

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 six years, for which the figures of Table 18 are available, is not long enough to establish a definite trend in the average hours worked.

For Canada as a whole, 37 p.c. of the wage-earners worked under 48 hours in 1937, 22 p.c. worked 48 hours, 20 p.c. worked between 49 and 54 hours, while 21 p.c. worked 55 hours or over.

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

The total salaries and wages disbursed by manufacturers in 1937 was \$721,727,037 paid to 660,451 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 1937 aggregate, \$195,983,475 or 27.1 p.c. was paid to 115,827 salaried employees who constituted 17.6 p.c. of the total number, and \$525,743,562 or 72.9 p.c. was paid in wages to 544,624 wage-earners, who formed 82.4 p.c. of the aggregate number of employees.

The average salary paid in the manufacturing industries during 1937 was \$1,692, compared with \$2,007 in 1930 and \$1,315 in 1917, while the average wage in 1937 was \$965, compared with \$777 in 1933, \$1,042 in 1929 and \$762 in 1917. Thus during the twenty years since 1917, average salaries have increased by 29 p.c., while average wages have increased by 27 p.c. (See Table 20.)

Average Earnings, by Provinces and Industrial Groups.—In 1937, British Columbia showed the highest average salary of \$1,781, followed by Ontario with \$1,773, Quebec, \$1,621, and Manitoba with \$1,618. 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 in Table 19.

British Columbia, with average wages paid of \$1,122 per annum, was the highest in 1937, being \$157 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 three most easterly provinces average wages in manufacturing were lower than the mean for the Dominion, Quebec average was the same, while from Ontario westward the averages were higher. 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. In addition to this, Quebec 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.

In 1937 the highest average salary, viz., \$1,929 was reported by the non-ferrous metal products group, while the animal products group, with an average salary of \$1,343, was the lowest. In wages paid, the iron and the non-metallic groups were highest with averages of \$1,186 and \$1,155, respectively, there being few female wage-earners in these groups. The textile industries, on the other hand had the lowest average wage of \$749 due to the fact that in this group about 54 p.c. of the wage-earners were females. As is stated at the foot of p. 431, of all the female wage-earners in the manufactures of Canada, over 49 p.c. found employment in the textile industries.