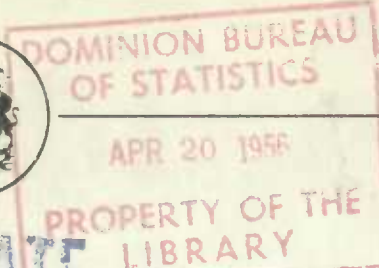


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ADVANCE STATEMENT ON EMPLOYMENT AND WEEKLY PAYROLLS,
FEBRUARY, 1956.

(These data are subject to revision)

Employment in the major non-agricultural industries showed a further seasonal decline at the beginning of February. The loss of 1.8 p.c. from Jan. 1 was a good deal smaller than that indicated at the corresponding date last year. The index, on the 1949 base, was 6.3 p.c. above the Feb. 1, 1955, figure, at 112.5 establishing a new maximum for the time of year. The payroll index showed a rise of 1.2 p.c. in the month, and was 10.3 p.c. above its position 12 months earlier. The weekly wages and salaries averaged \$62.38, a new all-time high, as compared with \$60.54 in the holiday week of Jan. 1, and \$60.15 at Feb. 1, 1955. Previously, the highest per capita figure was \$62.02, at Dec. 1, 1955.

On the whole, employment in all provinces except New Brunswick was at a lower level than in the week of the preceding survey. Apart from Saskatchewan, where there was no general change, all areas reported improvement over Feb. 1 of last year. The weekly payrolls disbursed by the larger industrial establishments were lower than a month earlier in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, but elsewhere showed an upward movement. In all provinces, the latest indexes exceeded those recorded a year ago. On the whole, the average weekly wages and salaries in all sections of the country were seasonally higher than in the holiday week of Jan. 1; also in all provinces, they were above their level 12 months earlier.

Employment generally was reduced from its Jan. 1 volume in forestry, construction, transportation, storage and communications, public utility operation, trade, and in the service industries surveyed. The largest losses in staffs were reported in trade, logging, construction and transportation. Factory employment rose by 0.5 p.c., and the latest index was 6.5 p.c. higher than at Feb. 1, 1955. Weekly payrolls in manufacturing advanced by 4.5 p.c. in the month, and by 10.6 p.c. in the year. The average wages and salaries reported in this group of industries stood at \$64.96, the highest in the record, slightly above the previous maximum of \$64.71 at Dec. 1, 1955. The Feb. 1, 1955, figure was \$62.53.

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

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- 2 -

Advance Index Numbers^{1/} of Employment and Payrolls at Feb. 1, 1956, with Indexes for the Preceding Month and a Year Ago. (1949=100)

<u>Area</u>	<u>Employment</u>			<u>Payrolls</u>		
	<u>Feb. 1</u> <u>1956</u>	<u>Jan. 1</u> <u>1956</u>	<u>Feb. 1</u> <u>1955</u>	<u>Feb. 1</u> <u>1956</u>	<u>Jan. 1</u> <u>1956</u>	<u>Feb. 1</u> <u>1955</u>
Newfoundland	123.0	125.1	113.9	178.6	175.6	159.2
Prince Edward Island	106.9	113.4	96.7	149.1	151.6	132.7
Nova Scotia	96.7	99.5	91.7	135.9	132.8	123.4
New Brunswick	110.6	107.4	96.3	160.3	152.2	133.0
Quebec	112.5	115.6	105.7	163.7	164.6	148.7
Ontario	114.0	115.3	107.4	167.3	163.4	152.0
Manitoba	103.0	105.2	100.7	143.1	144.0	135.5
Saskatchewan	107.8	113.3	107.8	153.7	159.2	148.6
Alberta	132.2	133.6	123.7	193.2	188.3	172.9
British Columbia	108.8	111.4	99.8	150.5	159.2	141.8
Canada - Composite Index	112.5	114.6	105.8	164.1	162.2	148.8
Canada - Manufacturing	110.3	109.8	103.6	168.9	156.9	148.2

Average Weekly Wages and Salaries

	<u>Feb. 1</u> <u>1956</u>	<u>Jan. 1</u> <u>1956</u>	<u>Feb. 1</u> <u>1955</u>
Newfoundland	\$54.51	\$52.67	\$52.43
Prince Edward Island	47.48	46.11	46.27
Nova Scotia	52.60	49.92	50.36
New Brunswick	54.77	53.56	52.31
Quebec	59.73	58.44	57.76
Ontario	64.93	62.70	62.61
Manitoba	59.08	58.33	57.27
Saskatchewan	58.95	58.09	56.98
Alberta	64.86	62.53	62.05
British Columbia	67.26	65.21	64.82
Canada - Composite figure	62.38	60.54	60.15
Canada - Manufacturing	64.96	62.47	62.53

^{1/}The above data are based on an advance tabulation of statistics received from establishments usually employing 15 persons and over, in the following major industrial divisions: logging, mining, manufacturing, construction, transportation, storage and communications, 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 earnings will be issued some days hence.