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ADVANCE STATIMET ON EMPLOYMENT AND WEEKLY FARNINGS AT MAR. 1, 1950.

(These data are subject to revision).

The advance tabulation of the monthly statistics of employment in the more important non-agricultural industries 1/ shows a further but slight decline in industrial activity at the beginning of March. The index number of employment, on the 1926 base as 100, then stood at 186.6, as compared with 187.2 at Feb. 1, 1950, and 188.9 at Mar. 1 in 1949 and 1948, the highest in the record for the time of year. A reduction from Feb.1 to Mar. 1 has been indicated in eight of the last eleven years; the loss at the latter date in 1949 had been larger than that shown in the most recent figures.

The general trend of industrial employment was downward in all provinces²⁷ except British Columbia, where the gain, amounting to 3.8 p.c., represented partial recovery from the serious losses suffered a month earlier, when unfavourable weather had been an important factor in the situation. The reductions in the remaining provinces as compared with Feb. 1 ranged from 0.2 p.c. in Alberta to 1.7 p.c. in Nova Scotia and 4.5 p.c. in Prince Edward Island. A rather higher level of activity was noted at Mar. 1 than at the same date a year earlier in Prince Edward Island, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia. The advance index numbers in the other provinces were slightly lower at the date under review.

In spite of the moderate recession in recorded employment at the beginning of March, there was a gain of 1.3 p.c. in the weekly salaries and wages disbursed by the co-operating establishments as compared with the week of Feb. 1. The latest index number of payrolls was higher by 2.1 p.c. than at Mar. 1, 1949. The advance figure of average weekly salaries and wages in the eight major industrial groups at the beginning of March, 1950, was \$44.69, the highest in the record. The average at Feb. 1, 1950, was \$43.99, and that at Mar. 1, 1949, \$43.27.

Employment in manufacturing throughout Canada showed a rather small increase at Mar. 1, when the advance index number was 199.7, as compared with 198.9 at Feb. 1. The latest figure was lower than that noted at Mar. 1 in 1949 and 1948, but was higher than at the same date in earlier post-war years. The amount expended by leading manufacturers in weekly salaries and wages at the date under review was higher by 1.2 p.c. than at Feb. 1, and exceeded by 1.5 p.c. the figure recorded at Mar. 1, 1949. The weekly earnings of their employees averaged \$45.80 at Mar. 1, 1950, as compared with \$45.43 a month earlier, and \$44.39 twelve months previously.

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Advance Indexes¹ of Employment at Mar. 1, 1950 with Comparisons as at Feb. 1 and Mar. 1, 1949.

(1926=100)

Area	Mar. 1, 1950	Feb. 1, 1950	Mar. 1, 1949
Prince Edward Island Nova Scotia New Brunswick Quebec Ontario Manitoba Saskatchewan Alberta British Columbia	141.5 165.5 160.8 183.9 200.4 157.4 144.8 198.0 181.6	148.2 168.3 163.1 185.8 201.0 159.5 145.4 198.4 174.9	139.1 170.3 164.8 190.2 201.8 156.4 145.9 192.3 179.6
Canada - Eight Leading Industries	185.6	187.2	188.9
Canada - Manufacturing	199.7	198.9	203.0

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.

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

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