

part of this advance, but all budget groups moved upward.

The advance during August compares with a rise of 0.6 points during July and 2.6 points during June. On September 1 last year the index stood at 139.4. From August, 1939 to September, 1948, the increase in the cost-of-living index was 57.6 per cent.

Among the sub-groups, the food index mounted from 202.6 on August 2 to 203.9, substantial increases in shortening, lard and meat prices overbalancing sharp seasonal reductions in vegetables and lower quotations for eggs. Changes in coal and coke caused the fuel and light series to rise from 127.7 to 128.5. Clothing rose from 175.9 to 179.9 as fall prices for many lines of men's and women's wear came into effect. Homefurnishings and services also moved up substantially from 161.4 to 164.2.

Personal care items and some changes in newspaper rates advanced the miscellaneous index from 123.4 to 124.4. The rent index moved from 120.9 to 121.0, reflecting minor adjustments between May and September. It is planned to compute this index quarterly in future on the basis of a matched sample of household records collected by personal interview.

**43,600 DWELLING UNITS:** The number of dwelling units completed in Canada in the first eight months of 1948 is estimated at 43,600 according to the Bureau of Statistics. An increasing number of the completions are those which were commenced in 1948, and completions over the next few months should reflect the large numbers of dwellings started in April, May and June. Of the almost 7,000 dwelling units completed during August, 65 per cent were started within the last six months. The high rate of starts is continuing with construction commencing during August or more than 11,000 units.

The average length of time required to complete the dwelling units finished in August was 6.2 months, showing almost no change over the last two months. About one-quarter of the dwellings took more than nine months to complete.

It is estimated from the types of dwellings being constructed that 28 per cent of the dwelling units completed in the first eight months of 1948 are for rental purposes and that the remainder will be owner-occupied. The proportion of rental units has fallen from 30 per cent for the first seven months and 32 per cent for the first six months, indicating that a much larger proportion of the completions in the last two months are for owner-occupancy.

**12,000 MILE AERIAL TOUR:** A party of five senior government officials and three RCAF officers from Ottawa, have left Rockcliffe air station, near Ottawa, on a 12,000-mile aerial tour of RCAF establishments across the country,

it was announced October 5 by Hon. Brooke Claxton, Minister of National Defence:

Purpose of the tour, which will extend until the end of the month, is to enable inspection and assessment of progress of post-war reconstruction, and planning for future requirements. It will also help to familiarize members of other government departments, with whom the Department of National Defence is closely associated in its activities, with field conditions and local problems. The party will be headed by B.B. Campbell, Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of National Defence.

The party flies first to Goose Bay, Labrador, and then swings north and west to Churchill, putting down enroute at Chimo, in the Ungava district of Quebec, and Frobisher, on Baffin Island. Other points to be visited include Edmonton, Whitehorse, Y.T., Prince George, B.C., Patricia Bay, B.C., Abbotsford, B.C., Vancouver, Calgary, Rivers, Man., Winnipeg, Camp Borden, Ont., Trenton, Ont., Greenwood, N.S., Dartmouth, N.S., Charlottetown, P.E.I., Summerside, P.E.I., Chatham, N.B., Mont Joli, P.Q., Bagotville, P.Q., St. Hubert, P.Q. In all, 36 different points will be visited and inspected. The party is being carried by a Dakota transport from 412 Squadron, Rockcliffe.

**AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY:** Production from the automobile manufacturing plants in Canada increased 76 per cent in value in 1947 to \$340,918,195, reversing the declining trend which has been in evidence since 1943 when production reached the all-time high of \$352,229,955. Passenger cars and trucks accounted for \$298,518,669 or about 87 per cent of the total value for the industry; repair parts, custom work and miscellaneous products made up the remainder.

This increase in production was reflected in the 1947 figures for retail sales of new motor vehicles which showed an increase of 91 per cent in number to 230,255 compared with 120,044 in 1946, and 155 per cent in value to \$416,237,495 from the 1946 total of \$193,329,005.

Nine establishments were in operation in this industry in 1947. The average number of employees was 23,837 and salaries and wages for the year totalled \$58,407,977. The cost of materials for manufacturing or assembling was \$226,845,132 and expenditures for fuel and electricity amounted to \$2,332,456.

Production of passenger automobiles in 1947 totalled 167,257 units valued at \$182,161,183 and the output of trucks and buses amounted to 90,758 in number and \$116,357,486 in value, an increase for all vehicles of 51 per cent in quantity and 82 per cent in value from the 1946 totals. Only 191,395 units, or 74 per cent of the number of vehicles made in 1947 were for sale in Canada, and 66,620 or 26 per cent were intended for export.

### TRADE UNION MEMBERSHIP AT HIGHEST FIGURE

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORT:** Trade union membership in Canada at the end of 1947 reached the highest figure recorded by the Department since annual surveys of labour organization in Canada were first carried out in 1911, it was announced October 5 by Arthur MacNamara, Deputy Minister of Labour.

According to figures appearing in the Department of Labour's "Thirty-Seventh Annual Report on Labour Organization in Canada", which contains information on trade unions for the calendar year 1947 and which will be issued shortly, the total membership at the end of the year was 912,124 as compared to 831,697 at the end of 1946, representing an increase of almost ten per cent for the year.

Membership figures from 1936 to 1947, which are based on reports from headquarters of the various unions at the end of each year, are reported as follows:-

Trade Union Membership Table

1947	....	912,124	1941	....	461,681
1946	....	831,697	1940	....	362,223
1945	....	711,117	1939	....	358,967
1944	....	724,188	1938	....	381,645
1943	....	664,533	1937	....	383,492
1942	....	578,380	1936	....	322,746

Trade union membership in the metal industries which had shown declines in 1944 and 1945 and an increase in 1946 again registered an increase in 1947. With over 180,000 members, this group is the largest of the industrial classifications and has 19.9 per cent of total Canadian membership. The number of union members in steam railway transportation, which has shown increases each year since the present classification was established, stood at 138,039 and made up 15.1 per cent of the total. The largest numerical increase in any group in 1947 occurred in the "services" group where union membership rose from 92,190 to 110,737 for a gain of 20.1 per cent. The largest percentage increase of any industrial group was that which occurred in "textiles", in which trade union membership rose from 33,382 to 44,811 or 34.2 per cent. Only one group, that comprising unions of food workers, showed a decrease; membership of this group declined from 41,789 to 39,851 or 4.5 per cent.

Membership in the Main Industrial Groups was as follows:-

Industry	Membership	Per Cent of Total
Metals.....	181,491	19.9
Steam Railway Transportation.....	138,039	15.1
Services.....	110,737	12.1
Wood and Wood Products.....	77,806	8.5
Construction.....	71,629	7.9
Transportation (other than Railways).....	59,536	6.5
Clothing and Footwear..	54,769	6.0
Mining and Quarrying...	49,036	5.4
Textiles.....	44,811	4.9
Foods.....	39,851	4.4
Printing and Publishing.....	17,831	2.0
Light, Heat and Power.	9,276	1.0
All Other Industries..	57,312	6.3
	912,124	100.0

Of the total membership of 912,124 at December 31, 1947, unions affiliated with the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada reported a total of 403,003 members in 2,722 locals. Unions affiliated with the Canadian Congress of Labour reported 1,163 local branches with 329,058 members. Unions affiliated with the Canadian and Catholic Confederation of Labour reported 393 local branches with 91,026 members. Independent international railway brotherhoods reported 39,627 members in 371 local branches.

Union headquarters do not report their membership by provinces but reports were submitted by 4,221 out of 4,956 known local branches. Those reporting from Ontario showed a total of 286,981 members; from Quebec, 210,260; British Columbia, 115,230; Manitoba, 40,327; Alberta, 38,202; Nova Scotia, 36,575; Saskatchewan, 24,306; New Brunswick, 22,295; Prince Edward Island, 714; and from Yukon Territory, 200.

Reports from locals also provided the only base for the compilation of membership figures by cities. As only 85.2 per cent of known locals reported, the figures shown below for the twelve main cities do not afford a completely accurate basis of comparison.