

*The increased postwar complexity of social and economic problems, the trend toward social security, the acceptance by governments of added responsibilities and administrative functions, the immense strides in industrialization, etc., greatly expanded the needs of government and industry for reliable statistical series as a vital aid in policy-making and administration. In taking up the challenge, the Bureau approximately doubled its staff between 1939 and 1950. It recruited a Research and Development Staff of economists and statisticians to set up a new series to meet the developing needs of expanding government functions, and to reorganize the national income statistics and produce the "national accounts" along modern lines. A development of lasting significance was the utilization of scientifically designed probability samples instead of the complete but financially prohibitive enumerations (normally restricted to the decennial and quinquennial censuses) to provide detailed estimates of the size and composition of the labour force. This technique was extended to other areas such as the surveying of incomes and expenditures and to consumer spending surveys required for the revisions of the consumer price index.*

*Other postwar developments included the revision of Canadian standard industrial and commodity classifications which led to improvements in the uniformity and consistency of economic statistics; the expansion of statistical data in the fields of national health and welfare, including a national survey of the volume of sickness and of medical and nursing care and of family expenditure relating thereto, the revision and standardization of hospital statistics and of statistics relating to criminal offences, juvenile delinquency, police activities and correction institutions; and the adoption of improvements in census-taking, including the use of the electronic computer to speed up compilation and publication of census data.*

*Although the taking of nationwide decennial and quinquennial censuses of population and agriculture, of annual censuses of industry and, recently, of a quinquennial census of merchandising and services, and the compilation and publication of the results thereof are among the most widely known of the Bureau's services, a more sophisticated measure of its contributions to Canada is to be found in its development of such statistical aggregates as the gross national product, gross national expenditure and personal income and their publication annually.*

*The national accounts permit the quantitative analysis of economics within the framework of modern economics of which Keynes was the founder and of which the sophisticated econometric models of the past few years are the latest result. In addition, they furnish an economic and operational framework for the analysis and compilation of statistics.*

*The income and expenditure accounts were only the first set of interrelated accounts in a broad system of economic statistics which has by now been extended to include input-output tables and details of production by industry in constant prices. These permit the analysis of the industrial structure and its components in a fine degree of detail and furnish the basis for the integration of statistics relying on the establishment as the collection unit. Statistics on financial flows, in process of completion, permit a thorough exploration and examination of the financial transactions in the economy and*