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

(These data are subject to revision)

The industrial employment index advanced slightly at Mar. 1, due largely though not wholly to resumption of work in plants which had been strike bound for a lengthy period. At 113.1 on the 1949 base, the index was the highest on record for the time of year, 7.1 p.c. above its position at Mar. 1, 1955. The gain in the month amounted to 0.7 p.c. Weekly payrolls rose by 1.8 p.c. from Feb. 1, and by 11.1 p.c. in the 12-month comparison. The per capita weekly wages and salaries, at \$63.16, established a new high. The average in the week of Feb. 1 was \$62.44, and at Mar. 1, 1955, \$60.86.

On the whole, industrial activity was greater in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Ontario and British Columbia. The most important increase, of 1.5 p.c., took place in Ontario, where labour-management disputes had seriously affected the situation in several months. The trend of employment in the remaining provinces was downward. The losses ranged from 0.2 p.c. in Alberta to 2.6 p.c. in Newfoundland. The reduction in Quebec was 0.3 p.c., largely due to seasonal curtailment in forestry operations.

The weekly payrolls were higher than a month earlier in all provinces except New Brunswick, and in all areas, also exceeded those reported for the week of Mar. 1, 1955. The per capita earnings declined from Feb. 1, 1956, in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, but elsewhere were higher. Only in Prince Edward Island was the latest average of wages and salaries below its level a year ago.

Employment in manufacturing showed considerable expansion at Mar. 1. The index number, at 112.1, was 1.7 p.c. higher than at Feb. 1, and 6.1 p.c. above the Mar. 1, 1955, figure of 105.7. Although resumption of work following termination of strikes was the chief factor in the general increase in the division, a number of industries and areas not directly affected by the work stoppages also reported improvement. The weekly payrolls disbursed by the co-operating manufacturers on or about the date under review were greater by 2.3 p.c. than in the preceding survey, and exceeded those reported at Mar. 1 of last year by 10.1 p.c. The weekly wages and salaries averaged \$65.47, a new high, as compared with the Feb. 1 per capita of \$65.05, and that of \$63.11 at Mar. 1, 1955.

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

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

<u>Area</u>	<u>Employment</u>			<u>Payrolls</u>		
	Mar. 1 1956	Feb. 1 1956	Mar. 1 1955	Mar. 1 1956	Feb. 1 1956	Mar. 1 1955
Newfoundland	119.5	122.7	110.3	177.4	177.2	159.2
Prince Edward Island	125.7	108.4	101.4	161.0	153.5	137.3
Nova Scotia	100.4	96.9	91.4	140.5	136.4	125.4
New Brunswick	105.6	108.2	96.2	153.8	154.8	137.2
Quebec	112.1	112.5	104.6	166.0	164.4	149.3
Ontario	115.3	113.6	108.2	171.0	166.7	154.7
Manitoba	102.8	103.2	98.8	144.7	143.4	134.7
Saskatchewan	107.1	107.9	106.7	154.6	153.9	148.1
Alberta	132.0	132.2	121.4	194.9	193.4	168.9
British Columbia	110.7	109.1	101.0	165.1	161.0	144.6
Canada - Composite Index	113.1	112.3	105.6	167.0	164.0	150.3
Canada - Manufacturing	112.1	110.2	105.7	167.9	164.1	152.5

Average Weekly Wages and Salaries

	Mar. 1 1956	Feb. 1 1956	Mar. 1 1955
Newfoundland	\$55.69	\$54.20	\$54.17
Prince Edward Island	43.16	47.74	45.61
Nova Scotia	52.40	52.68	51.35
New Brunswick	55.06	54.07	53.94
Quebec	60.76	59.97	58.61
Ontario	65.63	64.93	63.24
Manitoba	59.85	59.05	58.00
Saskatchewan	59.64	58.96	57.38
Alberta	65.52	64.92	61.74
British Columbia	68.05	67.33	65.31
Canada - Composite figure	63.16	62.44	60.86
Canada - Manufacturing	65.47	65.05	63.11

^{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.

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