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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
 DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS BRANCH
 OTTAWA - CANADA

ADVANCE STATEMENT ON EMPLOYMENT AND WEEKLY EARNINGS AT FEB. 1, 1948.

These data are subject to revision.

DOMINION BUREAU
 OF STATISTICS

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The present press letter which is the second in the monthly series of advance statements on employment and payrolls being issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, gives preliminary index numbers of employment in the various provinces and for manufacturing in Canada as a whole as at the beginning of February, 1948. As was stated in the first of these monthly releases, the latest figures are those obtained in the first tabulation of the monthly data and are subject to correction as a result of the delayed arrival of returns, or of revisions in the material previously furnished by employers. Such corrections, however, usually affect only slightly the general provincial figures as computed from the figures originally tabulated. It is therefore unlikely that the advance indexes for Feb. 1 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 Feb. 1, 1948.

The index numbers, (1926=100) are computed from statistics furnished by establishments usually employing 15 persons and over in the following major industrial divisions: manufacturing, logging, mining, communications, transportation, construction and maintenance, trade, and certain service groups, mainly hotels, restaurants and laundries and dry-cleaning plants.

The volume of employment afforded by the leading industrial firms in all provinces except Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia showed further declines at Feb. 1. The dispute in the Western coal fields contributed materially to the general losses as compared with Jan. 1. In most provinces, the trend in manufacturing was upward, while there were substantial reductions in many of the non-manufacturing classes, notably logging, construction and trade. As compared with Feb. 1 of last year, the general index numbers of employment at the date under review were higher in all provinces except Alberta, where the strike in coal mining particularly affected the situation.

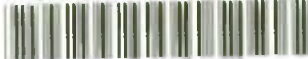
With a return to more normal hours of work following the year-end holidays reflected in the statistics for Jan. 1, there were increases at Feb. 1 in the advance index numbers of payrolls in all provinces except New Brunswick, Saskatchewan and Alberta. The advance figure for Canada as a whole showed a rise of 4.5 p.c. in the month, accompanying the loss of 2.1 p.c. in the general index of employment in the same comparison. As compared with Feb. 1, 1947, there were gains of five p.c. and 16.1 p.c. in the latest general index numbers of employment and payrolls, respectively. The advance figure of average weekly earnings at Feb. 1 was \$38.73 per person employed by leading establishments in the eight major industries, as compared with \$36.28 in the holiday week of Jan. 1; at Feb. 1 in 1947 and 1946, the averages were \$35.03 and \$31.97, respectively.

Employment in manufacturing, showed a moderate seasonal increase, accompanied by a gain of 9.4 p.c. in the advance index of payrolls as compared with Jan. 1. The advance figure of average weekly earnings in manufacturing was \$39.43, substantially exceeding that of \$36.31 in the holiday week of Jan. 1. The averages at Feb. 1 in 1947 and 1946 were \$35.34 and \$32.43, respectively.

Advance Indexes of Employment at Feb. 1, 1948, With Comparisons as at Jan. 1, 1948 and Feb. 1, 1947. (1926=100).

Area	Feb. 1, 1948	Jan. 1, 1948	Feb. 1, 1947
Prince Edward Island	170.2	150.2	124.7
Nova Scotia	178.7	178.4	172.3
New Brunswick	179.1	188.2	165.2
Quebec	193.7	196.8	186.2
Ontario	199.6	202.7	187.6
Manitoba	152.5	156.3	148.3
Saskatchewan	149.1	159.0	142.9
Alberta	167.1	186.0	171.7
British Columbia	190.3	194.0	180.8
Canada - Eight Leading Industries	189.7	193.7	180.7
Canada - Manufacturing	201.5	199.9	193.9

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