

Section 1.—The Annual Census of Construction.

The annual Census of Construction undertaken by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics covers all construction, maintenance and repair work undertaken by contractors, builders, and public bodies throughout Canada but does not include maintenance and repair work on steam and electric railways, telegraph and telephone systems and the lesser public utilities when such work is done by the employees of these concerns in the ordinary way. Nor can it include a substantial amount of construction in the aggregate done by farmers and other individuals performing work on their own structures who might be otherwise unemployed. It is doubtful whether a great deal of the work of railways and utilities is construction in the sense understood in the census: for instance, the routine "maintenance of way" expenditures, so far as they relate to inspection work, are not construction, although so far as they concern re-building of line for road bed or structures they might be said to fall in that category.

The following statement gives an idea of the volume of such work carried on by steam and electric railways alone. If only one-fifth of this is taken as applicable to construction proper, then the figure for 1937 to be added to the census figures given later on would be about \$27,500,000, but, as pointed out, there are also telegraph and telephone systems as well as other utilities, and farmers and others working on own account to consider. The reader will therefore appreciate the limitations of the census figures given in Tables 3-6, as indicating, as explained, construction, maintenance, and repair work undertaken by contractors only.

EXPENDITURES BY STEAM AND ELECTRIC RAILWAYS ON MAINTENANCE OF WAY AND STRUCTURES, AND MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT, 1934-37.

Item.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Steam Railways—				
Maintenance of way and structures.....	53,502,807	55,250,291	60,378,275	58,309,150
Maintenance of equipment.....	54,004,990	57,424,860	63,755,028	73,166,522
Totals.....	107,507,797	112,674,951	124,133,303	131,475,672
Electric Railways—				
Maintenance of way and structures.....	2,486,521	2,435,644	2,654,875	2,561,156
Maintenance of equipment.....	2,889,868	2,966,127	3,179,552	3,276,960
Totals.....	5,376,389	5,401,771	5,834,427	5,838,116
Grand Totals.....	112,884,186	118,076,722	129,967,730	137,313,788

Further, no relationship exists between the total value of construction as shown below, and the value of contracts awarded as indicated in Table 9 of Section 2, p. 451. In the latter case all values are included as soon as awards are made irrespective of whether the contract is completed or even begun in that year, whereas the tables below cover construction work carried on and actually performed in the calendar year.

Industrial Statistics of Construction.*—A census of construction was made by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics for 1934, but the basis of compilation was not standardized until 1935 so that with the completion of the 1937 figures comparable statistics are now available covering the years 1935-37. In Table 3, principal statistics of the construction industry are summarized for the three years.

* Revised by F. I. Tanner, Chief, Construction Statistics Branch, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.