

Subsection 2.—Employment and Unemployment Statistics of the Census

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

Subsection 3.—Employment and Payrolls as Reported by Employers*

For over 25 years, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics has made monthly surveys of employment in the major industries, excluding agriculture, domestic and personal service, and government administration. The broad industrial groups covered by these surveys are: logging, mining, manufacturing, construction and maintenance, transportation and storage, communications, trade, services (chiefly hotels, restaurants, laundries and dry-cleaning plants) and finance. 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 also have 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 immediately preceding 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; it is estimated that some 19,000 firms co-operating in the nine major industrial groups in 1948 showed approximately 82 p.c. of the total wage-earners and salaried employees employed in the same industries throughout Canada.

For the second year in succession industrial employment in Canada reached a new all-time high level in response to continued heavy public demand for goods and services. The annual employment index for 1948 (based on 1926 = 100), was 195·8, an increase of 4·2 p.c. over the index of 187·9 for 1947, when reconversion was almost completed. Although production in 1948 was facilitated by better supplies of material and labour, there were still some shortages, particularly in the building industry. Labour relations improved considerably as compared with the preceding year; the working time lost due to industrial disputes was approximately 37 p.c. of the time lost in 1947, while the number of workers involved in these disputes in 1948 was less than 40 p.c. of those directly affected in 1947. The European Recovery Program and the purchases made in Canada under its provisions resulted in greater domestic exports in 1948 than in 1946 or 1947 and this reflected in higher levels of employment in Canada in 1948.

In 1948 the general index of employment followed its usual seasonal pattern steadily declining from Jan. 1 to May 1. During this period, the index dropped from 193·7 to 186·5, a somewhat greater reduction than that indicated in the same

* Revised in the Employment Section, Labour and Prices Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

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