

The same process has been going on in each of the major regions. In each, the unemployment rate has exhibited an upward drift over the past decade. This is illustrated in Table 14 which presents the average rates for the period 1950-1954, the period 1955-1959, and preliminary estimates for 1960. The rates have typically been highest in the Atlantic Provinces and Quebec, and lowest in the Prairies and Ontario. The unusually low rate in the Prairies is in part a reflection of the importance of agriculture in this region. Self-employed farmers and members of farm families are virtually excluded from the unemployment figures and the statistical rates for agricultural areas are therefore usually very low. However, even when allowance is made for this the Prairie rate remains well below the national average. The rates in different regions have risen and fallen with the national rate but in the main the relationships have remained the same. Clearly the situation observable at the national level is geographically wide-spread. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics publishes indexes of manufacturing employment for twenty-three of the largest urban centres, based on its monthly survey of industrial establishments employing fifteen or more persons. At mid-1960 the employment indexes were lower than at mid-1957 in eighteen of the twenty-three centres. Because of the distribution of the Canadian population and labour force, unemployment has always been highly concentrated geographically. In terms of the 110 labour market areas defined by the Department of Labour, and based on the distribution of registrants at National Employment Service offices, three areas—Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver—have accounted for about a third of the total in recent years and ten areas for half of the total. There has likely been no very drastic change in the degree of geographic concentration in the last five or ten years in spite of the widely fluctuating level of unemployment and in spite of the changes that have occurred in particular areas.

Table 14
Regional Unemployment Rates (Persons without Jobs and
Seeking Work as Percentage of the
Civilian Labour Force)

	1950-54 Average	1955-59 Average	1960 (Preliminary Estimates)
Atlantic Provinces	5.2	8.4	9.4
Quebec	3.7	6.6	8.5
Ontario	2.1	3.5	4.7
Prairie Provinces	1.7	2.8	3.8
British Columbia	3.6	4.9	7.4
Canada	2.9	4.8	6.3

What has brought about the current situation? Why has the demand for labour not increased more rapidly? In the main this question lies outside the scope of my report. Professor Hood, in his report, will be concerned with this important aspect of the problem, and no doubt others appearing before you will have something to contribute. However, without attempting to find causes, I have already pointed to those industries in which the failure to recover adequately after the last recession has contributed most to the curtailment of job opportunities. Referring again to Table 11, if the non-farm goods-producing industries, instead of contracting after the first half of 1957, had continued to expand employment at the average 1950-59 rates they would have employed about 180 thousand more people in the first half of 1960 than they actually employed. The increase in unemployment over the same period was very close to this figure—about 170 thousand. Manufacturing alone would have provided jobs for perhaps 80 to 100 thousand more people, and construction