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THE
NOVEMBER
EMPLOYMENT SITUATION
1923

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OTTAWA

1923

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DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
GENERAL STATISTICS BRANCH
OTTAWA, CANADA

Issued Nov. 21, 1923.

THE NOVEMBER EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

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The trend of employment at the beginning of November was again slightly downward, largely on account of continued seasonal curtailment in construction, saw mills and canneries. According to employment returns tabulated by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, there were contractions affecting over 7,500 persons, and causing the index number to decline from 99.5 on October 1 to 98.8 on November 1. At the commencement of November, 1922, when employment had shown a slightly upward movement, this index had stood at 95.8 and in 1921 it was 90.2. The curve in the accompanying chart reflects the slightly downward tendency that employment has evidenced during the last three months, although it may be seen that the situation continues to be more favourable than at the same period in the past two years.

Statements were received from 5,890 employers with an aggregate working force of 812,201 persons as compared with 819,831 on October 1. The construction industries continued to release large numbers of workers and manufacturing, as a whole, afforded less employment. On the other hand, considerable seasonal expansion was reported in logging, and water transportation absorbed a large number of additional workers.

All provinces shared to some extent in the downward movement; the declines in Quebec and the Prairie Provinces were the largest, while those in Ontario were nominal. In the Maritime District the greatest contractions were indicated in saw mills, on highway and railway construction and in coal mining. On the other hand, substantial recovery was shown in cotton factories; logging camps were decidedly busier and shipping and stevedoring also afforded more employment. In Quebec improvement in textiles, logging, shipping and stevedoring and building construction was insufficient to offset reductions in personnel in saw mills, railway and highway construction, railway transportation, asbestos mines, quarries and locomotive works. Varying tendencies in Ontario resulted in a slightly unfavourable balance of employment. Textile, automobile and some other manufactures were considerably busier than at the beginning of October, while substantial increases in activity were indicated in logging camps. On the other hand, saw mills, fruit and vegetable canneries, building, highway and railway construction suffered heavy seasonal losses, and employment in communication also showed a falling off. The most important factor contributing to the decrease in the Prairie District was the continued curtailment recorded in railway construction and maintenance; this was supplemented by losses in saw mills, railway car works, building construction and summer hotels. Coal mines, logging, transportation, biscuit and electric current factories in the Prairie Provinces reported improvement. In British Columbia logging camps, coal and metallic ore mining were busier, but saw mills, fruit canneries, building, highway and railway construction released fairly large numbers of workers.

Of the six cities for which separate tabulations are made, only one (Montreal) recorded increased employment. The declines in Toronto, Ottawa, Hamilton, Winnipeg and Vancouver, however, were rather slight. In Montreal improvement on quite a large scale was recorded in water transportation, while building construction, trade, fur, shoe, glass and cement factories also registered increases in personnel. On the other hand, sugar,

tobacco and locomotive works were slacker. Expansion in Toronto confectionery, paper, printing, garment and other textile, brass, bronze, copper and photographic appliance factories and in retail trade was slightly more than offset by contractions in agricultural implement and machine shops, in foundries, communication, transportation and construction. The largest declines in Ottawa took place in construction, in which they were fairly heavy. Cotton and knitting mills in Hamilton reported decided improvement, but iron, steel, electric current and canning factories and building contractors in the same city recorded curtailment of operations. In Winnipeg there were additions to staff in biscuit, electric current and printing houses, but employment in railway car shops and in building construction showed a downward trend. There was a falling off in employment of three percent in Vancouver, where there were general, though not particularly large, declines in many groups. Canneries, steel shipyards, shipping and stevedoring and building construction reported the most pronounced reductions.

A review of the returns by industries shows that conflicting tendencies were evidenced within the manufacturing division. The completion of the season's work in many mills caused heavy declines in the lumber group. Fruit, vegetable and fish canneries also recorded seasonal declines, while pulp, paper and rubber factories were slacker. On the other hand, fur, boot, shoe, cotton and other fabric, knitting, tobacco, electric current, automobile, machinery and photographic appliance works showed decided improvement. Logging camps absorbed over 4,600 additional workers; coal and metallic ore mines, shipping and stevedoring and retail trade reported increases in the employment afforded. Asbestos mines, quarries, communication, railway transportation, all branches of construction, summer hotels and wholesale trade showed considerable curtailment. With very few exceptions, employment in these industries was on a higher level than at the beginning of November, 1922, and without exception, conditions were more favourable than at the same period of 1921.

The tables on page 3 show the index numbers of employment by districts and by main industrial groups.

Note: The number employed on January 17, 1920, is taken as 100 in every case.

The "relative weight" shows the proportion of employees in the indicated district or industry to the total number of employees reported in all districts and industries for the period under review.

TABLE I - Index Numbers of Employment in Canada by Months.

	<u>1923</u>	<u>1922</u>	<u>1921</u>
January 1	86.3	77.9	87.7
February 1	89.5	78.9	90.1
March 1	89.9	81.9	88.0
April 1	87.6	80.6	84.1
May 1	91.4	83.3	84.1
June 1	97.3	89.2	86.6
July 1	99.5	91.1	87.5
August 1	100.2	93.1	88.9
September 1	100.0	93.7	88.7
October 1	99.5	94.6	90.2
November 1	98.8	95.8	90.2
December 1		95.1	87.2

TABLE II - Index Numbers of Employment by Provinces.

<u>District</u>	<u>Relative weight</u>	<u>Nov.1 1923</u>	<u>Oct.1 1923</u>	<u>Nov.1 1922</u>	<u>Nov.1 1921</u>
Maritime Provinces	8.8	95.2	97.0	91.7	91.4
Quebec	28.0	103.2	104.0	92.7	87.5
Ontario	41.8	96.0	96.0	94.9	87.0
Prairie Provinces	13.0	99.2	100.7	105.0	102.6
British Columbia	8.4	102.8	104.2	100.2	94.3
CANADA.....	100.	98.8	99.5	95.8	90.2

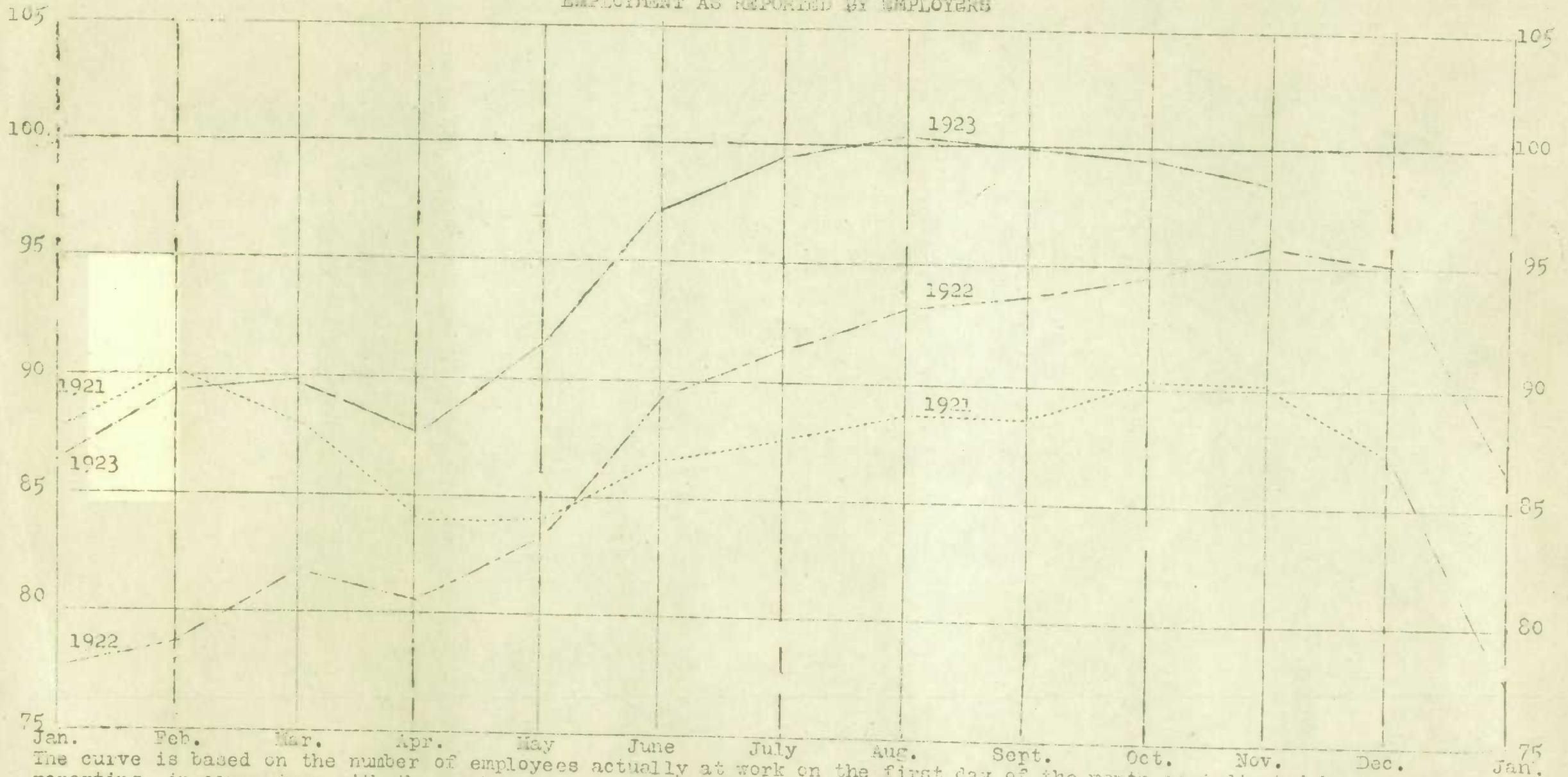
TABLE III- Index Numbers of Employment by Cities.

<u>City</u>	<u>Relative weight</u>	<u>Nov.1 1923</u>	<u>Oct.1 1923</u>	<u>Nov.1 1922</u>
Montreal	14.0	99.1	98.7	92.6
Toronto	12.1	89.9	90.1	92.2
Ottawa	1.4	103.8	105.5	100.6
Hamilton	3.4	89.7	91.1	88.4
Winnipeg	3.1	88.6	89.4	99.5
Vancouver	2.6	98.6	101.6	94.9

TABLE IV - Index Numbers of Employment by Industries.

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Relative weight</u>	<u>Nov.1 1923</u>	<u>Oct.1 1923</u>	<u>Nov.1 1922</u>	<u>Nov.1 1921</u>
Manufacturing	55.3	91.2	91.8	87.7	81.1
Lumber Products	6.5	106.2	116.4	100.5	87.6
Pulp and Paper	6.5	103.9	104.7	99.6	89.4
Textile Products	8.8	89.8	86.9	91.8	86.2
Iron and Steel	15.5	81.8	81.3	74.3	69.7
Other manufacturing industries	18.0	92.1	92.5	90.9	85.7
Logging	2.9	62.6	51.7	66.0	59.7
Mining	6.0	105.4	104.9	104.5	98.1
Communication	2.7	105.3	106.6	102.2	104.5
Transportation	14.5	116.8	116.2	114.7	110.5
Construction and maintenance....	10.1	159.3	171.8	153.2	139.3
Services	1.7	108.5	113.7	96.6	96.0
Trade	6.8	93.1	93.2	93.8	93.0
ALL INDUSTRIES.....	100.	98.8	99.5	95.8	90.2

EMPLOYMENT AS REPORTED BY EMPLOYERS



The curve is based on the number of employees actually at work on the first day of the month as indicated by the firms reporting, in comparison with the number of employees they reported in January, 1920.

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