

12.—Fatal Industrial Accidents in Canada, by Industries, 1936-40

Industry	Numbers of Fatal Accidents					Percentages of Fatal Accidents				
	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940 ¹	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940 ¹
Agriculture.....	127	156	156	162	125	11.5	12.5	13.4	15.2	10.9
Logging.....	133	149	143	148	164	12.0	12.0	12.2	13.8	14.3
Fishing and trapping.....	57	52	30	29	32	5.1	4.2	2.6	2.7	2.8
Mining, non-ferrous smelting, and quarrying.....	181	201	253	168	160	16.3	16.1	21.7	15.7	14.0
Manufacturing.....	112	157	136	110	137	10.1	12.6	11.6	10.3	12.0
Construction.....	105	170	154	133	164	9.5	13.6	13.2	12.4	14.3
Electric light and power.....	14	23	19	25	25	1.3	1.8	1.6	2.4	2.2
Transportation and public utilities....	240	227	166	181	228	21.7	18.2	14.2	16.9	19.9
Trade.....	45	46	44	44	49	4.1	3.7	3.8	4.1	4.3
Service.....	89	65	66	70	59	8.0	5.2	5.7	6.5	0.1
Miscellaneous.....	4	1	Nil	Nil	1	0.4	0.1	-	-	5.2
Totals.....	1,107	1,247	1,167	1,070	1,144	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

¹ Figures subject to revision.

Causes of Fatal Accidents.—The classification of fatal accidents in 1940, by causes, shows that the largest number, 375, came under the category “by moving trains, vehicles, etc.”. This includes all accidents caused by cars or engines, including mine and quarry cars, and to automobiles and other power vehicles and horse-drawn vehicles, as well as moving implements, water craft and aircraft.

“Falls of persons” caused 203 fatalities, including those who fell into pits, shafts, holds of vessels, harbours, rivers, etc. Next in order as a cause came “falling objects”, 191 in number. Other fatalities, by cause, were: 138 caused by dangerous substances, including electric current, explosives, hot and inflammable substances, gas fumes, boiler explosions, etc.; 30 caused by hoisting apparatus; 29 by prime movers; 22 by striking against or being struck by objects; 22 by handling of heavy or sharp objects; 20 were caused by animals, including 12 by horses; 19 by working machines; and 6 by tools. The category “other causes” included 89 fatalities: 42 were the result of industrial disease, strain, etc.; 17 of cave-ins, landslides, ice-jams, etc.; 9 of lightning, frost, storms and sunstroke; 5 of infection not elsewhere specified; 5 of drowning not elsewhere classified; 5 of shooting and violence; and 6 of causes for which no particulars are available.

Numbers of industrial accidents, fatal and non-fatal, dealt with by the various provincial Workmen’s Compensation Boards, are included in Subsection 2, below, dealing with workmen’s compensation.

Subsection 2.—Workmen’s Compensation

In all the provinces, except Prince Edward Island, and in Yukon, legislation is in force providing for compensation for personal injury to a workman by accident arising out of and in the course of employment, or by a specified industrial disease, except where the workman is disabled for less than a stated number of days. A workman to whom these provisions apply has no right of action against his employer for injury from an accident during employment. There is also a Dominion Act that provides for compensation for accidents to Dominion Government employees according to the conditions laid down by the Act of the province in which the accident occurs. In Prince Edward Island, where there is no provincial workmen’s compensation Act in effect, compensation is paid to Dominion Government employees according to the provisions of the New Brunswick Act.