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ADVANCE STATEMENT ON EMPLOYMENT AND WEEKLY PAYROLLS, AT JAN. 1, 1951.

Attention is drawn to the fact that this is the first release of index numbers of employment and payrolls computed on 1939 as 100, from now on to be used exclusively as the base period in the series. A bulletin shortly to be issued recapitulates index numbers on that base for the years, 1947-50, and groups industries according to the Standard Industrial Classification.

Employment in the major non-agricultural industries^{1/} throughout Canada showed an important falling-off at Jan. 1, in accordance with the movement indicated at that date in each of the years for which data are available. Based on the 1939 average as 100, the advance index number, at 175.3, was 2.2 p.c. lower than at Dec. 1, 1950, but was 7.0 p.c. higher than at Jan. 1, 1950. The latest figure is the maximum so far recorded for the time of year.

Reduced industrial activity was indicated in all provinces. In most areas, the contractions were somewhat below-average for the beginning of January in the experience of recent years. Industrially, there was widespread curtailment as compared with a month earlier; the losses in employment in construction and manufacturing were particularly important. In general, however, the decreases were rather less than usual for the time of year.

The decline of 5.0 p.c. reported in the payroll disbursements of the larger industrial establishments for the holiday week of Jan. 1 as compared with the week of Dec. 1, was rather less than that recorded in the same comparison 12 months ago. As compared with Jan. 1, 1950, there was a gain of 14.4 p.c. in the latest general index number of weekly payrolls. The average weekly wages and salaries in the major industrial groups at the beginning of January, 1951, stood at \$45.31, as compared with the all-time high of \$46.63 indicated a month earlier, and \$42.33 at Jan. 1, 1950; in 1939, employees of the co-operating firms had received an average of \$23.44. during the year.

The advance index of employment in manufacturing in Canada at Jan. 1 was 182.4, a reduction of 1.6 p.c. from Dec. 1; as compared with the beginning of January of last year, there was an increase of 6.7 p.c. The expenditures in weekly wages and salaries in the larger manufacturing plants showed the reduction usual in the holiday week, falling by 5.3 p.c. from Dec. 1. This loss was rather smaller than that reported at Jan. 1, 1950, when the index number of payrolls was 15.2 p.c. below the most recent figure. The earnings of persons employed by the co-operating manufacturers at Jan. 1, 1951, averaged \$46.66, as compared with \$48.51 at Dec. 1, 1950, and \$43.26 at Jan. 1, 1950.

^{1/}

See footnote on page 2.

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