

Main Characteristics of the Canadian Labour Force, 1931-51.*—The civilian population 14 years of age or over (exclusive of persons in institutions) increased in the period June 1931 to June 1951 by about 2,439,000 persons or at the rate of about 122,000 persons a year. The strength of the Armed Forces rose very considerably from 5,000 in 1931 and 9,000 in mid-1939 to 779,000 at June 1944 but declined to 75,000 by June 1951. Consequently, the civilian non-institutional population, which increased very little from June 1939 to June 1940 actually declined in size until, in mid-1943, it contained almost 240,000 fewer persons than in 1939. During 1944 there was a small increase in the civilian population (59,000) as the rate of increase of the Armed Forces levelled off. In 1945, 1946 and 1947 the civilian population increased markedly as a consequence of the rapid demobilization of the Forces.

In contrast, the civilian labour force maintained its strength notwithstanding large withdrawals to the Forces during the war years (June 1942 labour force being 102,000 greater than at June 1941, and that of June 1945 being 66,000 greater) mainly by recruiting replacements from among those who would normally be outside the labour force. The group classed as "not in the labour force" usually represents a fairly constant percentage of the population, but during the war years this category reached a low point in 1943 (162,000 persons fewer than in 1939), increased by 74,000 between mid-1943 and mid-1944 and then moved sharply upward with the decline in wartime employment (the increase was: June 1944 to June 1945, 160,000; and June 1945 to June 1946, 382,000).

The number of civilian jobs increased considerably during the War as compared with pre-war experience (despite a decline in agricultural employment) reaching a wartime peak of 4,447,000 in June 1943 (422,000 greater than June 1939). After registering a decline to 4,411,000 during the readjustment period represented by June 1945, the number of jobs continued to increase in post-war years to the all-time high, for that month, of 5,069,000 in June 1951.

Subsection 2.—Employment and Unemployment Statistics of the Census

Detailed statistics of earnings, employment and unemployment of the people of Canada as at June 1, 1941, are given in Vol VI, *Census of Canada, 1941*. Figures from the 1951 Census were not available at the time of preparation of this Chapter.

Subsection 3.—Employment and Payrolls as Reported by Employers, 1951†

For many years the Dominion Bureau of Statistics has made monthly surveys of employment in the major non-agricultural industries, exclusive of education, health, domestic and personal service, government administration, etc. The broad industrial divisions covered by the surveys are forestry (chiefly logging), mining, manufacturing, construction, transportation, storage and communications, public

* Newfoundland data have been subtracted from 1950 and 1951 totals: thus all statements made in this analysis are on the basis of the nine other provinces.

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