

Unemployment during 1947 varied from a seasonal high of 141,000 workers or 4.3 per cent of the total wage-earners, to a low of some 73,000 persons, or 2.1 per cent of the total wage-earners as defined above (see Tables 1 and 2).

On the whole, Canada's employment problem has been one of labour shortages in a number of major industries rather than one of under-employment. The variation in unemployment figures last year was largely of a seasonal character, showing improvement in the months when logging and farming operations required more workers. In proportion to population the largest amount of unemployment was in the Maritimes where production difficulties in the coal mining industry and a lower level of industrial activity have created some regional problems. Some of the unemployment would be due to labour turnover and shortage of iron and steel. Annual data for June 1, 1947, show that unemployment was only 1.8 per cent of the total Canadian civilian labour force, which numbered 4,997,000 persons, and represented the total supply of labour available at that time.<sup>1</sup>

---

(1) Canadian Statistical Review, September, 1948, Bureau of Statistics.