

The number of hours worked per week is affected both by business conditions and by changes due to government legislation and union demands. In times of depression the average number of hours per week is reduced, due to the policy of some employers of spreading the available work over as many employees as possible. With the return of better times the number of hours worked by each employee is naturally increased. This increase is, however, offset by the reduction in hours through legislative enactments and union agreements. The period of five years, for which the figures of Table 23 are available, is not long enough to establish a definite trend in the average hours worked.

For Canada as a whole, 36 p.c. of the wage-earners worked under 48 hours in 1936, 23 p.c. worked 48 hours, 19 p.c. worked between 49 and 54 hours, while 22 p.c. worked 55 hours or over.

Subsection 3.—Wages and Salaries in Canadian Manufacturing Industries.

The total salaries and wages disbursed by manufacturers in 1936 was \$612,071,434 paid to 594,359 workers, compared with \$777,291,217 paid to 666,531 persons in 1929 and \$497,801,844 paid to 606,523 persons in 1917. Of the 1936 aggregate, \$173,198,057 or 28.3 p.c. was paid to 104,417 salaried employees who constituted 17.6 p.c. of the total number, and \$438,873,377 or 71.7 p.c. was paid in wages to 489,942 wage-earners, who formed 82.4 p.c. of the aggregate number of employees.

The average salary paid in the manufacturing industries during 1936 was \$1,659, compared with \$2,007 in 1930 and \$1,315 in 1917, while the average wage in 1936 was \$896, compared with \$777 in 1933, \$1,042 in 1929 and \$762 in 1917. Thus during the nineteen years since 1917, average salaries have increased by 26 p.c., while average wages have increased by only 18 p.c. (See Table 25.)

Average Earnings, by Provinces and Industrial Groups.—In 1936, British Columbia showed the highest average salary of \$1,722, followed by Ontario with \$1,718, Quebec, \$1,631, and Manitoba with \$1,579. The head offices of many large corporations being located in Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, and Winnipeg tends to raise the average salaries in the provinces in which these cities are situated. In the other provinces the averages were smaller, the lowest being in Saskatchewan. No regional tendency is observable in average salaries as shown by Table 24.

British Columbia, with average wages paid of \$1,055 per annum, was the highest in 1936, being \$159 higher than the general average. In the western provinces, average wages are usually higher, due to an unusually small proportion of women workers. In the four provinces situated to the east, average wages in manufacturing were lower than the mean for the Dominion, while from Ontario westward the opposite was the case. The seasonal nature of some of the leading industries, notably fish preserving and lumbering, tends to reduce the mean wage in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec, while, in addition to this, Quebec also has a larger proportion of female wage-earners (employed chiefly in the textile, food, and tobacco industries), than any other province except Prince Edward Island.

The highest average salary, *viz.*, \$1,866, was reported by the non-ferrous metal products group, while the animal products group, with an average salary of \$1,338 in 1936, was the lowest. In wages paid, the iron and the non-metallic groups were highest with an average of \$1,070, there being few female wage-earners in these groups. The textile industries, on the other hand, had the lowest average wage of \$715, due to the fact that in this group about 54 p.c. of the wage-earners were females. As is stated at the top of p. 421, of all the female wage-earners in the manufactures of Canada, over 50 p.c. found employment in the textile industries.