

Section 8.—Organized Labour in Canada*

Close to 1,460,000 Canadian workers belonged to labour unions in 1960. Affiliates of two central bodies—the Canadian Labour Congress, over a million strong since its formation in 1956, and the Canadian and Catholic Confederation of Labour—continued to account between them for well over 80 p.c. of organized labour, while much of the remainder of union membership was represented by organizations active on a regional, national or international level, but independent of a central labour congress.

At the beginning of 1960, unions belonging to the Canadian Labour Congress had a total membership of 1,123,000, while the Canadian and Catholic Confederation of Labour had approximately 102,000 members. Later in the year, the name of the Canadian and Catholic Confederation of Labour was changed to the Confederation of National Trade Unions.

More than two-thirds of the organized labour force in Canada belong to unions that operate on the international level. In January 1960, 90 of the 108 international unions active in Canada were affiliates of the CLC, and 85 of those were also within the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations. Eleven of the remaining 18 international unions had no congress link in Canada, but were affiliated with the AFL-CIO. There were 48 national and regional unions in Canada at the beginning of 1960, 17 of them affiliated with the CLC and 13 with the CCCL.

International, national and regional unions had more than 1,372,000 members within their ranks in 156 organizations ranging in size from 10 to 82,000 members. The United Steelworkers of America, with 82,000 members in Canada, continued to rank first, followed by the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America with 66,000 members and the International Union, United Automobile, Aircraft, and Agricultural Implement Workers of America with 61,000 members. The National Union of Public Employees, which in the previous year had moved ahead of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway, Transport and General Workers as the largest national union in Canada, reported a further membership gain, bringing its total to nearly 45,000.

The grand total of 1,459,000 members reported by labour organizations in the 1960 survey was equal to approximately 3 p.c. of the estimated total number of non-agricultural paid workers in Canada.

* A special article on the History of the Labour Movement in Canada prepared by Dr. Eugene Forsey, Director of Research, Canadian Labour Congress, appears in the 1957-58 Year Book, pp. 795-806.

33.—Union Membership in Canada, 1930-60

Year	Members	Year	Members	Year	Members
	'000		'000		'000
1930.....	322	1940.....	362	1951 ¹	1,029
1931.....	311	1941.....	462	1952.....	1,146
1932.....	283	1942.....	578	1953.....	1,220
1933.....	286	1943.....	665	1954.....	1,268
1934.....	281	1944.....	724	1955.....	1,268
1935.....	281	1945.....	711	1956.....	1,352
1936.....	323	1946.....	832	1957.....	1,386
1937.....	383	1947.....	912	1958.....	1,454
1938.....	382	1948.....	978	1959.....	1,459 ²
1939.....	359	1949 ^{1,2}	1,006	1960.....	1,459

¹ Figures for years up to and including 1949 are as at Dec. 31; figures from 1951 are as at Jan. 1. ² Newfoundland included from 1949. ³ Adjustment in coverage resulting in net addition of approximately 23,000 members for the first time.