

Wages in Canadian Manufacturing Industries in 1915 and 1919.—At the census of manufactures taken for 1915, an attempt was made for the first time to secure detailed statistics of the wages paid in manufacturing establishments throughout Canada. Statistics of wages were actually obtained from 14,887 manufacturing concerns, having 394,597 wage-earners out of a total enumerated in the census of 462,200. In 1919, statistics of wages were obtained on a somewhat similar schedule for 525,505 wage-earners out of an ascertained total of 594,118 wage-earners employed in Canadian manufacturing industries. The statistics for these two years are given for comparative purposes in Table 24

The increase in wages during the four year period between 1915 and 1919 may best be measured by taking the median wage, that is, the wage of the individual in each group who, as nearly as can be ascertained, has just as many persons receiving more than him as receive less than him. On the assumption that the earnings of the members of the wage-group containing these individuals were evenly distributed between the upper and lower limits, the median wages in 1919 were as follows, the 1915 median wages being given for comparative purposes in parentheses: males over 16, \$22.78 (\$12.64); females over 16, \$11.59 (\$6.87); males under 16, \$8.37, females under 16, \$7.71, all wage-earners under 16, \$8.06 (\$4.48). For males over 16 the median wage, therefore, increased by 80.2 p.c., for females over 16 by 68.7 p.c., for wage-earners under 16 by 79.9 p.c. in the four year period. Table 28, compiled by the Department of Labour, shows an increase in the cost of living from 104 p.c. of the 1913 cost in December 1915 to 175 p.c. in December 1919, or an advance of 68.2 p.c. on the 1915 prices.

24.—Weekly Wages in Canadian Manufacturing Industries, 1915 and 1919.

(Weekly pay for week ended Dec. 15 in each year).

1915.

Weekly Wage Groups.	Under 16 years of age.	Wage-earners over 16 years of age.		Total.
		Male.	Female.	
Under \$4.....	No. 3,154	No. 3,192	No. 5,310	No. 11,656
\$4 but under \$ 5.....	2,179	4,504	7,144	13,827
\$5 " " \$ 6.....	1,608	5,656	10,927	18,191
\$6 " " \$ 7.....	756	8,713	12,060	21,529
\$7 " " \$ 8.....	307	11,031	9,766	21,104
\$8 " " \$ 9.....	97	16,813	7,913	24,823
\$9 " " \$10.....	91	34,135	5,318	39,544
\$10 " " \$12.....	104	59,672	5,250	65,026
\$12 " " \$15.....	67	72,828	2,855	75,750
\$15 " " \$20.....	38	62,003	963	63,004
\$20 " " \$25.....	10	24,839	162	25,011
\$25 and over.....	..	15,015	117	15,132
Totals.....	8,411	318,401	67,785	394,597
Summary.				
Under \$10 per week.....	8,192	84,044	58,438	150,674
Over \$10 per week.....	219	234,357	9,347	243,923
Per cent under \$10 per week.....	97.4	26.4	86.21	38.18
Per cent over \$10 per week.....	2.6	73.6	13.79	61.82