

classification. It can be seen that important changes occurred during these two intercensal periods.

The first notable change is the increasing importance of non-manual work. Professional and technical occupations have become much more important, increasing from 7.3% to 12.5% from 1951 to 1971, while office work moved up from 11.0% to 14.8% over the same period. There was also an increase in the proportion of service and recreation occupations to the overall labour force (11.6% in 1971 from 9.7% in 1951).

Other occupation divisions, however, lost ground. For instance, farmers and farm labourers, who made up 15.6% of the labour force in 1951, fell to 5.8% in 1971. Considerable decreases in manpower were recorded for primary occupations as a whole in the two decades. Despite their growth in size, manual occupations grouped under the heading of workers declined in relation to the overall labour force.

Employment statistics

8.3

Employment, earnings and hours

8.3.1

Monthly records of employment have been collected from larger business establishments since 1921. The surveys currently conducted by Statistics Canada collect employment, payroll and man-hours information; average weekly earnings, average hourly earnings, and average weekly hours are derived from this collected information. Employment indexes are based on 1961=100; the data are compiled on the 1960 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC).

Employment areas not covered are agriculture, fishing and trapping, education and related services, health and welfare services, religious organizations, public administration and defence and private households.

The monthly employment statistics relate to the number of employees drawing pay in the last pay period in the month. Data are requested for all classes of employees except homeworkers and casual employees working less than one day in the pay period. Working owners and partners of unincorporated business and professional practices are also excluded. The respondents report gross wages and salaries paid in the last pay period in the month, before deductions are made. The reported payrolls represent gross remuneration and paid absences in the period specified, including salaries, commissions, piece-work and time-work payments, and such items as shift premiums and regularly paid production, incentive and cost of living bonuses. Statistics on hours relate to the regular and overtime hours worked by those wage-earners for whom records of hours are maintained, and to hours credited to wage-earners absent on paid leave. If the report period exceeds one week, payroll and hours data are reduced to weekly equivalents.

Employment. Table 8.12 indicates that, over the 1972-76 period, the industrial composite index of employment (1961=100) for Canada rose by 10.9%. Among industry divisions showing gains over this period, services led with a 25.5% advance, followed by finance, insurance and real estate (23.7%), trade (17.8%), transportation, communication and other utilities (10.9%), mining (7.2%), construction (3.7%) and manufacturing (3.6%). A decline of 0.1% occurred in forestry during the same period. Compared with 1975, the industrial composite index for 1976 increased by 2.1%.

Annual average index numbers of employment for the years 1972-76 are shown by industrial division and group in Table 8.13, by province for 1972-76 and by month for 1975 and 1976 in Table 8.14 and by metropolitan area for 1972-76 and by month for 1975 and 1976 in Table 8.15.

Weekly earnings. Average weekly earnings at the national industrial composite level have increased substantially in the years for which current payroll statistics have been collected, rising from \$23.44 in 1939 to \$102.83 in 1967 and \$228.03 in 1976. The upward movement gained momentum beginning in 1946 and average annual increases for the 1946-52 period were more than double those for 1939-45. After 1952 the rate of increase, in percentage terms, fell somewhat, particularly during 1959-62. In the recent period, gains have been 14.2% in 1975 and 12.1% in 1976. Annual index numbers of