

Average Earnings of Wage-Earners.—In comparing earnings by provinces or groups, consideration should be given to the type of industries in each case since the distribution of industries has a very definite regional significance. In some industries a labour force possessing deftness and speed or the ability to exercise muscular strength is necessary, in others the labour force must exercise craftsmanship or possess a high degree of technical knowledge. Workers in the latter industries naturally command relatively higher wages than those in industries where employees are routine workers.

The ranking of provinces and industries as regards annual earnings is, in many cases, different to that of weekly or hourly earnings since the factors of numbers of weeks worked per year and number of hours worked per week enter into the picture.

The figures for the years 1940 to 1945 given in Table 19 are based on an analysis of a pay-list covering one week in the month of highest employment. For this reason the figures do not refer to any particular month, since the month of highest employment might be May for one firm and October for another; they represent the summation of the different months of highest employment as reported by all the firms. For a particular industry, however, the month of highest employment is more significant as in such case it coincides for a great number of firms engaged in the same industry. The figures for 1946 to 1949 are based on returns received from establishments employing 15 persons or over; figures for 1946 and 1947 refer to the last week in November, whereas those for later years refer to the last week in October.

Average weekly earnings of male wage-earners for manufacturing as a whole amounted to \$47·33 in 1949, an increase of \$25·10 or 113 p.c. as compared with 1939. Average hourly earnings advanced from 46·2 cents in 1939 to \$1·07 in 1949, an increase of 132 p.c. Annual average earnings at \$2,291 were 113 p.c. higher.

Female wage-earners received an average of \$27·18 per week in 1949, an increase of \$14·40 or 113 p.c. over 1939. Hourly earnings at 68·3 cents were 141 p.c. higher, and annual average earnings at \$1,315 were 112 p.c. higher.

19.—Average Annual, Weekly and Hourly Earnings of Male and Female Wage-Earners Employed in Manufacturing Industries, 1940-49

NOTE.—Butter and cheese factories and fish-curing and -packing plants are excluded in the years 1940 to 1945, while sawmills are also excluded in 1945. By including sawmills, weekly earnings in 1945 would have been about \$34·35 for male wage-earners.

Year	Average Earnings			Hours Worked per Week
	Annual	Weekly	Hourly	No.
	\$	\$	cents	
Male Wage-Earners—				
1940.....	1,202	24·82	48·8	50·9
1941.....	1,355	27·72	53·8	51·5
1942.....	1,558	31·75	61·9	51·3
1943.....	1,726	33·80	67·1	50·4
1944.....	1,761	34·95	71·2	49·1
1945.....	1,739	35·04	73·6	47·6
1946.....	1,702	36·23	80·7	44·9
1947.....	1,909	41·35	92·1	44·9
1948.....	2,175	45·73	102·3	44·7
1949.....	2,291	47·33	106·6	44·4