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DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

Labour and Prices Division

OTTAWA



Published by Authority of the Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe, Minister of Trade and Commerce

8003-504

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**ADVANCE STATEMENT ON EMPLOYMENT AND WEEKLY PAYROLLS,
MAR. 1, 1952.**

(These data are subject to revision)

The advance tabulation of the monthly statistics of employment in the major non-agricultural industries^{1/} shows a further but slight decline in business activity at the beginning of March. The index number of employment, on the 1939 base as 100, stood at 177.7, insignificantly lower than at Feb. 1, 1952, but 3.1 p.c. above its level at Mar. 1, 1951, previously the maximum for the time of year. A reduction from Feb. 1 to Mar. 1 has been indicated in 10 of the last 13 years.

The general trend of industrial employment was slightly downward in all provinces except Quebec, Alberta and British Columbia; there was practically no change from Feb. 1 in Alberta, while increases of 0.2 p.c. and 2.1 p.c. were noted in Quebec and British Columbia, respectively. The declines elsewhere recorded ranged from 0.2 p.c. in Ontario to 3.2 p.c. in Nova Scotia and 12.4 p.c. in Prince Edward Island, where severe storms a month earlier had required the employment of many casual workers.

Accompanying the small recession in industrial employment generally at the beginning of March, was an increase of 1.4 p.c. in the weekly payrolls reported as compared with a month earlier. The latest index number was higher by 15.4 p.c. than at Mar. 1, 1951. The advance figure of average weekly wages and salaries in the major industrial groups at the date under review was \$53.95, the highest in the record. The average at Feb. 1 was \$53.19, and that at Mar. 1, 1951, \$48.19.

Employment in manufacturing throughout Canada showed a moderate rise at Mar. 1, when the advance index number, at 186.8, was 0.9 p.c. higher than at Feb. 1; there was also a fractional increase over the Mar. 1, 1951, figure of 186.3. The sums expended by the co-operating manufacturers in weekly wages and salaries at the date under review were greater by 1.7 p.c. than at Feb. 1, and exceeded by 12.9 p.c. the disbursements 12 months earlier. The weekly earnings of their employees averaged \$55.81, as compared with the Feb. 1 per capita of \$55.36, and that of \$49.56 at Mar. 1, 1951.



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Advance Index Numbers of Employment and Payrolls, Mar. 1, 1952, with Indexes for a Month and a Year Earlier. (1939=100)

Area	Employment			Payrolls		
	Mar. 1, 1952	Feb. 1, 1952	Mar. 1, 1951	Mar. 1, 1952	Feb. 1, 1952	Mar. 1, 1951
Prince Edward Island	160.6	183.4	160.1	322.4	336.5	298.2
Nova Scotia	146.1	150.9	135.7	308.6	313.2	265.9
New Brunswick	185.2	186.3	179.0	426.6	415.4	371.3
Quebec	169.3	169.0	161.0	411.8	406.0	349.6
Ontario	187.2	187.6	185.7	428.8	425.4	378.6
Manitoba	168.0	169.1	164.3	336.9	333.4	302.6
Saskatchewan	141.4	142.4	133.3	293.9	291.7	250.8
Alberta	201.9	201.7	186.7	432.5	424.3	362.3
British Columbia	183.7	179.9	176.9	413.4	395.3	347.6
Canada - Composite Index	177.7	177.8	172.3	408.4	402.9	353.8
Canada - Manufacturing	186.8	185.2	186.3	457.6	449.9	405.3

Average Weekly Wages and Salaries

	Mar. 1, 1952	Feb. 1, 1952	Mar. 1, 1951
Prince Edward Island	\$39.95	\$36.51	\$37.06
Nova Scotia	45.27	44.47	42.02
New Brunswick	46.75	45.23	41.94
Quebec	51.79	51.14	46.21
Ontario	56.15	55.59	49.92
Manitoba	51.57	50.68	47.41
Saskatchewan	50.38	49.68	45.60
Alberta	54.50	53.52	49.37
British Columbia	58.51	57.12	51.10
Canada - Composite Index	53.95	53.19	48.19
Canada - Manufacturing	55.81	55.36	49.56

The above data are based on advance tabulations of statistics received from establishments usually employing 15 persons and over, in the following major industrial divisions: logging, mining, manufacturing, construction, transportation, storage and communication, public utility operation, trade, finance, insurance and real estate, and service, mainly hotels, restaurants, laundries, dry cleaning plants, business and recreational services.

The monthly bulletin giving detailed statistics of employment, payrolls and average weekly earnings will be issued some days hence.