

17.—Wage-Earners Employed in the Manufacturing Industries of Canada, by Months and Sex, Representative Years 1922-38

Month	Total Wage-Earners													
	1922		1926		1929		1933		1936		1937		1938	
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	
January.....	324,257	417,469	502,644	340,027	448,706	484,480	503,659							
February.....	336,729	430,469	519,423	347,777	458,114	502,635	508,897							
March.....	349,110	444,597	536,866	355,888	468,053	518,663	513,955							
April.....	360,248	457,680	555,711	358,759	477,860	536,691	522,298							
May.....	382,504	478,541	574,905	377,659	496,874	558,205	534,266							
June.....	393,935	491,858	575,693	392,196	500,829	569,613	534,706							
July.....	391,186	494,467	573,554	393,464	497,840	564,685	525,714							
August.....	389,511	489,367	567,022	402,249	499,134	559,760	534,743							
September.....	392,423	490,115	564,796	410,954	511,072	582,305	536,044							
October.....	385,262	486,996	553,338	405,757	507,922	564,493	519,834							
November.....	378,992	467,936	527,213	396,384	497,313	546,473	511,128							
December.....	367,724	449,342	499,893	380,612	486,116	521,565	485,890							

Month	Wage-Earners by Sex									
	1922		1929		1933		1937		1938	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
January.....	243,682	80,575	397,459	105,185	257,445	82,582	380,314	104,166	396,240	107,419
February.....	253,178	83,551	410,865	108,558	260,728	87,049	392,475	110,160	399,089	109,808
March.....	263,849	85,261	426,713	110,153	267,259	88,629	406,202	112,461	403,466	110,489
April.....	274,821	85,427	443,569	112,142	271,348	87,411	422,678	114,013	411,795	110,493
May.....	294,095	88,409	459,783	115,122	285,705	91,954	440,211	117,994	423,014	111,252
June.....	304,395	89,540	460,294	115,399	296,937	95,259	450,121	119,492	423,899	110,807
July.....	304,020	87,166	459,051	114,503	300,329	93,135	448,991	115,694	416,759	108,955
August.....	301,234	88,277	449,721	117,301	302,969	99,280	440,123	119,637	415,002	119,741
September.....	298,918	93,505	441,510	123,286	304,908	106,046	449,011	133,294	411,865	124,179
October.....	291,973	93,289	432,576	120,762	301,315	104,442	438,890	125,603	402,339	117,495
November.....	286,511	92,481	412,114	115,099	294,945	101,439	425,171	121,302	397,173	113,955
December.....	277,854	89,870	391,903	107,990	285,690	94,922	408,663	112,902	380,319	105,561

Hours Worked by Wage-Earners.—From 1932, the first year for which figures of hours worked per week by wage-earners are available, to 1937 each firm was required to report the number of hours per week worked by its wage-earners during the month in which the greatest number had been employed. For 1938, however, the figures represent one week in a month of normal employment. In any case, the figures of Table 18 do not refer to any particular month since the month of highest employment or a normal month might be May for one firm and October for another; they represent the summation of the different months of highest employment or the different normal months as reported by all firms. For a given industry, however, the month of highest employment or a normal month is more significant as in this case it coincides for a great number of the firms engaged in the same industry.

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, owing 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 seven 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, 47 p.c. of the wage-earners worked under 48 hours in 1938, 21 p.c. worked 48 hours, 17 p.c. worked between 49 and 54 hours, while 15 p.c. worked 55 hours or over. These percentages compare with 37 p.c., 22 p.c., 20 p.c., and 21 p.c., respectively, for 1937. Hours worked by wage-earners were classified by sex for the first time in 1938.