 52 p.c. of the total male salaried workers; in Quebec and British Columbia, on the other hand, the proportion of women workers was lower than that of men.

As in previous years, there were steady increases in average wages from the eastern provinces through to Saskatchewan, where the mean for the year, \$1,174, was the highest in the Dominion, being \$171 greater than the general average. In that province, where the number employed in manufacturing was not large, there was an unusually small proportion of women workers, while many of the male employees were engaged in the better-paid wood and paper, electric light and power industries. In the four provinces situated to the east, average wages in manufacturing were lower than the mean for the Dominion, while from Ontario westward the opposite was the case.

The seasonal nature of some of the leading manufactures, notably fish-preserving and lumbering, tended to reduce the mean wage in the Maritime Provinces. These