

Relatively greater increases in the non-manufacturing industries than in manufacturing during 1946 resulted in an industrial distribution which differed markedly from that existing during the War, but which compared much more closely with the pre-war distribution. In 1946, employment in manufacturing declined by 8.5 p.c., compared with an increase of 10.4 p.c. in the remaining industries taken as a whole. In the non-manufacturing group, the co-operating employers in construction and maintenance employed an additional 26,000 workers, and in trade, 22,000. Relatively, the greatest gain was in communications, where employment in 1946 increased by 20 p.c. over the preceding year.

The employment of women reached the highest point on record at Oct. 1, 1944, when 261 persons per 1,000 in recorded employment in the eight leading industries in Canada were women. Since that date, the proportion has declined as war industries have closed, and personnel discharged from the Armed Forces. At Oct. 1, 1946, only 222 out of every 1,000 employees reported were women, a ratio slightly lower than that at Oct. 1, 1942, when the first survey of sex distribution was made. The industries such as trade, service and non-durable goods manufacturing, which had shown unusually large gains in the proportion of female workers employed between October, 1942, and October, 1944, reported the greatest declines in the year ended Oct. 1, 1946. The number of women employed in trade and service increased with the greater availability of labour during 1946, the decline in the ratio of females resulting directly from the employment of relatively larger numbers of male workers. When compared with the same date in 1943, the percentage of female workers at Oct. 1, 1946, was lower in each of the main industry groups except communications. The total number of employees reported by the co-operating establishments increased between October, 1945, and October, 1946, by some 99,000 persons; in the same period, the number of female workers declined by 14,000.

During 1946, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics tabulated monthly returns from an average of 16,066 establishments in the eight leading industries, which reported an average of 1,771,481 employees. Similar figures for the previous year were 15,358 firms and branches, with an average of 1,787,751 employees. The index of employment (1926=100) was 173.2 in 1946, compared with 175.1 in 1945. The average weekly payroll of the persons in recorded employment in Canada in 1946 was \$57,409,624, totalling approximately \$2,985,300,000 for the year. The index of payrolls (1941=100) declined only from 142.6 in 1945 to 142.4 in 1946, compared with a drop of 1.2 p.c. in employment in the same comparison. The average weekly earnings of the typical individual in recorded employment were \$32.38 in 1946, compared with \$31.99 in 1945. In 1942, the first full year for which the current record was available, the average was \$28.56.

With the exception of a slight recession at June 1, the average weekly earnings increased from month to month during 1946. At December 1, 1946, the average was \$2.31 higher than at the same date a year earlier. The per capita weekly earnings in manufacturing as a whole followed a somewhat similar trend, the average increasing by \$2.10 in the year under review, in spite of the falling off in the average of hours worked. Thus, during 1946, while the indexes of employment and payrolls in manufacturing declined, the loss was of a greater proportion in employment resulting in an increase in per capita earnings.

At Dec. 1, 1946, the hourly earnings in manufacturing as a whole averaged 74.5 cents, the highest in the 26 months, during which the record of average hourly earnings is available. At the same date, the average hours worked were 43.2 in