



Main Characteristics of the Canadian Labour Force, 1931-54.*—The civilian population 14 years of age or over (exclusive of persons in institutions) increased in the period June 1931 to June 1954 by about 2,954,000 or at a rate of about 128,000 persons a year. The strength of the Armed Services rose very considerably from 5,000 in 1931 and 9,000 in mid-1939 to 779,000 at June 1944 but declined to 114,000 by June 1954. Consequently, the civilian population (exclusive of persons in institutions) which increased very little from June 1939 to June 1940, declined in size until, in mid-1943, there were 238,000 fewer persons than in 1939. From June 1943 to June 1944, there was a small increase in the civilian population (59,000) as the rate of increase of the Armed Forces levelled off. From 1945 to 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. The labour force of June 1942 was 102,000 greater than at June 1941 and that of June 1945 was 66,000 greater owing mainly to 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 the total of

* Newfoundland data have been subtracted from 1954 totals; thus all statements made in this analysis are on the basis of the nine other provinces.