

4.—Numerical and Percentage Distribution of the Wage-Earners, by Age Groups, for Canada, 1931.

Age.	Numbers.			Percentages.		
	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.
10-13 years.....	1,108	678	430	0.04	0.03	0.08
14-15 ".....	19,101	11,900	7,201	0.74	0.59	1.31
16-17 ".....	103,827	62,697	41,130	4.04	3.10	7.51
18-19 ".....	184,610	107,926	76,684	7.18	5.34	14.00
20-24 ".....	482,825	308,351	174,474	18.79	15.25	31.85
25-34 ".....	671,748	539,145	132,603	26.14	26.66	24.20
35-44 ".....	497,245	437,893	59,352	19.35	21.65	10.83
45-54 ".....	361,331	327,464	33,867	14.06	16.19	6.18
55-64 ".....	179,641	163,571	16,070	6.99	8.09	2.93
65-69 ".....	43,277	39,461	3,816	1.68	1.95	0.70
70 years or over.....	25,384	23,174	2,210	0.99	1.15	0.40
All Ages.....	2,570,097	2,022,260	547,837	100.00	100.00	100.00

From Table 4, which gives wage-earners by age groups, it is clear from the percentage columns that entrance to gainful employment began at an earlier age for females than for males in the ages up to 24 years, but from 25 years onwards males take the lead. For information on earnings of wage-earners the reader is referred to Section 4 of Part II of this chapter pp. 788-789.

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).

The work of the Department was greatly increased in 1907 by the passage of the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act (R.S.C., 1927, c. 112). At present the Department is also charged with the administration of an Act passed in 1918 known as the Employment Offices Co-ordination Act (R.S.C., 1927, c. 57), the Government Annuities Act of 1908 (R.S.C., 1927, c. 7), the Technical Education Act enacted in 1919 (R.S.C., 1927, c. 193), the White Phosphorous Matches Act of 1914 (R.S.C., 1927, c. 128), the Fair Wages and Hours of Labour Act, 1935