

Section 2.—Production by Industrial Groups and Individual Industries

As mentioned in the introduction to this Chapter, two major changes were adopted in the compilation of manufacturing statistics for 1949. In addition to containing statistics for Newfoundland for the first time, the system of classification was also changed. By the Standard Classification the industries are grouped under the 17 major headings listed in Table 6, instead of the nine groups listed in Table 3 which were formerly used as the main basis of classification. Summary statistics for the main groups on the new basis are given for 1945-50 in Table 7, while statistics for individual industries are presented in detail in Table 8. Table 10 gives the industries on the basis of the origin of the materials used.

Subsection 1.—Manufactures Classified on the Standard Classification Basis

Table 6 shows the changes in the nature of manufacturing production since the end of World War II with regard to numbers employed, salaries and wages paid, and gross value of products. The values of both wages and products are naturally more affected by price changes than the numbers of employees. Furthermore, during periods of curtailed production there is a tendency for wage-earners to be put on part time, while the number of salaried employees responds less quickly to reduction in output. Thus, variation in number of employees would normally be less pronounced than that in money values. The number of employees in 1944 increased by 86 p.c. over 1939, salaries and wages paid were 175 p.c. higher and the gross value of production 161 p.c. higher.

Significant changes in the nature of manufacturing production have taken place since 1945. As was to be expected, industries engaged in war production have operated at a substantially lower level and industries producing consumer goods have increased their production. From the point of view of employment, the chemical and allied products group, with a reduction of 33 p.c., experienced the greatest decline in volume of production between 1945 and 1949. Transportation equipment, which includes aircraft and shipbuilding, was second with a decline of 32 p.c., followed by tobacco and tobacco products with 12 p.c., rubber goods 12 p.c. and iron and steel products 3 p.c. The non-metallic mineral group reported the greatest gain in employment with an increase of 39 p.c., followed by printing, publishing and allied trades 31 p.c., wood products 29 p.c., electrical apparatus and supplies 27 p.c., products of petroleum and coal 26 p.c., paper products 21 p.c., textiles (except clothing) 19 p.c., clothing (textile and fur) 18 p.c., food and beverages 8 p.c., leather products 2 p.c. and non-ferrous metal products 1 p.c. For manufacturing as a whole there was an increase of 4 p.c. in the number of employees with an increase of 39 p.c. in the amount of salaries and wages paid. Although there was an increase of 50 p.c. in the gross value of production, the increase in the physical volume was not marked. This was due to the rise in the wholesale prices of fully and partly manufactured products.