

Main Characteristics of the Canadian Labour Force 1931-55.*—The civilian population 14 years of age or over (exclusive of persons in institutions and Indians on reserves) increased in the period June 1931 to June 1955 by about 3,216,000 or at a rate of about 134,000 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 and stood at 117,000 in June 1955. Consequently the civilian population (exclusive of persons in institutions and Indians on reserves) 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 but 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 3,437,000 in 1939), increased by 74,000 between mid-1943 and mid-1944 and then moved sharply upward with the decline in wartime employment—by 160,000 from June 1944 to June 1945, and by 355,000 from June 1945 to June 1946.

The number of civilian jobs increased considerably during the War as compared with prewar experience, despite a decline in agricultural employment, and reached a peak of 4,447,000 in June 1943 (372,000 greater than in 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 postwar years to 5,228,000 in June 1955.

Section 3.—Employment, Payrolls and Hours†

Subsection 1.—Employment and Payrolls by Industrial Divisions

For many years the Dominion Bureau of Statistics has made monthly surveys of employment in the major non-agricultural industries—except for education, health, domestic and personal service, government administration, etc. Statistics are published each month‡ for the following broad industrial divisions and their components: forestry, mining, manufacturing, construction, transportation, storage and communications, public utilities, trade, finance and real estate, and certain services (hotels, restaurants, laundries and dry cleaning plants, etc.). Since 1941 the monthly inquiries have covered the current earnings of those in recorded employment and later a record of weekly payrolls and average weekly earnings was built up on an annual basis for 1939, 1940 and 1941. Since 1944 monthly data on man-hours and hourly earnings have been collected and published. Statistics of the numbers of females employed by the reporting industries have been collected monthly since 1946, replacing the annual and semi-annual surveys which had been conducted since 1942. Following the entry of Newfoundland into Confederation in 1949 the surveys were extended to that Province and separate figures were published from 1950 to 1953. Since then statistics for all ten provinces have been published with 1949 as the base year. In 1953 a special bulletin§ was issued giving historical series (calculated on the 1949 base) for the major industrial groups and geographic regions from 1921 on, and giving detailed information from 1947 on.

Inquiries are limited to establishments usually employing 15 or more persons so that there are variations in the degree to which the surveys cover total employment in different groups. The industrial divisions covered most completely are mining and manufacturing in which 96 p.c. and 89 p.c. respectively of all employment is recorded; the lowest coverage, because of the smaller size of many units, is in services where about 42 p.c. of total employment

* Newfoundland data are available since 1950, but for reasons of comparability with earlier years figures for this Province have been omitted from this analysis.

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

‡ DBS Bulletin *Employment and Payrolls*; methods used in preparing current statistics are described therein.

§ DBS Bulletin *Employment, Payrolls and Weekly Earnings, January 1949—June 1953, with Historical Series*.