

RECORD TRADE UNION MEMBERSHIP

15 P.C. OVER PREVIOUS HIGH: Trade union membership in Canada, at the end of 1946, was almost 15 per cent higher than the previous record figure established in 1944, according to the thirty-sixth annual report on Labour Organizations in Canada.

The report, which will be issued shortly by the Minister of Labour, Mr. Mitchell, contains information on trade unions for the calendar year 1946. Total union membership is given as 831,697 at December 31, as compared with 711,117 at the end of 1945, and 724,188 in 1944. Membership figures from 1938 to 1946, 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

1946.....	831,697
1945.....	711,117
1944.....	724,188
1943.....	664,533
1942.....	573,380
1941.....	461,681
1940.....	362,223
1939.....	358,967
1938.....	381,645

Trade union membership in the metal industries, which had shown declines in 1944 and 1945, registered an increase of more than 11 per cent in 1946. With 164,630 members, this is the largest industrial group and has 19.8 per cent of total Canadian union membership. The number of union members in steam railway transportation, which has shown increases each year since the present classification was established, stood at 134,927 and made up 16.2 per cent of the total.

The largest percentage increase for 1946 occurred in the wood and wood products group where union membership rose from 49,259 to 76,959 for a gain of 56.2 per cent. Membership in the foods group increased 46.7 per cent from 28,464 to 41,749 while the textile group showed an increase of 18.2 per cent from 28,248 to 33,382.

Distribution of union membership in the main industrial groups was as follows:

Industry	Membership	Per Cent of Total
Metals.....	164,630	19.8
Steam Railway		
Transportation.....	134,927	16.2
Services.....	92,190	11.1
Wood and Wood Products.....	76,959	9.3
Construction.....	63,266	7.6
Transportation		
(other than Railways)....	57,171	6.9
Clothing and Footwear.....	50,533	6.1
Mining and Quarrying.....	41,777	5.0
Foods.....	41,749	5.0
Textiles.....	33,382	4.0
Printing and Publishing....	14,960	1.8
Light, Heat and Power.....	7,816	.9
All Other Industries.....	52,339	6.3
Total.....	831,697	100.0

Of the total membership of 831,697 at December 31, 1946 unions affiliated with the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada reported a total of 356,121 members in 2,536 locals. Unions affiliated with the Canadian Congress of Labour reported 1,087 local branches with 314,025 members. Unions affiliated with the Canadian and Catholic Confederation of Labour reported 338 local branches with 70,367 members. Independent international railway brotherhoods reported 37,731 members in 370 local branches.

Union headquarters do not report their membership by provinces but reports were submitted by 3,846 out of 4,635 known branches. Those reporting from Ontario showed a total of 236,729 members; from Quebec, 208,546; from British Columbia, 99,466; from Manitoba, 38,681; from Alberta, 33,662; from Nova Scotia, 33,233; from Saskatchewan, 21,756; from New Brunswick, 18,659; from Prince Edward Island, 823; from the Northwest Territories, 365; and from Yukon Territory, 249.

Reports from local unions also provided the only base for the compilation of membership figures by cities. As only 83.0 per cent of known locals reported, the membership figures shown below for the twelve main cities do not afford a completely accurate basis of comparison.

City	Branches Reporting	Membership Reported
Montreal.....	244	117,095
Toronto.....	232	70,757
Vancouver.....	168	53,582
Winnipeg.....	137	29,869
Windsor.....	57	24,142
Hamilton.....	75	15,608
Quebec.....	82	14,296
Edmonton.....	79	11,804
Calgary.....	75	9,516
Ottawa.....	72	8,686
Victoria.....	61	8,134
London.....	63	8,037

HIGH INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT: Substantial increases in industrial employment at the beginning of July over a month earlier were reported by firms in the eight major industrial groups making returns to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, general improvement being indicated in all provinces and in most industrial groups, both manufacturing and non-manufacturing. While the expansion was seasonal in character, the percentage gain in Canada as a whole was slightly above the average for the time of year.

The Bureau tabulated information from 17,760 employers showing a combined working force of 1,946,032 men and women, an increase of 46,964 persons or 2.5 per cent over the total employed at June 1.

Based on the 1926 average as 100, the general index number of employment advanced to 189.0 at the beginning of July as compared with 184.5 for June 1 and 173.6 at the first of July last year when several industrial disputes affected the figure. The latest July index is the highest recorded for the month.