

also in the groups containing such seasonal industries and in provincial and Dominion totals. Consequently, the change of method exerted a reducing influence on apparent average wages and on all other averages per wage-earner and per employee. In 1931, however, the former method of computing the average number of wage-earners was again adopted. A change was also made in the compilation of the number of salaried employees. Prior to 1931, owners who were working as ordinary wage-earners, such as small bakers, reported themselves as wage-earners. In 1931, however, all such owners were required to report themselves as salaried employees. In 1931, also, travelling salesmen who were attached to the plant and devoted all or the greater part of their time in selling the products of that plant were included with salaried employees. Prior to this they were not reported at all. These changes, therefore, explain the apparent increase in the number of salaried employees in 1931 as compared with the previous year. This apparent increase was offset in part by a corresponding decrease in the number of wage-earners. Actually there was a decrease in salaried employees.

The number of salaried employees and of wage-earners, as thus ascertained, is given for each of the years since 1917, the year of the first annual census of manufacturing production, in Table 20. Then, taking the percentages of the wage-earners and the total employees in each year to those of 1917, and dividing these percentages into the volume of manufacturing production in each year (see pp. 450 to 453 for the index of volume), the quotients give tentative conclusions regarding the efficiency of production per wage-earner and per employee in years subsequent to 1917, as compared with that year. Since central electric stations were excluded in computing the index of the volume of production, employees in these establishments have been excluded also in computing the percentages relative to 1917 for both wage-earners and total employees, and consequently from the indexes of efficiency of production. These indexes of the efficiency of production are, of course, affected by the changes in the method of computing the number of employees adopted in 1925 and then again in 1931. Inasmuch as the change increased the apparent number of employees between 1925 and 1930, it proportionately decreased the index of the efficiency of production. The table illustrates the development of modern industry which has been able to raise real wages through a large increase in production per wage-earner, accomplished by better organization and the use of improved equipment. Capital invested in manufacturing industries, exclusive of central electric stations, has increased by 45.0 p. c., from 1917 to 1932, compared with a decrease of 28.5 p.c. in wage-earners, while the horse-power used per wage-earner has increased from about 3 in 1917 to 11 in 1932. The factor of better organization is not susceptible of measurement. However, salaried employees have increased by 35.2 p.c. since 1917, or more nearly in proportion to the growth in production than have wage-earners. The result of these developments has been the increase of 46.9 p.c. in the volume of production per wage-earner and a smaller increase of 34.1 p.c. per employee, owing to the increased proportion of salaried employees in the total. The indexes may be considered as supplying satisfactory evidence of a general gain in volume of production per person employed. In this connection it should be remembered, however, that in 1917, owing to the large numbers overseas, many persons of low efficiency were being employed, their inefficiency being concealed at the time by the prevailing inflation of prices; it is possible that the sudden rise in the indexes of efficiency from 1920 and 1921 may be partly accounted for by their elimination in the contraction of industrial operations which occurred at that time.