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ADVANCE STATEMENT ON EMPLOYMENT AND WEEKLY EARNINGS,
MAY 1, 1956.

(These data are subject to revision)

Industrial employment showed a further increase at the beginning of May, when the index of employment, (1949=100), was 115.1, a maximum for the time of year. The Apr. 1 figure was 113.5, and that at May 1, 1955, 107.4. The payroll index rose by 2.1 p.c. in the month to an all-time high of 171.8, as compared with 153.1 in the corresponding week last year. The weekly wages and salaries averaged \$63.84, also a peak figure, as compared with \$63.43 a month earlier, and \$60.96 a year ago.

Improvement was shown at the date under review in all except the Maritime Provinces, where a seasonal cut-back in employment in transportation and forestry lowered the general index numbers. The additions to staffs elsewhere reported ranged from 0.8 p.c. in Manitoba to 3.4 p.c. in British Columbia, with Quebec and Ontario recording gains of 1.5 p.c. and 1.3 p.c., respectively.

The general trend was downward at May 1 in logging and mining, but upward in the other industries surveyed. The increase in employment in construction was especially marked. There were fairly large gains in manufacturing, transportation, storage and communication, trade and the service industries for which data are obtained.

Employment in manufacturing rose by 0.6 p.c. in the month, bringing the latest index to 114.1, a peak for the time of year. The index of payrolls advanced by 1.6 p.c. from Apr. 1, and at 173.9, was 11 p.c. above the figure recorded 12 months earlier. The preliminary average of weekly wages and salaries of factory workers at May 1 was \$66.61, also a new high, as compared with the preceding figure of \$66.02, and \$63.81 at May 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 May 1, 1956, with Indexes for the Preceding Month and a Year Ago. (1949=100)

<u>Area</u>	<u>Employment</u>			<u>Payrolls</u>		
	May 1 1956	Apr. 1 1956	May 1 1955	May 1 1956	Apr. 1 1956	May 1 1955
Newfoundland	119.4	117.7	118.8	174.9	175.5	172.6
Prince Edward Island	102.3	105.7	107.6	143.3	145.6	152.3
Nova Scotia	93.5	95.2	91.6	132.7	132.8	125.6
New Brunswick	98.4	102.0	93.9	140.5	148.3	130.0
Quebec	113.1	111.4	105.3	168.0	164.4	150.0
Ontario	118.3	116.7	110.3	178.0	174.5	158.7
Manitoba	103.7	102.9	101.2	147.0	144.4	137.9
Saskatchewan	111.8	108.2	108.7	162.2	157.1	149.3
Alberta	137.1	134.4	121.0	200.1	197.7	165.4
British Columbia	117.1	113.2	106.2	178.3	170.4	153.2
Canada - Composite Index	115.1	113.5	107.4	171.8	168.4	153.1
Canada - Manufacturing	114.1	113.4	107.3	173.9	171.2	156.6

Average Weekly Wages and Salaries

	May 1 1956	Apr. 1 1956	May 1 1955
Newfoundland	\$ 54.97	\$ 55.96	\$ 54.50
Prince Edward Island	47.24	46.43	47.72
Nova Scotia	53.12	52.19	51.32
New Brunswick	53.97	54.97	52.39
Quebec	60.96	60.58	58.45
Ontario	66.59	66.14	63.64
Manitoba	60.28	59.67	57.94
Saskatchewan	59.99	60.01	56.81
Alberta	64.82	65.33	60.66
British Columbia	69.47	68.65	65.82
Canada - Composite figure	63.84	63.43	60.96
Canada - Manufacturing	66.61	66.02	63.81

^{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.