

General safety laws and regulations cover most employment in the country. Safeguards for worker protection are established for fire safety, sanitation, heating, lighting, ventilation, protective equipment, materials handling, safety of tools, guarding of dangerous machinery, safe handling of explosives and protection against noise and radiation. In some jurisdictions, workers have the right to refuse work in certain circumstances where safety or health could be endangered.

Other safety laws and regulations are more specific. They concern hazardous equipment such as boilers and pressure vessels, electrical installations, elevating devices and equipment burning gas and oil. Others are directed toward hazardous industries such as mining, construction, demolition and logging.

Safety inspection is provided for in all provinces. An inspector can give directions on any matter regulated by legislation. Penalties exist where an employer contravenes any provision of an occupational safety act or regulation or fails or neglects to comply with a direction made by an inspector.

Worker compensation. In Canada, compensation laws are generally within the competence of provincial legislatures and apply to most employers in each province. In all provinces compensation is generally provided for personal injuries sustained at work unless the disablement is for less than a set number of days or where injury is due to the worker's serious and wilful misconduct and does not result in death or serious disablement. Compensation is also payable for industrial diseases arising from work.

Each act provides for an accident fund administered by a compensation board to which employers are required to contribute and through which compensation and medical benefits are paid. The acts thus provide for a system of compulsory collective liability, relieving employers of individual responsibility for accident costs. Assessment rates for each class of industry are fixed by the board according to hazards of the class.

Various types of benefits are provided for a worker protected by compensation legislation. Benefits for disability are based on a percentage of average weekly earnings subject to an annual ceiling. Persons with a permanent or temporary total disability are presumed not to be able to work at all and get 75% of average weekly earnings as long as the disability lasts. Partial disablement entitles a worker to proportionate compensation. Medical and hospital benefits are also provided.

A primary objective of compensation is rehabilitation of the injured worker. Boards may adopt any means considered expedient to help get workers back to work and to lessen any handicap.

When a worker dies from an industrial accident or disease, dependents are entitled to a monthly payment fixed by legislation. However, for recent cases in Alberta and Manitoba, a widow receives the permanent total disability pension the deceased worker would have been entitled to if he had lived. This is also true in British Columbia for a widow with two or more children. In all provinces payments are made in respect of children. In Ontario and Quebec such payments may continue for as long as the child is pursuing his studies.

The labour force

8.2

Labour force (monthly surveys)

8.2.1

Since 1946, statistics relating to employment and unemployment at the national level, and since 1966 at the provincial level, have been provided through a Statistics Canada labour force survey. From 1945 until 1952 it was conducted quarterly, and since November 1952 it has been carried out monthly. In 1976, after three years of developmental work, substantial revisions to the survey were made to enhance the quality and increase the range of data collected, particularly information relating to the dynamics of the labour market.

The survey sample was designed to represent all persons in the population 15 years of age and over residing in Canada with the exception of the following: residents of the Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories, persons living on Indian reserves, inmates of institutions and full-time members of the armed forces. Interviews are carried out in