

## 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, from departmental correspondents and from press reports.

## 31.—Fatal Industrial Accidents, by Industry, 1955-58

Industry	Numbers				Percentages of Total			
	1955	1956	1957	1958	1955	1956	1957	1958
Agriculture.....	88	106	92	97	6.6	7.3	6.6	7.6
Logging.....	183	197	141	129	13.8	13.5	10.2	10.2
Fishing and trapping.....	32	18	23	38	2.4	1.2	1.7	3.0
Mining, non-ferrous smelting and quarrying.....	179	250	185	231	13.5	17.0	13.3	18.2
Manufacturing.....	219	200	209	166	16.5	13.7	15.1	13.1
Construction.....	243	312	340	281	18.3	21.4	24.5	22.1
Electricity, gas and water production and supply.....	42	30	42	31	3.2	2.0	3.0	2.4
Transportation, storage and communication.....	211	228	207	163	15.9	15.6	14.9	12.8
Trade.....	50	56	66	40	3.8	3.8	4.8	3.2
Finance.....	5	1	2	4	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.3
Service.....	74	64	80	89	5.6	4.4	5.8	7.0
<b>Totals.....</b>	<b>1,326</b>	<b>1,462</b>	<b>1,387</b>	<b>1,269</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Causes of Industrial Fatalities.**—During 1958, of the 1,269 fatal accidents to industrial workers, 309 were the result of the victims being struck by objects: 54 by falling trees and limbs, 37 by objects falling or flying in mines and quarries, 32 by automobiles or trucks, 23 by tractors, loadmobiles, etc., 23 by objects being hoisted or conveyed, and 21 by landslides or cave-ins. Collisions, derailments, wrecks, etc., were responsible for 308 industrial fatalities; automobiles and trucks were involved in 151 of these fatalities; tractors and loadmobiles in 65; watercraft in 56; and aircraft in 21. Falls and slips were responsible for 224 industrial deaths, of which 215 were falls to different levels, including 51 deaths caused by falls into rivers, lakes, seas or harbours, 33 by falls from buildings, roofs or towers, and 32 by miscellaneous falls to different levels. Conflagrations, explosions and exposure to hot substances caused 145 industrial fatalities. There were 89 deaths caused by exposure to dust, poisonous gases and poisonous substances. Contact with electric current was responsible for 72 fatalities and 26 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 telephone and telegraph companies are individually liable for compensation as determined

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