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DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS BRANCH.
 Dominion Statistician, R.H. Coats, R.A., F.S.S.

Reports from employers to the Employment Statistics Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics show that employment at the commencement of December was somewhat affected by the usual winter contraction of industry, although the shrinkage indicated was decidedly less pronounced than at the same period of 1920 and 1921. These reductions in pay roll were the first to be recorded since the end of March, between which month and November approximately 112,000 persons were added to the staffs of the firms reporting, a percentage gain of about 14 points. For the month under review statements were tabulated from 6,369 concerns with an aggregate working force of 780,990 employees as compared with 785,580 in their last report, a decrease of .6 per cent. The most noteworthy declines occurred in the construction industries and were wholly seasonal in character, as was the continued curtailment of operations in sawmills. The manufacturing industries as a whole, showed practically no change in the situation, a nominal increase in activity only being indicated. Continued expansion on a large scale was evidenced in logging, shipping and stevedoring and retail trade also registered considerable improvement. The favourable situation generally indicated in recent reports in comparison with the corresponding period of last year may be seen in Table I on page 2 which gives the index numbers of employment by months for 1921 and 1922. Tables II, III and IV show the index numbers of employment by provinces, cities and industries, respectively.

In the Maritime Provinces and Quebec additions to staff were indicated, those in the former district occurring mainly in steel furnaces and in the latter in shipping and stevedoring, in logging and in car works. Minor contractions were reported by Ontario firms and losses on a larger scale were shown in the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia. The shrinkage was of a general character, although it was in each case especially heavy in railway construction and maintenance.

An analysis of the returns by cities shows that on the whole increased activity was manifested by employers in Montreal, Toronto and Hamilton. On the other hand, in Ottawa, Winnipeg and Vancouver the tendency was downward. In Montreal, the largest additions to staffs were registered in shipping and stevedoring, representing an effort to clear up the harbour before the close of navigation. Car shops were decidedly busier and retail shops reported larger payrolls. The stores in Toronto and Hamilton also recorded increases in personnel while the iron and steel industries indicated a more favourable situation in both centres. Considerable curtailment of sawmilling operations was shown in Ottawa. In Winnipeg construction was slacker but retail trade was much brisker. The decline in Vancouver was of a general character.

Fluctuations in different groups in the manufacturing division resulted in a small net increase in employment. Car building and repairing establishments were considerably more active and increased employment was indicated in rolling mills and steel furnaces. The leather industry showed further improvement. On the other hand, sawmills recorded continued and marked reductions in staff; fish and vegetable canning, rubber, pulp, paper and garment factories were slacker. Seasonal expansion was again evident in the logging industry and in retail trade, while water transportation afforded considerably more employment than in the preceding month.

The heaviest declines registered were those in the construction and transportation divisions, nearly 13,000 men having been released by the concerns making returns in the former industry. Employment in coal mining, moreover, was in lesser volume and wholesalers reported smaller payrolls.

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Note: Base period, January 17, 1920 = 100.

Relative weight represents the proportion of employees in the indicated district or industry to the employees reported in all districts and industries for the period reviewed.

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TABLE I.

INDEX NUMBERS OF EMPLOYMENT IN CANADA BY MONTHS, 1922 and 1921.

	1922	1921
January 1.....	77.9	87.7
February 1.....	78.9	90.1
March 1.....	81.9	83.0
April 1.....	80.6	84.1
May 1.....	83.3	84.1
June 1.....	89.2	86.6
July 1.....	91.1	87.5
August 1.....	93.1	88.9
September 1.....	93.7	88.7
October 1.....	94.6	90.2
November 1.....	95.8	90.2
December 1.....	95.2	87.2

TABLE II.

INDEX NUMBERS OF EMPLOYMENT BY PROVINCES.

District	Relative Weight	Nov 1, 1922	Dec. 1, 1922	Dec. 1, 1921.
Maritime Provinces	8.6	91.7	92.1	89.5
Quebec and Ontario	69.4	94.0	94.2	85.1
Prairie Provinces	14.0	105.0	101.5	95.6
British Columbia	8.0	100.2	95.6	88.9
CANADA	100	95.8	95.2	87.2

TABLE III.

INDEX NUMBERS OF EMPLOYMENT BY CITIES.

City	Relative Weight	Nov. 1, 1922	Dec. 1, 1922.
Montreal	13.9	92.6	94.7
Toronto	14.1	92.2	92.9
Ottawa	1.5	100.6	93.6
Hamilton	3.5	88.4	88.2
Winnipeg	3.7	99.5	97.8
Vancouver	2.6	94.9	90.7

TABLE IV.

INDEX NUMBERS OF EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRIES.

Industry	Relative Weight	Nov. 1, 1922	Dec. 1, 1922	Dec. 1, 1921.
Manufacturing	55.5	87.7	87.7	79.3
Logging	4.0	66.0	84.7	61.2
Mining	6.0	104.5	102.8	98.0
Communication	2.7	102.2	101.5	103.3
Transportation	14.8	114.7	115.3	106.9
Construction & Maintenance	8.0	153.2	122.6	113.2
Services	1.5	96.6	95.8	93.4
Trade	7.5	93.8	97.0	96.3
ALL INDUSTRIES	100	95.8	95.2	87.2

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