

Government wage policy

There has been no centralized Government wage policy. Aside from those mentioned above, no Government interventions in the process of wage determination seem to have taken place.

Employment policy

A national employment service exists, but most hiring is done on a private basis. The service has tried especially hard to act against the problem of structural unemployment by encouraging the movement of workers from Flemish labor-surplus areas to the Walloon shortage areas, but there has been little success in his program. Also, there has been an attempt to alleviate specific labor shortages (particularly of coal miners) by inducing the immigration of foreign labor; some inflow, especially from Italy and other southern European countries, has resulted.

Price control

Since a vigorous anti-inflationary policy brought price and balance-of-payments stability by 1948, direct controls could be and were eased at an earlier date than in other countries. By 1949, price control had been almost completely eliminated. Rent control was still extensive at this time, but was gradually relaxed and by 1952 affected only the lowest rent categories.

Import and exchange controls

Though direct controls on foreign trade and payments were retained longer than internal direct controls, the country was a leader among European nations in trade liberalization. These controls are negligible today and import duties are very low (except in the case of agriculture, which is substantially protected). In 1951-52 proceeds from exports were temporarily blocked as an anti-inflationary device; extensive export licensing was also imposed briefly at this time.

Price supports and subsidies

Subsidies are relatively slight, the largest one going to the railroads. Belgian coal received subsidies from the European Coal and Steel Community to aid its transition to freer intra-European trade (because of the high-cost nature of the industry).

Profits taxes and dividend limitations

In 1954, in connection with the Government's program of investment stimulation, profits used for reinvestment in fixed plant in industry were partially exempted from taxation. In 1956 this and other measures designed to encourage investment were moderated. At present distributed profits are taxed more heavily than undistributed profits, but the difference is slight, the maximum rate on the former being about 45 percent, as compared to 40 percent on the latter.

Nationalization

The public sector is small, comprising mainly the usual services and public utilities. No policy of nationalization has come into effect since the war, so that power is only partly publicly owned and the coal mines, deposit banks, and all manufacturing industries are under private ownership.

At the end of 1953, the total employment of the national, provincial, and communal governments was 260,000, 15.3 percent of the total number of wage earners. In addition, undertakings in which the Government was concerned, either because it had a share of the capital or because it appointed a governing body or managers, employed about 161,000 persons.

DENMARK

Unions

The Danish Federation of Labor is composed of 71 unions, both industrial and craft unions, with the former predominating. Many of the craft unions are very small. The federation is dominated numerically by the General Workers' Union, which had at the end of 1953 247,000 members out of the total federation membership of 693,000.

Outside the federation are three other central organizations: (1) the Joint Council of Public Servants and Salaried Employees (a very loose confederation representing 18 unions with about 87,000 members), (2) the Government Employees Central Organization I (32 unions comprised of 35,000 low-ranking public servants), and (3) the Joint Organization of Foremen and Technical Em-