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ADVANCE STATEMENT ON EMPLOYMENT AND WEEKLY PAYROLLS,
FEBRUARY, 1955.

(These data are subject to revision)

Employment in the major non-agricultural industries showed a further substantial decline at the beginning of February, when the seasonal loss of 3.0 p.c. from Jan. 1 was slightly larger than that indicated in a similar comparison 12 months earlier. Based on the 1949 average as 100, the Feb. 1 index of employment was 105.8, 1.1 p.c. lower than at the same date in 1954. The index number of payrolls showed a reduction of 0.3 p.c. from Jan. 1, but was a little higher than at Feb. 1 of last winter, rising by 1.7 p.c. in the interval. The weekly wages and salaries averaged \$60.12, a maximum for the record, as compared with \$58.49 in the holiday week of Jan. 1, and \$58.47 at Feb. 1, 1954. Previously, the highest per capita figure was \$59.78 at Nov. 1, 1954.

On the whole, employment in all provinces was at a lower level than a month earlier. Industrial activity was also less than at Feb. 1 of last year in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. The declines were small, as were the increases recorded in the remaining provinces except Newfoundland, where there was no general change. The trend in weekly payrolls was upward as compared with Jan. 1 in Ontario and Alberta; elsewhere, the disbursements reported were lower. In all provinces except Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Ontario, the latest payroll indexes exceeded those at Feb. 1, 1954. The variations in the 12 months were slight. In all areas, the average weekly wages and salaries were higher than in the holiday week of Jan. 1, and in all provinces except Newfoundland, were also higher than 12 months earlier.

Employment generally was quieter than at the beginning of January in forestry, mining, construction, transportation, storage and communications, public utility operation, trade and in the service industries included in the monthly surveys. Large reductions in staffs were reported in logging, trade, construction and transportation, those in the last three being seasonal. There were slight increases in employment in the finance group and in manufacturing, in which the index of weekly payrolls rose by 3.2 p.c. from the Jan. 1 figure, but was slightly lower than at Feb. 1, 1954. Since then, the employment index has fallen by 4.3 p.c. The weekly wages and salaries reported in this group of industries averaged \$62.53 at Feb. 1, the highest in the record, slightly exceeding the previous maximum of \$62.07 at Dec. 1, 1954. As compared with the holiday week of Jan. 1, 1955, there was an increase of 2.8 p.c. in the weekly average.

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

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Advance Index Numbers^{1/} of Employment and Payrolls, Feb. 1, 1955, with Indexes for a Month and a Year Earlier. (1949=100)

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Area	Employment			Payrolls		
	Feb. 1 1955	Jan. 1 1955	Feb. 1 1954	Feb. 1 1955	Jan. 1 1955	Feb. 1 1954
Newfoundland	113.4	123.5	113.4	158.9	163.9	165.8
Prince Edward Island	96.7	103.2	96.0	132.7	133.8	127.6
Nova Scotia	91.6	96.8	95.4	123.1	125.0	126.0
New Brunswick	96.5	102.9	97.6	133.2	137.1	129.4
Quebec	105.8	109.7	105.7	148.7	150.1	144.8
Ontario	107.4	109.2	110.8	151.9	151.0	152.1
Manitoba	100.8	103.5	100.9	135.6	136.8	133.3
Saskatchewan	103.8	115.8	109.5	150.4	157.9	145.2
Alberta	123.5	128.5	118.3	172.0	171.1	159.6
British Columbia	99.8	103.9	97.5	141.6	142.6	133.7
Canada - Composite Index	105.8	109.1	107.0	148.7	149.2	146.2
Canada - Manufacturing	103.6	103.2	108.3	148.1	143.5	150.0

Average Weekly Wages and Salaries

	Feb. 1 1955	Jan. 1 1955	Feb. 1 1954
Newfoundland	\$52.56	\$49.81	\$54.90
Prince Edward Island	46.27	43.67	44.80
Nova Scotia	50.27	48.28	49.45
New Brunswick	52.21	50.37	50.15
Quebec	57.74	56.19	56.26
Ontario	62.58	61.20	60.75
Manitoba	57.22	56.23	56.05
Saskatchewan	57.30	56.43	54.96
Alberta	61.86	59.09	59.93
British Columbia	64.72	62.60	62.60
Canada - Composite Figure	60.12	58.49	58.47
Canada - Manufacturing	62.53	60.80	60.60

^{1/}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.