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ADVANCE STATEMENT ON EMPLOYMENT AND WEEKLY PAYROLLS, FEBRUARY, 1957.

(These data are subject to revision)

Employment in the major non-agricultural industries showed further seasonal curtailment at the beginning of February. The loss of 2.2 p.c. from Jan. 1 exceeded that reported at the same date in 1956. At 118.7 on the 1949 base, however, the index established a new high for the time of year, 5.7 p.c. above the Feb. 1, 1956, figure. The payroll index showed a seasonal rise of 2.6 p.c. in the month, and at 184.9, was 12.7 p.c. above its position 12 months earlier. The weekly wages and salaries averaged \$66.65, a new peak, as compared with \$63.58 in the holiday week of Jan. 1, and \$62.43 at Feb. 1, 1956. Previously, the highest per capita figure was \$66.24, at Nov. 1, 1956.

On the whole, industrial employment was quieter than in the preceding survey week in all provinces except Prince Edward Island. Apart from Newfoundland and New Brunswick, all areas reported greater activity than at Feb. 1 of last year; the declines in the two just mentioned were small. The weekly payrolls disbursed by the larger industrial establishments were lower than a month earlier in Newfoundland, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan, but elsewhere moved up; gains of 4.1 p.c. reported in Nova Scotia and Ontario were most noteworthy. In all provinces, the latest indexes were above those recorded a year ago. Except in Prince Edward Island, the general averages of weekly wages and salaries in all areas were higher than in the holiday week of Jan. 1, and also than in the week of Feb. 1, 1956.

Employment generally was lower than in the preceding survey in forestry, construction, transportation, storage and communications, public utility operation, trade, and in the service industries for which data are obtained. The largest losses in staffs were reported in trade, logging, transportation and construction. There was a moderate increase in mining and factory employment. The index in the latter rose by 0.2 p.c. to 115.0, which was 4.4 p.c. over the Feb. 1, 1956, figure. Weekly payrolls in manufacturing advanced by 5.9 p.c. in the month, and by 10.9 p.c. in the year. Per capita wages and salaries reported in this group of industries mounted by \$3.73 to \$69.17, the highest in the record, slightly above the previous maximum of \$68.78 in the week of Dec. 1, 1956. The Feb. 1, 1956, figure was \$65.05.

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

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Advance Index Numbers^{1/} of Employment and Payrolls at Feb. 1, 1957, with Indexes for the Preceding Month and a Year Ago. (1949=100)

<u>Area</u>	<u>Employment</u>			<u>Payrolls</u>		
	Feb. 1 1957	Jan. 1 1957	Feb. 1 1956	Feb. 1 1957	Jan. 1 1957	Feb. 1 1956
Newfoundland	120.2	124.4	122.7	189.9	191.6	177.2
Prince Edward Island	113.2	109.6	108.4	156.6	154.9	153.5
Nova Scotia	98.3	99.6	96.9	145.9	140.2	136.4
New Brunswick	106.7	109.4	108.2	162.3	165.0	154.8
Quebec	118.0	121.0	112.5	184.5	180.3	164.3
Ontario	121.9	123.5	113.5	190.8	183.3	166.6
Manitoba	106.1	109.2	103.2	155.7	155.4	143.4
Saskatchewan	113.6	120.7	107.9	175.2	183.6	153.9
Alberta	144.7	148.7	132.2	223.7	221.1	193.4
British Columbia	114.2	118.8	109.1	177.7	177.0	161.0
Canada - Composite Index	118.7	121.4	112.3	184.9	180.3	164.0
Canada - Manufacturing	115.0	114.8	110.2	181.9	171.7	164.0

Average Weekly Wages and Salaries

	Feb. 1 1957	Jan. 1 1957	Feb. 1 1956
Newfoundland	\$59.27	\$57.79	\$54.20
Prince Edward Island	46.78	47.79	47.74
Nova Scotia	55.59	52.71	52.68
New Brunswick	57.54	57.07	54.07
Quebec	64.19	61.16	59.94
Ontario	69.34	65.70	64.94
Manitoba	62.41	60.51	59.05
Saskatchewan	63.83	62.97	58.96
Alberta	68.73	66.10	64.92
British Columbia	71.05	68.05	67.33
Canada - Composite figure	66.65	63.58	62.43
Canada - Manufacturing	69.17	65.44	65.05

^{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.