

steelworkers registered the sharpest increase in membership, from 148,000 to 160,000, a gain of 8.1%. Membership in the Canadian Union of Public Employees, the biggest union in Canada, reached 304,000. This is the first time in Canadian history that a union membership has reached the 300,000 mark.

During the period 1980 to 1986, the number of national unions increased from 128 to 219, and membership from 1.7 million to 2.1 million. At the same time, international unions decreased from 80 to 67, and their membership from 1.6 million to 1.5 million. A preliminary analysis of the data suggests that the decrease among international unions is largely the combined result of mergers and changes in affiliation. The increases recorded for national unions appear to be partly the result of shifts in affiliation, but also the consequence of more information from increased response to the survey.

In 1986, CLC's affiliated membership amounted to 2,164,000, an increase of 44,000 from the 1985 total of 2,120,000.

In 1986, a significant growth occurred in the number of smaller national unions (those covering 50 to 999 workers). Their number increased to 77 in 1986 from 51 in 1985 and 24 in 1980. The number of national unions with 1,000 or more members increased to 142 in 1986 from 139 in 1985 and 104 in 1980.

#### 5.4.2 Collective agreements

Labour Canada publishes quarterly base rate settlement data for collective agreements. 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. The wage data are not necessarily representative of the average increases received by the workers in the whole negotiating unit. Nevertheless, the data are aggregated using the total number of employees in the negotiating unit.

Major collective agreements settled in the third quarter of 1986 provide base rate increases averaging 3.1%. This is a sizeable decline from the second quarter's 3.7% and equals the lowest quarterly figure on record since the start of the wage settlement series in 1967. Average increases for the year to date stand at 3.4%, slightly less than the 3.6% for 1985 as a whole.

#### 5.4.3 Strikes and lockouts

Statistical information on strikes and lockouts in Canada is compiled by Labour Canada on the

basis of reports from employment centres, provincial labour departments and other sources. The 825 work stoppages reported in 1985 involved 159,727 workers and 3.2 million person-days lost. Corresponding figures for 1984 were 717 stoppages, 186,755 workers and 3.9 million person-days lost. As a percentage of the total estimated working time of non-agricultural paid workers, time lost was 0.16% in 1984 and 0.13% in 1985.

## 5.5 The labour force

### 5.5.1 Monthly labour force surveys

Statistics relating to employment and unemployment at national and provincial levels are provided through a Statistics Canada labour force survey, carried out monthly.

The survey sample represents all persons 15 years of age and over residing in Canada except: residents of Northwest Territories and Yukon, persons living on Indian reserves, inmates of institutions and full-time members of the armed forces. Interviews are carried out in approximately 48,000 households chosen by area sampling methods across the country. Estimates of employment, unemployment and non-labour force activity generated from the survey refer to a specific week each month, normally the week containing the 15th day. The labour force is composed of members of the civilian non-institutional population 15 years of age and over who, during reference week, were employed or unemployed.

**The employed** are defined as all persons who, in the reference week, did any work for pay or profit, either paid work in an employer-employee relationship or self-employment. Included is unpaid family work contributing to the operation of a farm, business or professional practice owned or operated by a related member of the household. It also includes persons who had jobs but were not at work due to illness or disability, personal or family responsibilities, bad weather, labour disputes or other reasons.

**The unemployed** are those who, in the reference week, were without work, had actively looked for work in the past four weeks and were available for work; had not actively looked for work in the past four weeks but had been on layoff, with expectation of returning to work, and were available for work; or had a new job to start in four weeks or less and were available for work. Persons not in the labour force are those defined as neither employed nor unemployed.