

the value of the surveys is greatly enhanced by the fact that, since the spring of 1941, information respecting the current earnings of the persons in recorded employment has also been collected.

In 1943, monthly returns were furnished by an average of 13,756 establishments in the eight industries enumerated above, for which records are available since 1920; their employees averaged 1,848,534, while the maximum figure was that of 1,916,588 at Dec. 1. In 1942, the 13,081 firms co-operating in the current surveys had reported an average working force of 1,738,848 men and women. Based on the 1926 average as 100, the index in 1943 was 184.1, or 6 p.c. higher than in 1942, previously the maximum.

During 1943, employment reached unprecedentedly high levels, there being a generally favourable trend in eight of the twelve months; curtailment was indicated in the first two months of the year and again at Apr. 1 and May 1. The extent of the upswing from the latter date, however, was not equal to that reported in the earlier phases of the expansive movement which, dating from the outbreak of hostilities, had received great impetus from the events of the spring and early summer of 1940, climaxed by the collapse of France. Thus, the 1943 index exceeded by 6 p.c. that of 1942, when the figure had been 14.1 p.c. above the 1941 average which in turn had exceeded the 1940 figures by 22.6 p.c. This slowing-down in the rate of acceleration during 1943 is a natural development, in view of the magnitude of the industrial expansion since the beginning of the War, with consequent depletion of the labour market; the reserve of labour has, of course, also been seriously affected by the recruitment of large numbers to the Armed Forces. The latest available information indicates that, by the latter part of 1943, about 867,590 persons were enrolled in the Canadian Army, Navy and Air Force.

The distribution of the men and women more recently added to the wage-earning population has also differed from that indicated in earlier phases. With developing shortages of labour and material, the transfer of workers from the less-essential to the more-essential production and services has assumed increasing importance. In general, the shift has been facilitated by the relatively high earnings of those employed in war plants and in other essential industries and services. In Canada, as in other countries, an important consequence of war-time conditions has been the widespread replacement of men by female workers. Thus at Oct. 1, 1943, women, numbering 510,715, constituted 26.2 p.c. of all those in recorded employment, as compared with 23.5 p.c. at Oct. 1, 1942. In manufacturing, the proportion was higher, at 27.9 p.c. as against 25.7 p.c. a year earlier.

Largely as a result of war-time conditions, the substantial advances in employment recorded since the outbreak of war have been accompanied by relatively greater gains in the current payrolls. During 1943, the average weekly payroll* distributed by the co-operating employers in the eight leading industries was \$56,903,978; the index of payrolls, based on the June 1, 1941, disbursements of the co-operating firms as 100, averaged 144.9, while the increase in the number in recorded employment in the same comparison was 20.4 p.c. In 1942, the annual index of payrolls was 128.3, and the average number of employees was 13.6 p.c. greater than at June 1, 1941. The main factors contributing to the relatively greater expansion in the salaries and wages than in employment in the period of observation may be summarized as follows: (1) The growing concentration of workers in the heavy manufacturing industries, where rates of pay are above the average, and where,

* For an explanation of the methods used in tabulating the current payroll statistics, see the "Annual Review of Employment, 1943"; or monthly bulletins on employment and payrolls, published by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.