

Section 7.—Industrial Accidents and Workmen's Compensation

Subsection 1.—Fatal Industrial Accidents

Statistics of fatal industrial accidents have been compiled by the Federal Department of Labour since 1903. The data are now obtained from provincial Workmen's Compensation Boards, the Board of Transport Commissioners and other government authorities, departmental correspondents and from press reports.

30.—Fatal Industrial Accidents 1952-54

Industry	Numbers			Percentages of Total		
	1952	1953	1954	1952	1953	1954
Agriculture	102	119	104	7.0	8.8	7.8
Logging.....	177	169	172	12.2	12.4	12.9
Fishing and trapping.....	21	36	33	1.5	2.7	2.5
Mining, non-ferrous smelting and quarrying.....	212	188	209	14.6	14.0	15.7
Manufacturing.....	236	250	212	16.3	18.1	15.9
Construction.....	247	229	239	17.0	16.9	18.0
Electric light and power.....	43	35	26	3.0	2.5	2.0
Transportation and public utilities.....	254	181	198	17.5	13.4	15.0
Trade.....	48	61	55	3.3	4.5	4.1
Finance.....	1	4	3	0.1	0.3	0.2
Service.....	108	87	79	7.5	6.4	5.9
Totals.....	1,449	1,359	1,330	100.0	100.0	100.0

Causes of Industrial Fatalities.—During 1954, 346 of the 1,330 fatal accidents to industrial workers were caused by moving objects, 65 by falling trees and branches, 41 by falling or flying objects in mines and quarries, 37 by automobiles and trucks, and 33 by landslides and cave-ins. Collisions, derailments, wrecks, etc., were responsible for 326 industrial fatalities. Automobiles and trucks were involved in 145 of these accidents, watercraft in 70, tractors in 54, aircraft in 28, and railways in 24. Falls and slips were responsible for 255 industrial deaths, of which 243 were falls to different levels including 76 deaths caused by falls into rivers, lakes, seas or harbours, 34 by falls from scaffolds and stagings, 28 by falls into shafts, pits, excavations, etc., 23 by falls from buildings, roofs and towers and 15 by falls from ladders and stairs. There were 93 deaths caused by exposure to dust and gases and 84 deaths caused by workers being caught in, on or between parts of machinery or other agencies. Conflagrations, temperature extremes and explosions caused 73 industrial fatalities, 71 were caused by overexertion and industrial diseases and 64 by contact with electric current.

Subsection 2.—Workmen's Compensation*

In all provinces legislation is in force providing for compensation for injury to a workman by accident arising out of and in the course of employment, or by a specified industrial disease, except where the workman is disabled for fewer than a stated number of days.

* More detailed information is given in the Department of Labour publication, *Workmen's Compensation in Canada, A Comparison of Provincial Laws*