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Labour and Prices Division

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ADVANCE STATEMENT ON EMPLOYMENT AND WEEKLY EARNINGS
AT FEB. 1, 1950.

(These data are subject to revision.)

There was a further substantial contraction in activity in the major industrial groups^{1/} at the beginning of February, reducing the advance index number of employment on the 1926 base as 100, to 187.3 from 194.0 at Jan. 1. Unfavourable weather conditions, particularly in British Columbia, contributed to the recession, which conforms to the movement shown at Feb. 1 in nine preceding years since 1938. The percentage loss at the date under review, was 3.4 p.c., exceeding that of 2.4 p.c. indicated at Feb. 1, 1949; although industry had then also been adversely affected by abnormal climatic conditions, the index number was the highest in the record for midwinter.

Curtailment as compared with a month earlier was reported in all provinces^{2/}. The declines in this comparison varied from 2.0 p.c. in Ontario and 2.2 p.c. in Nova Scotia, to 9.3 p.c. in Saskatchewan and in British Columbia. Except in Prince Edward Island, Manitoba and Alberta, the provincial levels of employment were generally lower than at the same date of last year.

Industrially, the advance tabulations show that employment in manufacturing, on the whole, was in rather less volume than at Jan. 1; the moderate decline in this group was contra-seasonal in character. Logging, transportation, construction and trade reported substantial and widespread reductions.

Accompanying the general falling-off in employment indicated at the beginning of February, was an increase of 0.1 p.c. in the weekly salaries and wages disbursed by the co-operating establishments as compared with the holiday week of Jan. 1; as compared with Feb. 1 of last winter, there was a gain of 0.7 p.c. in the latest index number of payrolls. The advance figure of average weekly earnings in the eight major industrial groups at the beginning of February, 1950, was \$43.91, as compared with \$42.38 at Jan. 1, and \$42.92 at Feb. 1, 1949. The most recent per capita figure exceeded any earlier reported.

The advance index of employment in manufacturing in Canada at Feb. 1 was 198.8, a decline of 0.4 p.c. from the Jan. 1 figure. The index at the beginning of February of last year was higher, at 202.6. The expenditures in weekly salaries and wages in the larger manufacturing establishments rose by 3.6 p.c. as compared with Jan. 1, when the situation had been affected by the year-end holidays, inventories, etc. The latest index number of payrolls in this group of industries was 0.8 p.c. above that at Feb. 1, 1949. The earnings of persons employed by the larger manufacturing establishments at Feb. 1, 1950, averaged \$45.39, as compared with \$43.62 at Jan. 1, 1950, \$45.38 at Dec. 1, 1949, and \$44.17 at Feb. 1, 1949. The latest figure, and that at Dec. 1, 1949, are the highest in the record.

1/ See footnote on page 2. 2/ Statistics are not yet available for Newfoundland.

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Advance Indexes^{1/} of Employment at Feb. 1, 1950, with Comparisons as at
 Jan. 1, 1950, and Feb. 1, 1949.

(1926=100)

<u>Area</u>	<u>Feb. 1, 1950</u>	<u>Jan. 1, 1950</u>	<u>Feb. 1, 1949</u>
Prince Edward Island	152.3	157.7	139.9
Nova Scotia	169.8	173.7	172.4
New Brunswick	164.5	172.9	164.7
Quebec	186.0	191.4	193.0
Ontario	201.0	205.1	202.8
Manitoba	159.4	166.5	157.3
Saskatchewan	145.6	160.5	146.2
Alberta	197.8	207.7	194.4
British Columbia	175.3	193.2	181.5
Canada - Eight Leading Industries	187.3	194.0	190.5
Canada - Manufacturing	198.8	199.7	202.6

1/ The above data are based on the advance tabulation of statistics received from 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 and restaurants and laundries and dry-cleaning plants. The figures are subject to change, as a result of the arrival of revised or delayed returns during the period of tabulation. The monthly bulletin giving in some detail the latest statistics of employment, payrolls and average earnings will be issued some days hence.

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Prepared in the Employment Section of the Labour and Prices Division.

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