

## 8.7 Organized labour

### 8.7.1 Union membership

At January 1, 1975 labour unions reported a total of 2.9 million members in Canada, an increase of 5.5% over 1974 (Table 8.26). Union members made up 36.8% of non-agricultural paid workers and 29.7% of the total civilian labour force in 1975. Membership, by type of union and affiliation, is presented in Table 8.27. Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) affiliates, with 2 million members in 1975, accounted for 71.1% of total union membership in Canada, compared with 71.7% in 1974. Of the total in CLC affiliates in 1975, 1.2 million members belonged to unions that were also affiliated with the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) in the United States; membership of unions affiliated with the CLC but not holding affiliation with the AFL-CIO totalled 803,513 or 28.0% of the total. Federations affiliated with the Quebec-based Confederation of National Trade Unions (CNTU) had 173,610 members or 6.0% of total union membership in Canada; the Canadian Council of Unions (CCU) represented 20,358 members or 0.7%; another 1.4% of the total was reported by the Centrale des syndicats démocratiques with 40,027 members; and the remaining 20.8% belonged to various unaffiliated international and national unions and independent local organizations.

International unions with headquarters in the United States accounted for 51.4% of the 1975 membership, compared with 53.2% in 1974; national and regional unions, which charter locals in Canada only, made up 46.1% (43.6% in 1974). Independent local organizations and local unions chartered by the CLC and the CNTU accounted for the remaining 2.5%.

In 1975, 24 unions reported membership of 30,000 or more. Fourteen unions reported 50,000 or more members, accounting for 46.0% of the total membership. The 14 listed with their affiliation, ranked as follows in 1975 (1974 rank in parentheses):

- 1 (2) Canadian Union of Public Employees (CLC), 198,872
- 2 (1) United Steelworkers of America (AFL-CIO/CLC), 186,996
- 3 (3) Public Service Alliance of Canada (CLC), 135,998
- 4 (4) International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (CLC), 117,486
- 5 (6) United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America (AFL-CIO/CLC), 89,010
- 6 (5) Quebec Teachers' Corporation (Ind.), 84,905
- 7 (7) International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers of America (Ind.), 75,638
- 8 (8) International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (AFL-CIO/CLC), 63,463
- 9 (11) Social Affairs Federation (CNTU), 61,130
- 10 (13) International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (AFL-CIO/CLC), 57,209
- 11 (10) International Woodworkers of America (AFL-CIO/CLC), 56,000
- 12 (not included) Canadian Paperworkers Union (CLC), 56,000
- 13 (not included) Civil Service Association of Ontario (CLC) 55,448
- 14 (14) Canadian Food and Allied Workers, District 15 Council (AFL-CIO/CLC), 50,000.

### 8.7.2 Wages and collective agreements

The Canada Department of Labour publishes wage settlement data for collective agreements on a quarterly basis. The agreements covered are limited to negotiating units of 500 or more employees in all industries except construction. The base rate for a negotiating unit is defined as the lowest rate of pay, expressed in hourly terms, for the lowest paid classification used for qualified workers in the bargaining unit. In most cases the base rate represents pay for an unskilled or