

Section 8.—Organized Labour in Canada

At the beginning of 1961 the membership of labour organizations in Canada was approximately 1,447,000, a slight decline from the January 1960 total. Unions affiliated with the Canadian Labour Congress accounted for 74 p.c. of the organized workers, and approximately 7 p.c. of union members belonged to affiliates of another central body, the Confederation of National Trade Unions which until 1960 was known as the Canadian and Catholic Confederation of Labour. The remainder of union membership was represented either by organizations independent of a central labour congress or, to a lesser extent, by unions having no congress link in Canada but affiliated with the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations.

Unions belonging to the Canadian Labour Congress had a total membership of 1,071,000, and the Confederation of National Trade Unions had over 98,000 members at the beginning of 1961.

More than two-thirds of the organized workers in Canada are represented by unions that operate in the United States as well. In January 1961, 89 of the 108 international unions active in Canada were affiliates of the Canadian Labour Congress, and 85 of these were also within the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations. Eleven of the remaining 19 international unions had no congress link in Canada but were affiliated with the AFL-CIO. National and regional unions operating in Canada at the beginning of the year totalled 50, with 18 unions in this group holding CLC affiliation and 13 belonging to the CNTU.

International, national and regional unions had within their ranks close to 1,364,000 workers in a total of 158 organizations ranging in size of their Canadian membership from under ten members to the 82,000 reported by the United Steelworkers of America. The United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, with 65,000 members, continued to rank second among unions in Canada, followed by the International Union, United Automobile, Aircraft and Agricultural Implement Workers of America with 56,000 members. Among national unions, the National Union of Public Employees, with 46,000 members, continued to be the largest for the third consecutive year, followed by the 33,000-member Canadian Brotherhood of Railway, Transport and General Workers.

The grand total of 1,447,000 members reported by labour organizations in 1961 was equal to approximately 32 p.c. of the estimated total number of non-agricultural paid workers in Canada.

32.—Union Membership in Canada, 1931-61

Year	Members	Year	Members	Year	Members
	'000		'000		'000
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	1,006	1960.....	1,459
1940.....	362	1951 ¹	1,029	1961.....	1,447

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 resulted in a net addition of approximately 23,000 members for the first time.