

Other occupation divisions 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 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.

Job vacancies

7.4.3

The **job vacancy survey** was a Statistics Canada sample survey conducted by both mail and interviews among employers representing approximately 90% of employment. The survey covered all industrial sectors except agriculture, fishing and trapping, domestic service and the non-civilian component of public administration and defence. The survey measured unfilled vacancies on six days in a quarter. From these a quarterly average was produced. The estimates should be interpreted as an approximation of the general level of vacancies at any day in the quarter.

For a job to be considered a vacancy, it had to meet the following requirements: it must be available immediately; the employer must have undertaken, within four weeks prior to the reference date, some specific recruiting action to fill the vacancy; the job must have been vacant for the entire reference day; and it must be available to persons outside the firm.

Data from the survey were published from 1971 to 1978. A summary for all categories appears in Table 7.9.

Employment statistics

7.5

Employment, earnings and hours

7.5.1

Monthly records of employment have been collected from larger business establishments since 1921. The surveys 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.

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. Respondents report gross wages and salaries paid in the last pay period in the month, before deductions are made. Reported payrolls represent gross remuneration and paid absences in the period specified, including salaries, commissions, piecework 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 regular and overtime hours worked by 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.

Industrial employment. Table 7.10 indicates that, over the 1974-78 period, the industrial composite index of employment (1961=100) for Canada rose by 7.8%. Among industry divisions showing gains, finance, insurance and real estate led with a 26.8% advance, followed by services (26.5%), transportation, communication and other utilities (12.3%), trade (11.8%) and mining, including milling (6.9%). Declines occurred in construction (9.4%), forestry (5.8%) and manufacturing (1.8%). Compared with 1977, the industrial composite index for 1978 increased by 1.5%.

Annual average index numbers of employment for the years 1974-78 are shown by industrial division, group, province and metropolitan area in Tables 7.11 - 7.13.