

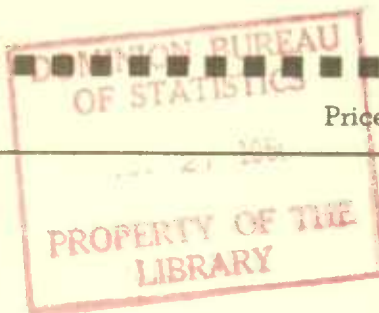
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SURVEY OF INCOMES IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION IN CANADA 1946, 1947 AND 1948

PREFACE

The Survey of Incomes in the Legal Profession is the third in a series of surveys of professional incomes conducted by the Research and Development Division of the Bureau of Statistics. Studies were previously made of the dental profession in 1945, and of the medical profession in 1947. Such surveys are part of a continuing program to improve statistics on the earnings of the various professions for use in national income estimates. The national income measures all earnings of Canadian residents from the production of goods and services during the calendar year. Accurate estimates are necessary in order to appraise the functioning of the economy and the various parts composing it.

The Survey of the Legal Profession in Canada, an independent body set up by the Canadian Bar Association, contributed greatly to the success of the project. This organization aided by a grant from the Carnegie Foundation, is carrying on a general investigation of the status of the legal profession in Canada. The questionnaires were designed to collect data for the Survey as well as for the Bureau. While the total income earned from independent practice is the most important figure for the National Accounts, statistics were also collected for lawyers in salaried occupations in government and industry, so that a comprehensive picture of the whole profession might be obtained.

Sections II to VIII present statistics for lawyers doing full time law work both in private practice and salaried occupations. Average incomes are classified by age, region, size of municipality and number of years in practice. Section IX deals with part-time lawyers, while Section X shows average incomes and expenses, and gross income classified by size of law firm.

The survey was conducted by Miss J.R. Podoluk and Mr. K.L.J. Bolte of the National Income Section, Research and Development Division.

SECTION I

Description of Procedure

The 1949 Canadian Law List was used as the main mailing list along with a supplementary list of lawyers in the Federal Government service. Letters were sent to all lawyers in the legal profession, whether salaried or own-account. The lists are believed to be fairly comprehensive although some of the lawyers employed by corporations or governments may have been excluded because they no longer paid bar association fees and, therefore, were not listed. These lawyers are no longer in independent practice and, to the extent that they may have been omitted, there is an understatement in the number of salaried lawyers.

About 9,250 questionnaires were mailed out in October, 1949. The response rate from the initial mailing and two follow-ups was approximately 50%, but not all of the returns were usable. As a check upon the representativeness of the 4,200 usable returns a random sample of non-respondents was selected. The rural areas were sampled by mail only while in urban areas a 10% sample was interviewed personally by representatives of the Bureau. Returns were obtained from a group comprising 5% of all non-respondents and these returns were inflated to cover all non-respondent individuals and firms.

The total number of non-respondents for 1948 was estimated from the mailing lists. Since independent estimates of the total number of lawyers in practice during 1946 and 1947 were unavailable, the 1946 and 1947 sample returns could not be inflated separately but were given the same weights as for 1948. The estimated numbers for these two years are too low where lawyers in practice for the whole period supplied information for only part of the period. Further, in all three years no estimates were included for lawyers who practised during part of the period but who died or retired before the survey took place. It proved impossible to estimate the numbers and incomes of such lawyers during any of these years.

Various tests were applied to the sample to check the validity of the estimates. The results of these tests indicated that the degree of error in the provincial estimates may be considerable but the estimates for Canada as a whole seem to be fairly reliable. Differences between the average incomes of lawyers in the sample and average incomes of lawyers replying to the original questionnaire were not significant statistically. Errors in the estimates of changes in incomes from year to year are likely to be smaller than errors in annual estimates.

There are indications, however, that the sampling scheme may have resulted in some over-representation of lawyers graduating since 1940 and correspondingly an under-representation of lawyers graduating prior to this date. Similarly, the members of large firms may also be under-represented. This is due to the fact that the response rate was best among the younger lawyers and among the members of smaller firms. Since their earnings are, on the average, lower than the earnings of older lawyers and of lawyers in large firms a bias may have been introduced into the sample.

SECTION II

Tables 1, 2 and 3 present figures on the average earned income from practice and average total earnings from all sources by regions. The province of Newfoundland is included for all three years and is grouped with the Atlantic provinces. Average earnings from practice refer to the salary earned in salaried legal work as well as net income from independent practice. Average total earnings consist of net income from practice plus income earned in non-legal work but do not include investment income, pensions, transfer payments or other types of unearned income.

Table I indicates data for all lawyers; Table 2 covers lawyers practising alone or as partners in law firms; Table 3 refers to salaried lawyers in law firms, business, government, universities and so on.

Tables 1 to 11 refer only to lawyers engaged in law work on a full-time basis. Lawyers who worked full time for only part of the year, such as graduates from law schools and lawyers discharged from the services during the year, are also included. Figures for lawyers practising on a part-time basis for such reasons as ill-health, age, or parliamentary activities are shown in a separate section.

The tables indicate that percentagewise the smallest gains in incomes between 1946 and 1948 occurred in the Atlantic Provinces and British Columbia and that the largest were in the Province of Quebec. However, the figures indicate that the greatest increase in numbers also occurred in the Atlantic Provinces and British Columbia. Since the newcomers in these provinces were recent graduates or ex-servicemen their earnings, initially, would be below the average and their inclusion would lower the regional averages. The smallest increase in numbers occurred in Quebec so that the earnings of newcomers in the profession there would have less effect upon averages. It is probable that the increases in the average earnings of older lawyers in the Atlantic Provinces and British Columbia were as great as in Quebec.

These observations also apply to differences between the increases in the average earning of salaried lawyers in Quebec and those in other provinces. Although the increase in average incomes is greater in Quebec there is a decline in the number of salaried lawyers. On the other hand, the substantial influx of newcomers in Ontario and British Columbia would depress the average earnings of all lawyers, despite the increases in the average earnings of the older lawyers.

TABLE 1. Average Earned Income of Lawyers, by Regions, 1946, 1947, and 1948
(dollars)

	Average Earned Income ¹								
	1946			1947			1948		
	Number of Lawyers	Income from Practice	Total Earned Income	Number of Lawyers	Income from Practice	Total Earned Income	Number of Lawyers	Income from Practice	Total Earned Income
Atlantic Provinces.....	424	3,912	4,146	489	3,918	4,134	534	4,160	4,382
Quebec:									
Notaries	586	2,718	2,878	590	3,043	3,213	623	3,145	3,313
Advocates.....	1,412	4,050	4,108	1,439	4,653	4,711	1,471	5,037	5,103
Ontario.....	2,418	6,095	6,198	2,572	6,704	6,880	2,829	6,898	7,066
Prairie Provinces	1,052	5,279	5,424	1,109	5,434	5,590	1,147	6,187	6,349
British Columbia	453	5,874	5,923	507	6,790	6,850	570	6,595	6,654
Canada	6,345	5,031	5,141	6,706	5,535	5,676	7,174	5,843	5,984

1. Average earned income from practice includes salaries earned from legal work and net income from independent practice. Average total income, in addition to the above, includes income earned from non-legal work such as directors' fees.

TABLE 2. Average Earned Income of Lawyers in Independent Practice, by Regions, 1946, 1947 and 1948
(dollars)

	Average Earned Income ¹								
	1946			1947			1948		
	Number of Lawyers	Income from Practice	Total Earned Income	Number of Lawyers	Income from Practice	Total Earned Income	Number of Lawyers	Income from Practice	Total Earned Income
Atlantic Provinces.....	321	3,953	4,261	357	4,029	4,308	393	3,986	4,275
Quebec:									
Notaries.....	525	2,703	2,882	527	3,072	3,261	559	3,156	3,337
Advocates.....	834	3,436	3,532	856	3,951	4,039	911	4,338	4,427
Ontario.....	1,727	6,504	6,639	1,811	7,193	7,429	1,948	7,486	7,716
Prairie Provinces.....	747	5,511	5,703	797	5,376	5,579	810	6,372	6,583
British Columbia.....	307	6,543	6,609	384	7,458	7,524	384	7,721	7,790
Canada.....	4,461	5,136	5,285	4,732	5,624	5,813	5,005	5,992	6,180

1. See Table 1.

TABLE 3. Average Earned Income of Lawyers from Salaried Work, by Regions, 1946, 1947 and 1948
(dollars)

	Average Earned Income ¹								
	1946			1947			1948		
	Number of Lawyers	Income from Practice	Total Earned Income	Number of Lawyers	Income from Practice	Total Earned Income	Number of Lawyers	Income from Practice	Total Earned Income
Atlantic Provinces.....	103	3,784	3,835	132	3,615	3,664	141	4,643	4,681
Quebec:									
Notaries.....	61	2,841	2,848	63	2,802	2,808	64	3,045	3,098
Advocates.....	578	4,936	4,941	583	5,683	5,699	560	6,174	6,204
Ontario.....	691	5,071	5,095	761	5,542	5,573	881	5,532	5,562
Prairie Provinces.....	305	4,711	4,740	312	5,581	5,617	337	5,744	5,784
British Columbia.....	146	4,468	4,479	123	4,707	4,746	186	4,355	4,392
Canada.....	1,884	4,782	4,801	1,974	5,322	5,350	2,169	5,499	5,532

1. See Table 1.

SECTION III

The 1946 Census of population for the Prairie Provinces and Newfoundland was used to classify municipalities by size while the 1941 Census was used for the other provinces. The Table indicates that in all three years highest average earnings from independent practice were reported in cities of 100,000 to 500,000 while cities with population of over 500,000 were next.

Variations in incomes between cities are less in the case of salaried lawyers than for lawyers in independent practice. Salaries are highest in cities of 100,000 to 500,000, a group which includes the city of Ottawa. The largest proportion of the lawyers in this group are in government service, whereas in the other size groups more lawyers are in private law firms. Since the latter are usually junior members of law firms their average earnings are below those of salaried lawyers in government or industry.

TABLE 4. Average Earned Income of Lawyers in Independent Practice, by Size of Municipality, 1946, 1947 and 1948
(dollars)

Population of Municipality	Average Earned Income ¹								
	1946			1947			1948		
	Number of Lawyers	Income from Practice	Total Earned Income	Number of Lawyers	Income from Practice	Total Earned Income	Number of Lawyers	Income from Practice	Total Earned Income
Under 1,000.....	193	2,020	2,401	196	2,332	2,724	202	2,528	2,923
1,000- 4,999.....	593	3,022	3,194	637	3,256	3,516	693	3,180	3,403
5,000- 24,999.....	627	4,335	4,510	645	4,998	5,177	726	5,158	5,328
25,000- 99,999.....	479	5,562	5,789	575	5,638	6,018	593	6,278	6,701
100,000- 499,999.....	1,049	6,440	6,537	1,131	6,886	6,986	1,168	7,923	8,026
Over 500,000.....	1,522	5,653	5,763	1,548	6,349	6,480	1,623	6,504	6,634

1. See Table 1.

TABLE 5. Average Earned Income of Lawyers from Salaried Work, by Size of Municipality, 1946, 1947 and 1948
(dollars)

Population of Municipality	Average Earned Income ¹								
	1946			1947			1948		
	Number of Lawyers	Income from Practice	Total Earned Income	Number of Lawyers	Income from Practice	Total Earned Income	Number of Lawyers	Income from Practice	Total Earned Income
Under 1,000.....	16	4,281	4,294	15	4,573	4,613	15	4,873	4,920
1,000- 4,999.....	107	4,206	4,264	111	4,365	4,413	110	4,614	4,691
5,000- 24,999.....	176	4,175	4,188	186	4,503	4,533	185	4,885	4,907
25,000- 99,999.....	253	4,247	4,277	296	4,365	4,400	330	4,717	4,754
100,000- 499,999.....	595	5,628	5,639	581	6,629	6,648	701	6,336	6,365
Over 500,000.....	737	4,523	4,719	794	5,039	5,067	827	5,363	5,395

1. See Table 1.

SECTION IV

Table 6 presents average earnings by age. Peak earnings occur in the two age groups between 50 and 59. The average earnings of lawyers under 30 are affected by the inclusion of lawyers graduating during the year from law schools. Many of the lawyers in the 30 to 39 age groups were re-establishing practice in 1946 after service in the armed forces. It is these groups which show the greatest increases in average income between 1946 and 1948.

Table 6. Average Earned Income of Lawyers by Age, 1946, 1947 and 1948
(dollars)

Age	Average Earned Income ¹								
	1946			1947			1948		
	Number of Lawyers	Income from Practice	Total Earned Income	Number of Lawyers	Income from Practice	Total Earned Income	Number of Lawyers	Income from Practice	Total Earned Income
Under 30.....	271	1,387	1,425	382	1,666	1,692	646	2,083	2,128
30-34.....	825	2,763	2,796	972	3,220	3,262	1,157	3,519	3,562
35-39.....	859	3,865	3,958	925	4,521	4,696	941	5,332	5,536
40-44.....	841	5,369	5,427	853	6,163	6,309	857	6,612	6,768
45-49.....	763	5,426	5,577	775	5,990	6,160	776	6,495	6,668
50-54.....	895	6,379	6,585	900	7,017	7,238	901	7,716	7,962
55-59.....	778	6,512	6,649	784	6,867	7,034	786	7,823	7,980
60-64.....	411	5,863	5,957	411	6,594	6,710	403	6,662	6,720
Over 65.....	701	5,852	5,981	700	6,913	7,058	699	7,065	7,218

1. See Table 1.

SECTION V

In 1947 and 1948 independent practitioners attained their peak earnings when in practice 25 to 29 years whereas in 1946 the highest earnings from private practice were found among the group in practice from 30 to 34 years. Earnings for lawyers in practice for 35 years or over are less, on the average, than those of their younger colleagues but are still above the average for all independent lawyers. Earnings of salaried lawyers, on the other hand, continue to increase with experience, with peak earnings occurring in the group who have more than 40 years of practice.

TABLE 7. Average Earned Income of Lawyers in Independent Practice, by years in Practice, 1946, 1947 and 1948

(dollars)

Years in Practice	Average Earned Income ¹								
	1946			1947			1948		
	Number of Lawyers	Income from Practice	Total Earned Income	Number of Lawyers	Income from Practice	Total Earned Income	Number of Lawyers	Income from Practice	Total Earned Income
Under 5.....	430	1, 877	1, 978	518	2, 306	2, 455	811	2, 486	2, 618
5- 9.....	520	3, 471	3, 525	627	3, 976	4, 023	668	4, 872	4, 925
10- 14.....	508	4, 118	4, 226	547	4, 976	5, 085	553	5, 701	5, 822
15- 19.....	667	5, 358	5, 452	693	5, 998	6, 259	696	6, 292	6, 575
20- 24.....	622	6, 526	6, 660	622	6, 719	6, 862	603	7, 944	8, 095
25- 29.....	792	6, 272	6, 523	807	7, 210	7, 504	786	8, 034	8, 351
30- 34.....	374	6, 751	7, 023	372	6, 781	7, 100	350	7, 357	7, 617
35- 39.....	233	5, 365	5, 503	231	6, 137	6, 293	226	5, 889	6, 070
Over 40.....	315	5, 812	6, 000	313	6, 697	6, 898	310	6, 973	7, 178

1. See Table 1.

TABLE 8. Average Earned Income of Lawyers from Salaried Work, by Years in Practice, 1946, 1947 and 1948

(dollars)

Years in Practice	Average Earned Income ¹								
	1946			1947			1948		
	Number of Lawyers	Income from Practice	Total Earned Income	Number of Lawyers	Income from Practice	Total Earned Income	Number of Lawyers	Income from Practice	Total Earned Income
Under 5.....	263	2, 069	2, 083	397	2, 242	2, 258	546	2, 495	2, 538
5- 9.....	309	2, 957	2, 974	293	3, 493	3, 550	280	3, 944	3, 986
10- 14.....	167	4, 350	4, 372	136	5, 121	5, 152	129	5, 541	5, 572
15- 19.....	153	4, 227	4, 262	157	4, 603	4, 639	161	5, 018	5, 053
20- 24.....	189	4, 858	4, 878	195	5, 408	5, 436	213	5, 934	5, 969
25- 29.....	321	6, 393	6, 428	308	7, 146	7, 190	329	7, 468	7, 515
30- 34.....	184	6, 082	6, 090	187	7, 318	7, 322	209	7, 647	7, 656
35- 39.....	114	6, 348	6, 359	118	7, 688	7, 705	119	7, 814	7, 841
Over 40.....	182	7, 460	7, 460	181	9, 024	9, 025	182	9, 252	9, 253

1. See Table 1.

SECTION VI

Table 9 presents figures on average earnings by professional status. The category "other" covers such groups as law librarians, and professors in law schools. The average income of individuals in private practice alone is approximately half the average income of partners in law firms and is also substantially lower than the average salaries of lawyers in government or private industry. This would indicate that a lawyer has better earning prospects in combination with other lawyers or in salaried work for government or private industry. On the other hand, the average earnings of salaried lawyers in law firms usually tend to be low since these are customarily the junior members of the firms. After a few years they are usually made partners in the firm with a share of the firm's earnings.

Partners in law firms also reported the largest amounts of income from non-legal work while salaried lawyers reported the smallest.

TABLE 9. Average Earned Income of Lawyers by Professional Status, 1946, 1947 and 1948
(dollars)

Professional Status	Average Earned Income ¹								
	1946			1947			1948		
	Number of Lawyers	Income from Practice	Total Earned Income	Number of Lawyers	Income from Practice	Total Earned Income	Number of Lawyers	Income from Practice	Total Earned Income
Independent Practice Alone	2,912	3,817	3,933	3,017	4,076	4,213	3,140	4,240	4,371
Partner in Firm.....	1,549	7,615	7,827	1,715	8,348	8,626	1,865	8,943	9,226
Salaried in Law Firm.....	562	2,633	2,654	621	2,772	2,815	709	2,934	2,977
Salaried in Business.....	150	5,674	5,710	161	6,280	6,321	180	6,658	6,747
Salaried in Government...	1,126	5,677	5,692	1,141	6,535	6,551	1,226	6,758	6,776
Other.....	47	6,223	6,260	51	6,198	6,271	54	6,719	6,781

1. See Table 1.

SECTION VII

Table 10 presents figures on earnings of lawyers specializing in various fields compared with the earnings of non-specialists. In 1948 approximately 2,000 lawyers specialized in some type of law with the greatest number in the field of litigation. The average incomes of lawyers specializing in estates and trusts, conveyancing and mortgages and domestic relations are lower than the average incomes of non-specialists. Highest incomes are found among those specializing in corporations and finance. The category "other" includes lawyers specializing in patents and copyright and admiralty law.

TABLE 10. Average Earned Income of Lawyers by Specialty, 1946, 1947 and 1948
(dollars)

Specialty	Average Earned Income ¹								
	1946			1947			1948		
	Number of Lawyers	Income from Practice	Total Earned Income	Number of Lawyers	Income from Practice	Total Earned Income	Number of Lawyers	Income from Practice	Total Earned Income
No Specialty	4,532	4,668	4,762	4,787	5,245	5,374	5,015	5,578	5,705
Litigation.....	515	5,093	5,140	527	5,205	5,258	604	5,708	5,764
Corporations and Finance	313	10,997	11,132	351	11,393	11,717	362	11,338	11,669
Estates and Trusts.....	149	4,485	4,662	171	5,237	5,417	174	5,450	5,667
Conveyancing and Mortgages	662	3,923	4,165	645	4,311	4,582	787	4,570	4,757
Domestic Relations.....	36	4,250	5,089	40	4,355	5,110	36	4,489	5,333
Taxation.....	69	10,883	10,883	71	8,472	8,472	75	9,915	9,915
Other.....	109	6,294	6,331	114	6,712	6,741	121	7,788	7,846

1. See Table 1.

SECTION VIII

Table 11 presents incomes of full-time lawyers by size of income. Many of the lawyers at the lowest end of the income scale are those entering practice for the first time, such as recent graduates of law schools and lawyers leaving the armed services. In 1946, 9.8% of all lawyers earned over \$10,000 while in 1948, 15.6% earned over this amount. During the same period, the number of lawyers in this income category increased from 622 to 1,118.

The median incomes for 1946, 1947 and 1948 respectively were \$3,974, \$4,244 and \$4,403. The "median" income is such that one half of the lawyers earn more and one half earn less than the "median".

TABLE 11. Earned Incomes of Lawyers from Practice, by Size, 1946, 1947, and 1948

Income Earned from Practice (dollars)	1946		1947		1948	
	Number of Lawyers	Percentage of Lawyers	Number of Lawyers	Percentage of Lawyers	Number of Lawyers	Percentage of Lawyers
Under 1,000.....	289	4.6	205	3.1	214	3.0
1,000- 1,999.....	871	13.7	865	12.9	844	11.8
2,000- 2,999.....	1,074	16.9	1,113	16.6	1,131	15.8
3,000- 3,999.....	962	15.2	951	14.2	1,045	14.6
4,000- 4,999.....	799	12.6	879	13.1	856	11.9
5,000- 5,999.....	602	9.5	569	8.5	614	8.5
6,000- 6,999.....	345	5.4	517	7.7	498	6.9
7,000- 7,999.....	290	4.6	285	4.2	372	5.2
8,000- 8,999.....	192	3.0	221	3.3	316	4.4
9,000- 9,999.....	299	4.7	138	2.1	166	2.3
10,000- 14,999.....	392	6.2	681	10.1	725	10.1
15,000- 19,999.....	132	2.1	166	2.5	236	3.3
20,000- 24,999.....	47	.7	54	.8	66	.9
Over 25,000.....	51	.8	62	.9	91	1.3
Total.....	6,345	100.0	6,706	100.0	7,174	100.0

SECTION IX

Lawyers who were engaged in law on a part-time basis only fell into three categories:

1. Those lawyers who practised on a part-time basis only as a result of ill-health or age. The figures for this group are as follow:

—	1946	1947	1948
Number.....	160	207	190
Average earned income—from practice.....	\$1,245	\$1,328	\$1,618

2. A second group of lawyers carry on part-time practice while they are engaged in other occupations, for example, some members of parliament. On the average less than half their total earnings is obtained in the field of law. The figures for this group are summarized below:

—	1946	1947	1948
Number.....	275	245	251
Average earned income—from practice.....	\$2,110	\$2,435	\$2,694
Average total earned income.....	\$4,387	\$5,504	\$6,053

3. A third group working in business or government were engaged in occupations which were of an administrative or executive as well as legal nature. Such lawyers were working full-time but devoted only a portion of their time to legal duties. As some of these individuals are promoted it is possible that they will no longer do law work. Figures for this group are given below:

—	1946	1947	1948
Number.....	105	108	104
Average total earned income.....	\$4,690	\$5,044	\$5,653

SECTION X

The remaining tables present data on gross income and expenses collected on the special firm questionnaires. Lawyers practising alone, whether full-time or part-time, were considered to be single person firms. Quebec notaries were included in the Survey.

The size of the firm refers to the number of partners and salaried lawyers in the firm but excludes students. Although law firms were asked to exclude salaries paid to salaried lawyers from their expenses there is evidence to suggest that some firms considered the salaries paid to junior members of the firm to be expenses. To the extent that this was done, the average expenses shown are too high. For all firms expenses were respectively 38%, 40% and 41% of gross income in the years 1946, 1947 and 1948.

TABLE 12. Average Gross Income and Average Expenses by Size of Firm
(dollars)

Size of Firm — Number of Lawyers	1946		1947		1948	
	Average Gross Income	Average Expenses	Average Gross Income	Average Expenses	Average Gross Income	Average Expenses
1	5,583	2,273	8,161	2,645	6,342	2,696
2	14,210	5,327	16,013	6,173	18,322	7,241
3	32,969	12,503	23,638	8,751	20,003	6,997
4	41,207	17,075	71,405	25,041	58,900	28,522
5	59,252	19,369	72,494	34,040	62,986	21,441
6 or more	106,096	32,052	120,614	35,850	122,825	38,622

TABLE 13. Distribution of Firms by Gross Income
(dollars)

Gross Income	1946	1947	1948
	Number of Firms	Number of Firms	Number of Firms
Under 1,000.....	56	41	115
1,000- 1,999.....	359	299	190
2,000- 2,999.....	429	303	502
3,000- 3,999.....	448	670	585
4,000- 4,999.....	265	325	295
5,000- 5,999.....	455	161	323
6,000- 6,999.....	187	372	202
7,000- 7,999.....	208	279	150
8,000- 8,999.....	116	92	228
9,000- 9,999.....	91	154	141
10,000- 14,999.....	428	451	523
15,000- 19,999.....	231	304	396
20,000- 24,999.....	112	95	100
25,000- 49,999.....	192	243	218
50,000- 99,999.....	87	75	88
Over 100,000.....	15	41	77
Total.....	3,679	3,905	4,133

APPENDIX

ACCURACY OF ESTIMATES

Coefficient of Variation

One of the tests applied to the individual returns was the measurement of the coefficient of variation. The meaning of this particular measure of an estimate is that the chances are 67 in 100 that the percentage error of an estimate will be less than the coefficient of variation shown. For example, in 1946 the chances are 67 in 100 that the average net income of lawyers in Canada will fall between \$4,830 and \$5,232; that is, within 4% of the estimated average net income of \$5,031 for Canada. Conversely, the chances are 33 in 100 that the average net income is below \$4,830 or above \$5,232. The error in the estimates of year to year changes, however, will be smaller than the percentages shown for any particular year.

These estimates indicate that the degree of error in the provincial estimates may be very substantial. However, the error in the estimates for the country as a whole is likely to be appreciably less. For this reason more confidence may be placed in the national than in the provincial estimates.

Coefficient of Variation

	1946	1947	1948
	(percent)		
Atlantic Provinces.....	8	9	10
Quebec :			
Notaries.....	10	12	12
Advocates.....	11	11	12
Ontario.....	5	5	5
Prairie Provinces.....	6	6	6
British Columbia.....	11	11	10
Canada.....	4	4	3

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