

advanced ages, and a smaller percentage in the younger groups. For example, 5.5 p.c. of the males of Canada were over 65 years of age in 1931 as compared with 4.7 p.c. in 1921.

Female Labour in 1931.—Of the female population of 10 years and over in the nine provinces, numbering altogether 3,906,522 in 1931, 665,919 or 17.0 p.c. were then gainfully employed, as compared with 490,150 or 15.2 p.c. in 1921, 364,821 or 14.3 p.c. in 1911, 12.0 p.c. in 1901 and 11.1 p.c. in 1891. Thus the tendency for women to go increasingly into gainful occupations, which has been noticeable since 1891, continues.

1.—Persons Engaged in Gainful Occupations in Canada, by Sex and Occupation, 1931.

Occupation.	Canada.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.
Agriculture.....	1,103,542	24,225	1,127,767
Forestry, Fishing, Trapping.....	96,684	818	97,502
Mining, Quarrying, Oil and Salt Wells.....	71,584	427	72,011
Manufacturing—Total.....	530,829	110,372	631,201
Vegetable Products.....	61,138	16,618	77,756
Animal Products.....	43,317	11,129	54,446
Textile Products.....	48,781	48,950	97,731
Wood and Paper Products; Printing, etc.....	140,312	14,528	154,840
Iron and its Products.....	139,336	6,616	145,952
Non-Ferrous Metal Products.....	31,912	5,100	37,012
Non-Metallic Mineral Products.....	81,181	1,944	83,025
Chemical and Allied Products.....	12,864	2,926	15,790
Miscellaneous Products.....	11,938	2,661	14,649
Electric Light and Power.....	17,481	1,472	18,953
Construction (including Carpentry, Plumbing, etc.).....	254,285	1,806	256,091
Transportation and Communications (not postal service).....	282,788	23,421	306,209
Trade—Total.....	301,977	84,904	386,881
Retail.....	249,944	76,081	326,025
Wholesale.....	51,894	8,801	60,695
Wholesale-Retail Dealing.....	139	22	161
Finance.....	67,319	24,974	92,293
Service—Total.....	376,731	389,525	766,256
Professional.....	97,143	146,166	243,309
Public Administration, n.e.s.—			
Federal and Provincial.....	52,900	12,459	65,359
Municipal.....	47,961	2,905	50,866
Other.....	330	138	468
Recreational.....	13,788	2,421	16,209
Custom and Repair.....	62,448	18,594	81,042
Business Service.....	4,861	1,730	6,591
Personal Service.....	97,300	205,112	302,412
Other.....	165,394	8,975	166,369
Totals, All Occupations.....	3,253,614	665,919	3,919,533

Section 2.—The Dominion Department of Labour.

The Department of Labour of the Dominion Government was established in 1900 under the authority of the Conciliation Act, 1900 (63-64 Vict., c. 24). Its chief duties originally comprised the administration of certain provisions of this Statute designed to aid in the prevention and settlement of labour disputes, the administration of the Government's fair wages policy for the protection of workmen employed on Dominion Government contracts and on works aided by grants of public funds, the collection and classification of statistical and other information relative to conditions of labour, and the publication of a monthly periodical known as the *Labour Gazette*. From 1900 to 1909 the Department was administered by the Postmaster General, who was also Minister of Labour. It was constituted a separate Department under the Labour Department Act, 1909 (R.S.C., 1927, c. 111).