

From 20 to 65 years of age more than 90 p.c. of the males are engaged in gainful occupations. On the other hand, females who are most fully gainfully occupied between the ages of 20 and 24 (the percentage in this age category in 1931 reporting gainful occupations being 42.4) show a decided tendency after 25 years of age to withdraw from the ranks of the gainfully occupied. Only 21.7 p.c. of total females 25 to 34 years of age and 12.0 p.c. of the total 35 to 64 years of age had gainful occupations at the 1931 Census.

In the age group 65 years of age or over, 55.7 p.c. of the males reported gainful occupations in 1931, a much smaller proportion than for the age period 35 to 64 years of age. The percentage of females 65 years of age and over in gainful occupations was only 6.2 in 1931, and in number these amounted to 17,359 persons. It will be apparent that, with almost ten times as many of the former as of the latter in the upper age levels, the problem of the aged worker in industry is largely a male one.

27.—Numbers and Percentages of the Population 10 Years of Age or Over in Gainful Occupations, Classified According to Age and Sex, Census Years 1921 and 1931.

Census Year and Age.	Population, 10 Years or Over.			Gainfully Occupied.					
	Total.	Male.	Female.	Numbers.			Percentages		
				Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.
1921.									
10-15 years.....	1,076,244	543,103	533,141	73,208	58,074	15,134	6.8	10.7	2.8
16-19 years.....	637,183	320,658	316,525	346,616	244,821	101,795	54.4	76.4	32.2
20-24 years.....	710,581	350,590	359,991	45,0328	324,102	126,226	63.4	92.4	35.1
25-34 years.....	1,338,111	690,096	648,015	775,547	663,919	111,628	58.0	96.2	17.2
35-64 years.....	2,490,327	1,342,646	1,147,681	1,389,565	1,266,936	122,629	55.8	94.4	10.7
65 years or over	418,790	214,145	204,645	137,905	125,167	12,738	32.9	58.5	6.2
Totals.....	6,671,236	3,461,238	3,209,998	3,173,169	2,683,019	490,150	47.6	77.5	15.3
1931.									
10-15 years.....	1,277,553	645,398	632,155	52,630	43,995	8,635	4.1	6.8	1.4
16-19 years.....	833,457	421,401	412,056	409,260	284,274	124,986	49.1	67.5	30.3
20-24 years.....	910,121	463,120	447,001	618,354	429,018	189,336	67.9	92.6	42.4
25-34 years.....	1,493,119	776,988	716,131	914,962	759,361	155,601	61.3	97.7	21.7
35-64 years.....	3,065,882	1,649,041	1,416,841	1,750,878	1,580,936	169,942	57.1	95.9	12.0
65 years or over	575,259	293,947	281,312	181,146	163,787	17,359	31.5	55.7	6.2
Totals....A	8,159,059¹	4,252,537¹	3,906,522¹	3,927,236	3,261,371	665,853	48.1	76.7	17.0

¹ Includes a few persons of "not stated" age. In 1921 such persons were included in the age group 35-64 years.

Occupation Trends, 1891 to 1931.—The chief obstacle in the way of a comparison of occupations by census years is the absence of a uniform scheme of classification of occupations at each succeeding census. Even if the scheme of classification itself had not changed, the difficulty of making a comparison of occupations every decade would still exist owing to the revolutionary changes that have taken place in the nature of the work performed in many occupations with the introduction of machine processes in production. Hence, such a comparison can safely be made only for broad occupational groups such as are shown in Table 28. In this table the group totals for years prior to 1931 have been rearranged to place them on a comparable basis with the 1931 classification, the 1911 figures perhaps being less comparable than those for other years. The only change in the 1931 grouping was the addition of the "accountants" class to the clerical group from the professional service group. In the headnote to Table 28, an explanation is given of the nature of the occupational grouping.