

Section 2.—Occupations of the Gainfully Occupied Population

Detailed statistics on the occupations of the Canadian people in 1941 will be found in Vol. VII, Census of Canada, 1941. A special review of this subject, based on the 1941 Census figures, appears at pp. 1062-1073 of the 1943-44 Year Book, and further information at pp. 1168-1169 of the 1945 edition.

Section 3.—Employment and Unemployment

Subsection 1.—Employment and Unemployment Statistics of the Census

Detailed statistics of earnings, employment and unemployment as at June 1, 1941, will be found in Vol. VI, Census of Canada, 1941.

Subsection 2.—Employment and Payrolls as Reported by Employers*

For over 25 years, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics has made monthly surveys of employment in major industries excluding agriculture, domestic and personal service, and government administration. The broad industrial groups covered by these surveys are: logging, mining, manufacturing, construction, transportation and storage, communications, trade, services (chiefly hotels, restaurants, laundries and dry-cleaning plants) and finance. From early in 1941, the surveys of employment were extended to cover the current earnings of those in recorded employment and, since late in 1944, monthly data on man-hours and hourly earnings have also been collected. Inquiries into the sex distribution of the persons on the payrolls of reporting establishments were undertaken on a monthly basis commencing Feb. 1, 1946, replacing the annual and the semi-annual surveys of the previous few years.

For practical reasons associated with problems of collection,† the current inquiries are limited to firms and branches ordinarily employing 15 or more persons. The restriction results in the inclusion of industrial samples of varying size in the monthly survey, the variation depending upon the organization of the industry in large or in small units; from the equally important geographical aspect, however, much greater uniformity exists in the provincial coverage of total employees. It is important to note that in all cases the coverage is large.

In 1947, industrial employment in Canada reached the highest point on record; the annual average index (based on 1926 as 100) for the country as a whole was 187·9, exceeding by 8·5 p.c. the annual average of 173·2 for 1946. The previous high level was 184·1 in 1943. The trend of employment in 1947 reflected the high level of economic activity generally prevailing in the country as a whole. Although there were many industrial disputes during the year, they were not so extensive nor did they have the same far-reaching effect on employment and current earnings as the lengthy strikes of 1946. The material and labour shortages eased considerably, although skilled labour was still in demand in certain industries and areas, and expansion was slowed down to some extent by scarcity and by costs of certain materials. At the same time, the demand for Canadian goods and services was well maintained both on the home market and in foreign countries.

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† The methods used in preparing the current statistics of employment and payrolls are explained in the Monthly Bulletin on these subjects.