

enumerated at the 1931 Census, to be representative, so 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, 1938; 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 pp. 809-812).

Employment during 1937 reached a particularly high level, exceeded only by that of the boom year 1929; while there was in 1938 some slackening of this unusually great industrial activity, employment was nevertheless maintained at a level higher than that of 1936 and previous years of the record, except 1929 and 1930. Based on the 1926 average as 100, the 1938 index averaged 111.8, as compared with 114.1 in 1937 and 103.7 in 1936, the previous maximum since 1930. In 1929, when industrial activity in Canada was at its maximum, the index averaged 119.0, while in 1933, the year of minimum employment, the average was 83.4.

The general situation reported in 1938 was repeated with but little variation in the different units of population and industries, in most of which employment was at a lower level than in 1937, but generally exceeded that reported in 1936 and earlier years since 1930. In the eight leading industrial cities, the volume of employment on the whole continued less than elsewhere in Canada, but the average indexes approximated rather more closely to those of the Dominion than was the case in 1937.

The fluctuations in general industrial employment in the past 13 years are illustrated in the following chart. This shows, to Dec. 1, 1938, the generally upward movement that characterized business activity from 1933 to 1937 together with the slowing up evident in 1938, which, however, left industrial employment at a generally higher level than in 1936 and earlier years since 1930.