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ADVANCE STATEMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND WEEKLY EARNINGS AT JAN. 1, 1948. OF THE  
 (These data are subject to revision as corrections and late reports are received during the tabulation period.)

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In response to repeated requests for the statistics of employment and payrolls as reported by the larger industrial establishments at an earlier date than the detailed figures can be published in the regular monthly bulletins on these subjects, it has been decided on an experimental basis to issue a brief monthly summary of the provincial material as soon as available, some days before the tabulation is completed. An examination of such figures over a period of many months shows that in most cases they coincided with those subsequently published in the monthly bulletins. The variations which occasionally occurred in the employment figures as a result of the delayed arrival of returns or of revisions in the statistics previously furnished, usually affected the index by less than half a point, although in two or three months there were changes of several points in the advance index numbers for particular provinces as compared with the preliminary figures later published in the bulletin for the same month. It is unlikely that the indexes shown in the accompanying table will differ materially from the preliminary figures which will be issued some days hence in the regular monthly bulletin on the employment situation together with payrolls at Jan. 1, 1948.

In conformity with the movement invariably indicated at the opening of the year in the experience of the period since 1926, the general trend of employment in the eight leading industries in all provinces was downward at the beginning of January as compared with a month earlier. The level of employment, however, was higher than at Jan. 1 in 1947 or 1946.

The decline of 2.9 p.c. in the index of employment in the eight leading industries at Jan. 1 was accompanied by that of eight p.c. in the general index number of payrolls, which, on the June 1, 1941, base, fell from 193.9 at Dec. 1 to 178.3 at Jan. 1, 1948. On the other hand, the advance figure considerably exceeds the index of 149.9 indicated 12 months previously. The Jan. 1, 1948 figure of average weekly earnings in the eight leading industries stood at \$36.24, as compared with \$28.28 at Dec. 1, 1947, and \$32.84 at Jan. 1, 1947. The reduction in the former comparison was rather above-average for the Dec. 1 - Jan. 1 comparison in the period for which statistics of average weekly earnings are available.

In manufacturing, the advance index number at Jan. 1 showed a seasonal recession of 2.4 p.c. from Dec. 1. This loss exceeded that at the same date in any other year since 1940 with the exception of 1945. The latest figure was higher than at Jan. 1 in 1947 or 1946; lower than at that date in 1945, 1944 or 1943, the index was higher than at the beginning of any earlier January in the record of 27 years. The advance index of weekly payrolls in manufacturing stood at 166.6 at Jan. 1, 1948, as compared with 184.6 at Dec. 1, and 141.5 at Jan. 1, 1947. The average weekly earnings fell from \$39.25 at the beginning of December to \$36.30 at the date under review, as compared with \$32.40 a year earlier.

Index Numbers of Employment as Reported by Leading Employers<sup>1/</sup> in the Eight Major Industrial Divisions at Jan. 1, 1948. (1926=100)

Area	Jan. 1, 1948	Dec. 1, 1947	Jan. 1, 1947
Prince Edward Island	150.2	164.3	128.9
Nova Scotia	176.8	193.9	169.0
New Brunswick	188.2	192.0	172.4
Quebec	197.3	205.6	186.7
Ontario	202.5	205.0	186.7
Manitoba	156.5	161.8	151.3
Saskatchewan	159.1	168.4	148.4
Alberta	185.6	189.0	175.4
British Columbia	194.7	202.6	180.4
Canada - Eight Leading Industries <sup>1/</sup>	193.8	199.6	181.0
Canada - Manufacturing	200.1	205.1	190.6

<sup>1/</sup>The index numbers are computed from returns furnished by employers usually employing 15 persons and over in the following principal industrial groups: manufacturing, logging, mining, communications, transportation, construction and maintenance, trade and specified services.

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