

Subsection 3.—Employment as Reported by Employers.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics tabulates monthly reports of the numbers employed by firms having 15 or more persons on their staffs; the returns are representative of practically every industry except agriculture and the more specialized business and professional callings. During 1937, about 10,200 of these employers reported an average working force of 1,085,831 persons, varying from 975,862 at Mar. 1, to 1,197,647 at the beginning of October.

These employment statistics have been shown in a special study* which correlates the distribution of workers covered in 1931 with the distribution of workers enumerated at the 1931 census, to be representative, as far as several major industrial groupings are concerned, of the census classification.

The census of occupations showed 2,570,097 wage-earners in the Dominion, of whom 2,100,139 or 81·7 p.c. were at work on the census date (June 1, 1931). Obviously it is with those at work that the monthly employment figures for the same date must be compared. The 7,865 firms making returns for June 1, 1931, reported 940,875 employees, being 36·6 p.c. of the total number of persons reporting themselves as actual or potential wage-earners, and 44·8 p.c. of those at work in all industries at the census date. When the classes of workers not covered in the employment surveys are deducted from the census figures, there remains a total of 1,318,954 persons at work at the census date in the industries sampled in the monthly record, or a total of 1,369,351 if a due proportion of the unspecified workers is included. The employment survey for June 1, 1931, constituted 71·3 p.c. of this adjusted figure, *i.e.*, of the census total for the comparable industries without the unspecified workers, and 68·7 p.c. if a proportion of the unspecified workers is regarded as belonging in the census statistics adjusted industrially for this comparison. This sample may be considered quite adequate, but it would be rather larger if comparison could be made with a similar census taken at the present time, since the number of co-operating firms is constantly growing, having risen from 7,965 at June 1, 1931 to 10,178 at June 1, 1937, or 9,690 at June 1, 1936; the June 1 comparison is used so that the seasonal factor may not enter into the case. The increase in the co-operating employers is accompanied by a growth in the ratio of wage-earners sampled, though the latter increase is not in proportion to the gain in the number of reports tabulated, owing to the fact that the firms now being added to the mailing list tend to employ staffs below the average.

Representation in "Manufacturing" when correlated, is shown to be 82·8 p.c. of the workers enumerated at the census in the same industrial group; in mining it was 96·9 p.c.; in communications 80·4 p.c.; and in transportation 64·2 p.c. It follows that the figures of employment collected monthly may be used as a good index of the movement of the wage-earning population in intercensal years. (See also p. 741).

Employment as reported by leading employers in Canada was unusually active in 1937, reaching a level only surpassed by that of the boom year, 1929. The index, (based on the 1926 average as 100) averaged 114·1 in the twelve months; as compared with the 1936 mean of 103·7, this was an increase of 10 p.c., which was decidedly larger than the gain recorded between any other consecutive years, with the exception of that reported in 1934 over 1933. In the seventeen years of the record, the 1937 average index was only exceeded by that of 119·0 in 1929.

*See the report "Comparison of the Geographical and the Industrial Distribution of the Workers included in the Monthly Employment Surveys, with the Geographical and Industrial Distribution of the Workers enumerated at the Census of 1931", by M. E. K. Roughsedge, obtainable from the Dominion statistician, Ottawa.