

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.

34.—Fatal Industrial Accidents, 1954-57

Industry	Numbers				Percentages of Total			
	1954	1955	1956	1957 ^a	1954	1955	1956	1957 ^a
Agriculture.....	100	88	106	92	7.7	6.6	7.3	6.8
Logging.....	168	183	197	135	13.0	13.8	13.5	10.0
Fishing and trapping.....	31	32	18	23	2.4	2.4	1.2	1.7
Mining, non-ferrous smelting and quarrying.....	204	179	250	181	15.7	13.5	17.0	13.4
Manufacturing.....	207	219	200	200	16.0	16.5	13.7	14.8
Construction.....	238	243	312	335	18.4	18.3	21.4	24.8
Electricity, gas and water production and supply.....	26	42	30	42	2.0	3.2	2.0	3.1
Transportation, storage and communication.....	193	211	228	203	14.9	15.9	15.6	15.0
Trade.....	53	50	56	59	4.1	3.8	3.8	4.4
Finance.....	3	5	1	2	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.1
Service.....	73	74	64	79	5.6	5.6	4.4	5.9
Totals.....	1,296	1,326	1,462	1,351	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Causes of Industrial Fatalities.—During 1957, of the 1,351 fatal accidents to industrial workers, 381 were the result of the victims being struck by objects; 58 by automobiles or trucks; 51 by falling trees or branches; 43 by objects falling in mines or quarries; 33 by objects falling from stock piles and loads; and 31 by landslides and cave-ins. Collisions, derailments, wrecks, etc., were responsible for 366 industrial fatalities; automobiles and trucks were involved in 163 of these fatalities; tractors and loadmobiles in 69; watercraft in 59; and aircraft in 47. Falls and slips were responsible for 229 industrial deaths, of which 222 were falls to different levels including 75 deaths caused by falls into rivers, lakes, seas or harbours, 35 by falls from buildings, roofs or towers, and 27 by falls from scaffolds and stagings. There were 86 deaths caused by workers being caught in, on, or between parts of machinery or other agencies. Contact with electric current was responsible for 84 industrial fatalities. There were 82 deaths caused by exposure to dust, poisonous gases and poisonous substances. Conflagrations, explosions and exposure to hot substances caused 70 industrial fatalities and 31 were caused by over-exertion, strain, etc.

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 for disablement caused by a specified industrial disease, except where the workman is disabled for fewer than a stated number of days. The Acts of all provinces provide for a compulsory system of collective liability on the part of employers. To ensure payment of compensation each Act provides for an accident fund, administered by the province, to which employers are required to contribute at a rate determined by the Workmen's Compensation Board in accordance with the hazards of the industry. A workman to whom these provisions apply has no right of action against his employer for injury from an accident during employment. In Ontario and Quebec public authorities, railway and shipping companies, and

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