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

(These data are subject to revision).

A preliminary tabulation of the results of the monthly survey of employment in leading establishments in the eight major industrial divisions[1/] shows moderate improvement in the situation at May 1, continuing the favourable movement indicated a month earlier. The advance index number of employment, based on 1926 as 100, stood at 188.7, as compared with 187.9 at Apr. 1, 1950, and 189.1 at May 1, 1949, the maximum for that date in the record of 30 years. Marked seasonal curtailment was noted in logging operations in the Eastern and Central Provinces, but the trend in many other industries was upward at the beginning of May.

The rise of 0.4 p.c. in the advance index number of employment at May 1 was accompanied by a gain of 0.7 p.c. in the advance index number of payrolls. The per capita weekly earnings of the employees reported in the eight principal industries stood at $44.99 at May 1, as compared with $44.88 at Apr. 1, and $43.19 at May 1, 1949. The most recent average is the highest in the record.

Greater activity as compared with Apr. 1 was indicated in all provinces[2/] except Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, where there were losses of 2.4 p.c. and 4.2 p.c., respectively. Seasonal declines in transportation seriously affected the situation in both provinces. Construction afforded less employment in Nova Scotia, and there was a considerable seasonal reduction in logging in New Brunswick. Among the remaining provinces, the gains ranged from 0.3 p.c. in Quebec and Ontario, to 2.7 p.c. in British Columbia.

The trend of payrolls was generally upward in Ontario and the Western Provinces, but was unfavourable in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec. The falling-off in Quebec, which was on a small scale, was mainly due to reduced working hours in some industries.

The advance index number of employment in manufacturing, at 200.7, was higher than that of 200.4 at Apr. 1, 1950, but was 1.3 p.c. below the May 1, 1949, figure. The index of payrolls showed a rise of 0.2 p.c. in the month, and was 3.0 p.c. higher than at May 1 of last year. The preliminary figure of per capita weekly salaries and wages of persons employed in leading manufacturing establishments at May 1 was $46.34, as compared with $46.20 at Apr. 1, 1950, and $44.43 at May 1, 1949, previously the maximum for that date in the record going back to 1941.

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

Advance Indexes[1/] of Employment at May 1, with Comparisons as at Apr. 1, 1950 and May 1, 1949.

(1926=100)

Area	May 1, 1950	Apr. 1, 1950	May 1, 1949
Prince Edward Island	150.9	147.9	139.8
Nova Scotia	162.9	167.0	170.7
New Brunswick	155.8	160.0	155.2
Quebec	185.2	184.8	186.4
Ontario	201.0	200.5	200.1
Manitoba	158.5	157.3	159.9
Saskatchewan	149.5	146.2	153.0
Alberta	203.2	200.5	198.0
British Columbia	194.9	189.8	196.9
Canada - Eight Leading Industries	188.7	187.9	189.1
Canada - Manufacturing	200.7	200.4	203.3

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.