

CANADA-U.S.A. COMPARISON OF  
UNEMPLOYMENT RATIOS

Year	Canada	U.S.A.	Difference
1958	7.1	6.8	.3
1959	6.0	5.5	.5
1960	7.0	5.6	1.4
1961	7.2	6.7	.5
Average	6.8	6.1	.7

The foregoing figures show that for 1961 our average rate of unemployment was 7.2 per cent while that of the United States was 6.7 per cent, and over the whole period from 1958 to 1961 our average rate was 6.8 per cent, while that of the United States was 6.1 per cent.

But, in any event, honourable senators, is it a source of any satisfaction to us to compare our unemployment figures with the very high ones of the United States? Why not compare them with those of the United Kingdom, West Germany and the other Common Market countries where, as you know, there is little or no unemployment?

Let me make it abundantly clear, honourable senators, that I am not one of those who claim that the Government must at all times find a job for every individual in the country, but I do say that the Government can, by its economic and fiscal policies and actions, create the climate and establish the confidence essential for national growth and development which, in turn, bring about high employment.

I am spending considerable time on the subject of unemployment because I am convinced that it remains the number one problem in Canada. Surely, there is nothing so degrading and harmful to an able-bodied man's moral, physical and spiritual well-being as being out of work when he is anxious and willing to work?

According to statistics there are 115,000 fewer people unemployed today than there were at this time a year ago. But, is that a true picture? Are we not endeavouring, as someone has said, to sugar-coat the unemployment figures? Have we, as the Government in its Speech from the Throne would have us believe, enlarged employment by measures which have stimulated economic activity? Judged by that standard, the number of unemployed today is little changed from what it was a year ago. It is correct that due to all causes there are 115,000 fewer unemployed than there were a year ago, but if we look at those figures realistically and seek the correct figures in the light of our economic activity, we must deduct, I think you will agree with me, the 25,000 who are now taking the six weeks' survival training course and who, for that reason, are

included amongst the employed. Surely, no one would contend that their employment has resulted from any measures which have stimulated economic activity. Should we not also deduct the 12,000 who are taking vocational training courses at Government expense and who hope to find jobs on the completion of their courses? At the present time they are included among the employed. Does anyone seriously suggest that they should be so included?

Is it not also fair to deduct the 15,000 who have been added to our armed forces? They are employed, and well employed, but I am at this time discussing employment in relation to stimulated economic activity. We should also deduct that very substantial number, the exactness of which I have been unable to ascertain, which has been added to the provincial payroll to gather the pennies, nickels and dimes which make up a small percentage of the Ontario sales tax.

However, if the figures that I have quoted are added together it will be seen that they amount to 52,000. When this number is deducted from 115,000 it leaves 63,000 which is the true reduction in the number of unemployed in relation to economic productivity. So, let us not talk about a reduction of 115,000; let us talk about a reduction of 63,000.

Honourable senators, I would like to make a few observations with respect to our trade. We take great satisfaction in the high level of Canada's overall trade. The amount of our trade in dollars was never greater, but that is not the whole story and we should not deceive ourselves into believing that all is well merely because we are dealing in increased dollar amounts.

The fact is that although our exports have increased by approximately 70 per cent in dollar value over the last ten years, there has actually been a shrinkage of approximately 20 per cent in relation to our Gross National Product. This in itself is far from reassuring, especially when we pride ourselves as being a great world trader in a rapidly expanding world economy. But, just where do we stand as a world trader? Are we holding our position? Indeed, we are not. If anything should shake us out of our complacency it should be the fact, the very disagreeable and disturbing fact, that Canada has, since the present administration came into office, slipped from fourth position amongst the trading nations to the fifth position.

No one can deny that that trend, if not reversed, will result in economic disaster. But, here again, let me say that notwithstanding this dropping off in trade I am not one of those who think that Canada is going