

Section 3.—Employment, Earnings and Hours*

Subsection 1.—Historical Commentary

Monthly reports on employment have been furnished for many years to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics by establishments usually employing 15 persons or over in the following major industrial divisions: forestry; mining; manufacturing; construction; transportation, storage and communication; public utility operation; trade; finance, insurance and real estate; and certain branches of the service industry, mainly hotels and restaurants, laundries and dry-cleaning plants, recreational and business services. The surveys relate to all sectors of the eight industrial divisions first named. To supplement the employment record that goes back to 1921, monthly statistics of weekly payroll disbursements have been prepared since 1941, permitting calculation of per capita weekly wages and salaries. Subsequently, these series were carried back, on an annual basis only, to 1939.

The current survey was further extended in the late months of 1944 to include information on earnings and hours of wage-earners for whom industrial establishments can furnish statistics of hours actually worked and paid for during periods of absence. Commencing in 1946, monthly figures of employment have been published separately for men and women. Additional and more detailed data on earnings and hours of work of both wage-earners and salaried employees are collected annually from manufacturers for the last week in October; this series yields separate figures for men and women in the two categories.

The statistics obtained monthly since 1941 relate to all paid workers on the staffs of respondents and their pay for services rendered or during paid absences in their last pay periods in the month, except that casual employees on strength for less than one day in the pay period are omitted. Statistics for owners are excluded by definition, even though they receive part of the return on their investment in the form of salaries. The earnings include wage and salary payments for straight-time and overtime work, shift differentials, regularly paid production, incentive and cost-of-living bonuses and commissions. Payrolls and hours reported for periods exceeding one week are reduced to weekly equivalents.

Although the surveys are restricted to establishments usually employing 15 persons or more, they include high but variable proportions of all paid workers at work in the covered industries as enumerated in the 1951 Census. The estimates of coverage in Canada range from 45 p.c. in the included service groups to 92 p.c. in manufacturing and 96 p.c. in mining, with the industrial composite figure relating to 79 p.c. of the total number in the industries surveyed. It is also estimated that the establishments contributing to the monthly record employed 62 p.c. of the total number of paid workers enumerated in all industries, including those in agriculture, fishing and trapping, education, health, government and other services excluded from the surveys, as well as employees of small establishments in the covered industries for which monthly data are not obtained.

The general level of industrial employment changed little in 1960 from a year earlier, the monthly index numbers (1949=100) averaging 118.7, down 0.8 p.c. from the 1959 figure of 119.7. Declines were recorded for workers of both sexes, but because employment generally was better maintained in industries employing large staffs of women, the index number for such workers fell to a lesser extent than that for men, and the proportion of women rose very slightly in 1960. Since 1957 when employment in the industries surveyed reached its peak, the index for men declined from 122.3 to 117.4 in 1960, and the index for women from 123.7 to 123.1.

The contraction in the industries surveyed took place mainly in the goods-producing industries, forestry being the only major industrial division in this category to report improvement over 1959. The annual average index numbers for mining, construction

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