

The trend of average hourly earnings and weekly wages has been upward throughout the postwar years, during which period the work week has been shortened in most industries. In construction, however, hours have risen since 1944 when labour and materials were in short supply. The changes from 1945 to 1957 are summarized in Table 12.

12.—Changes in Average Hours and Earnings in Specified Industries, 1945 to 1957

Industry	Average Hours Worked			Average Hourly Earnings			Average Weekly Wages		
	1945	1957	Change	1945	1957	Change	1945	1957	Change
	No.	No.	p. c.	cts.	cts.	p. c.	\$	\$	p. c.
Mining.....	43.8	42.4	- 3.2	85.0	186.5	+119.4	37.23	79.08	+112.4
Manufacturing.....	44.3	40.4	- 8.8	69.4	160.0	+130.5	30.74	64.64	+110.3
Durable goods.....	44.7	40.6	- 9.2	76.7	172.6	+125.0	34.28	70.08	+104.4
Non-durable goods.....	43.7	40.3	- 7.8	60.7	146.5	+141.4	26.53	59.04	+122.5
Construction—									
Buildings and structures.....	40.4	41.4	+ 2.5	80.9	189.0	+133.6	32.68	78.25	+139.4
Highways, bridges and streets..	36.7	40.9	+ 11.4	63.2	143.8	+127.5	23.19	58.81	+153.6
Service.....	43.8	39.8	- 9.1	43.0	93.5	+117.4	18.83	37.21	+ 97.6

The percentage increases in manufacturing in the period have been notable, particularly in the non-durable goods component. Above-average expansion in recent years in employment in the relatively high-pay groups of the latter division, such as oil refining, pulp and paper, and printing and publishing, with a levelling in several of the relatively low-pay industries, was an important factor in narrowing the percentage difference between earnings in plants producing durable and non-durable manufactured goods. Substantial advances in employment in the 13 years were also reported by several of the heavy industries, notably non-ferrous metal products and electrical apparatus and supplies, but the levels in these classes were closer to the divisional average so that the rise in their working forces had less effect on the gain in the non-durable group as a whole.

In 1957 as compared with 1956, manufacturing showed increases of 5.6 p.c. and 3.8 p.c. in average hourly earnings and weekly wages, respectively, resulting largely from upward adjustments in wage rates. The release of lower-paid wage-earners in the later months of 1957 also contributed. The gains in the heavy and the light manufacturing classes were slightly above those in manufacturing as a whole, caused by a relatively larger decline in the total of hours reported in the more highly paid durable goods component. In that division, the total hours reported fell by over 3 p.c. in 1957 from a year earlier, as compared with a loss of under 2 p.c. in non-durables as a group. The general decline in manufacturing was 2.3 p.c. Most industries in the division shared in the upward movement of average earnings and there were also widespread though generally moderate reductions in average hours as compared with 1956, caused in part by less overtime work and in part by changes in the standard work week in some industries.

Earnings per hour in mining rose by 8.8 p.c. to a new maximum of 186.5 cents in 1957. There were increases over 1956 in all main branches of the industry but advances were most pronounced in base metal and oil and natural gas extraction. Expanded operations in uranium mines, in which average hours and hourly earnings were relatively high, contributed materially to the generally higher average; another factor of importance in the mining industry was the reduced employment in coal and non-metallic mineral mines, where average earnings were below the Canada level in mining. The average work week in mining was half an hour shorter in 1957, while average weekly wages rose by 7.5 p.c.