
Paid Vacations in Canada

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PAID VACATIONS IN CANADA

Paid vacations for Canadian workers are more widespread, of longer duration, and require shorter relative qualifying periods than ever before in Canada's history, according to information released October 1st, 1957 by Hon. Michael Starr, Federal Minister of Labour.

This information was brought out as a result of the 1956 annual survey of working conditions conducted by the Labour Department's Economics and Research Branch. The survey covered firms in most branches of industry with total employment of more than 1,600,000 workers. Of this total about 75 per cent were non-office and 25 per cent office employees.

(Further details are contained in the September issue of the *Labour Gazette*.)

The most notable developments in regard to vacation practices in Canada have been, first of all, the growth in their incidence, particularly for non-office workers; secondly, the extension of annual vacations to two and three weeks per year, in some cases to four weeks; and thirdly, the reduction of service requirements for entitlement to vacations of various lengths. Also a feature, is the growing similarity, in most industrial groups, in vacations for non-office and office workers.

In 1949, 97 per cent of office workers in manufacturing had paid vacations of two weeks while only 81 per cent of non-office employees had two weeks. However, in 1956 the corresponding percentages were 99 and 92 respectively. Similarly, in 1949, 42 per cent of office workers could become eligible for vacations of three weeks, compared with only 30 per cent of non-office workers, while in 1956 these figures had become 72 and 63 per cent respectively. In both years the granting of vacations was subject to qualifying service periods of varying lengths.

The following table gives percentages of employees in establishments reporting 2, 3 and 4 week vacations. It illustrates the present comparative similarity of treatment of non-office and office employees:

	2 Weeks		3 Weeks		4 Weeks	
	Non-Office %	Office %	Non-Office %	Office %	Non-Office %	Office %
Manufacturing	92	99	63	72	10	13
Coal Mining	99	99	v	v	v	v
Metal Mining	91	91	48	56	25	40
Steam Railways	100	100	100	100	v	v
Urban & Suburban Passenger Transportation	99	99	97	99	33	23
Truck Transportation	95	98	34	31	v	v
Public Utilities	94	97	96	97	52	67
Wholesale Trade	96	99	61	78	16	22
Retail Trade	98	99	66	63	41	57
Laundries	65	82	13	1	v	v
Hotels	93	94	35	27	v	v
Restaurants	72	81	35	42	20	31

v Less than 1 per cent

It will be noted from the foregoing table that as a general rule the proportion of office workers is higher than for non-office, although in a few cases in the "3-weeks" column the reverse occurs.