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THE
DECEMBER
EMPLOYMENT SITUATION
1923

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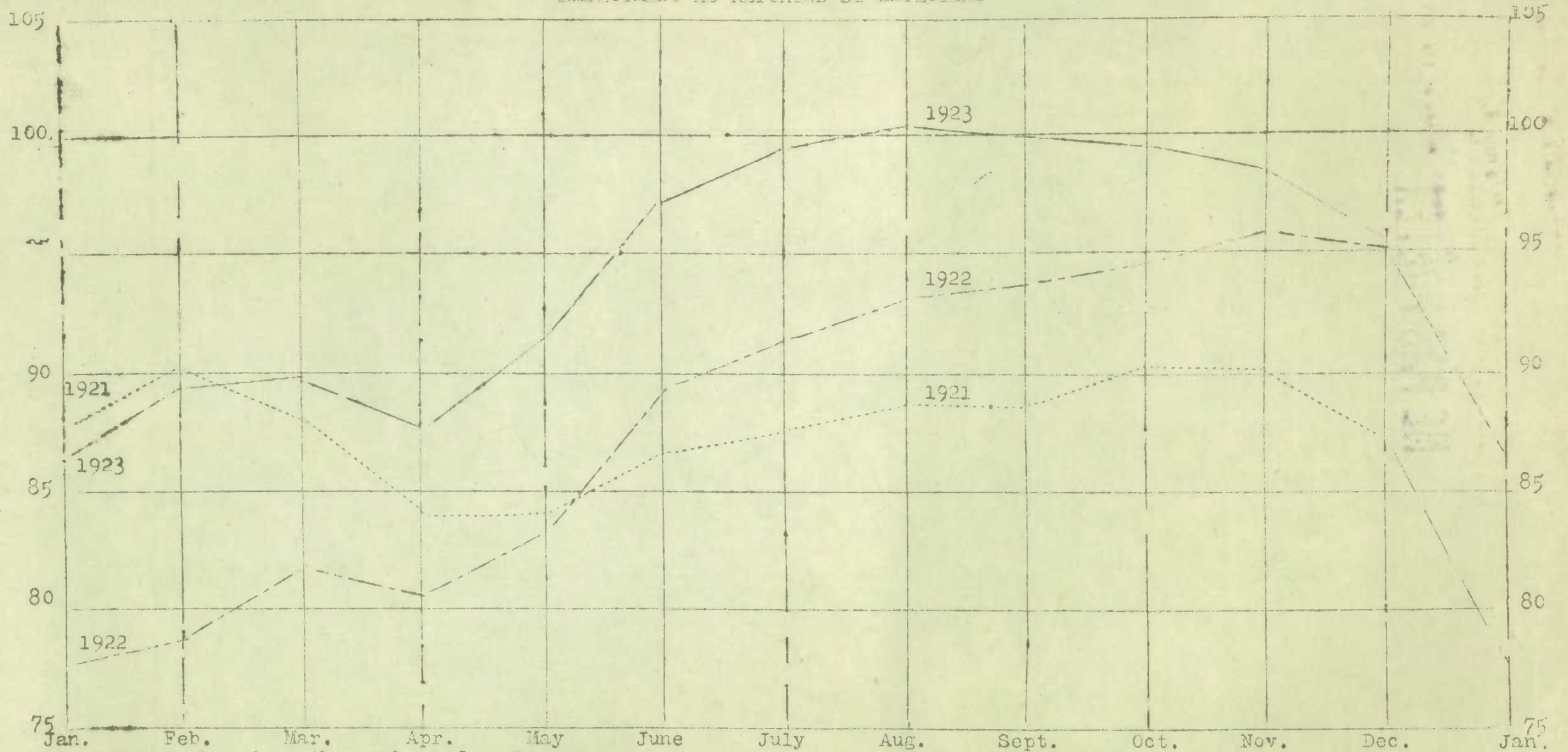
Minister of Trade and Commerce.

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OTTAWA

1923

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.

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
GENERAL STATISTICS BRANCH
OTTAWA, CANADA.

Issued December 21, 1923.

THE DECEMBER EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

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Further contractions in employment were reported to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics by employers of labour at the beginning of December. These losses, which involved the release of approximately 25,000 persons, caused the index number to decline from 98.8 on November 1 to 95.7 at the commencement of the present month. The downward movement repeats that indicated at the beginning of December, 1922 and 1921, although the shrinkage then was less than for the period under review. Employment during the greater part of the year, as may be seen in the accompanying chart, has shown a favourable tendency; the index number, therefore, is slightly higher than on December 1, 1922 and 1921, when it stood at 95.1 and 87.2, respectively.

The working forces of the 5,828 employers making returns aggregated 787,666 persons, whereas on November 1 these firms had 812,664 persons working for them. The losses in construction continued to be very heavy; these were supplemented by large declines in shipping and stevedoring, in saw mills and in the iron and steel industries. These reductions were to some extent offset by seasonal gains in logging camps (to which almost 7,900 persons were despatched by the reporting firms) and in retail stores.

The volume of employment in all provinces was smaller than at the beginning of November. The greatest decrease, of over 10,000 persons or 4.6 per cent, was recorded in Quebec, while in the Prairie Provinces the employers reporting released only about 200 workers or .2 per cent of their payrolls. Manufacturing and construction showed the largest losses in all districts, although the declines in water transportation in Quebec were very severe, owing to the closing of the summer ports. Shipping and stevedoring in the Eastern Provinces, on the other hand, reported considerable improvement in preparation for the winter's work, and coal mining in the same district recorded improvement. Logging and trade everywhere were decidedly more active.

An analysis of the returns by cities shows that the situation in Toronto was more satisfactory than at the beginning of November, while in Montreal, Ottawa, Hamilton, Winnipeg and Vancouver the tendency was downward. In Toronto the net additions to staff were small. Decided expansion in retail trade and gains on a somewhat smaller scale in abattoirs, on telephones and street railways were largely offset by contractions in knitting mills and other textile factories, in iron and steel and construction. In Montreal the heaviest shrinkage occurred in shipping and stevedoring and was seasonal in character. The railway car plants also released a large number of workers and garment and other textile, glass, jewellery, brass, bronze and copper works and construction were slacker. On the other hand, boot, shoe and electrical apparatus factories and trade showed decided increases in Montreal. The most pronounced change in Ottawa was a large decline in sawmilling operations, while the construction industries also registered reduced employment. Rolling mills, railway car, agricultural implement and electrical apparatus plants in Hamilton reported smaller working forces than at the beginning of November; the contractions in those industries were partly offset by increases in knitting mills. Retail trade

in Winnipeg absorbed a great many extra persons, but construction and manufacturing showed curtailment. In Vancouver increased activity was recorded in shipping and stevedoring; electric current, street railways and construction, however, afforded less employment.

Within the manufacturing industries, from which some 14,000 persons were released, the largest losses occurred in sawmills, in railway car shops and some other branches of the iron and steel division. Pulp, paper, garment, clay, stone, electric current, non-ferrous metal and mineral product factories also reported lessened activity. The favourable movement indicated in boot and shoe works in the last report continued at the beginning of December and considerable improvement was also shown in rubber and electrical apparatus works. Although logging operations in some parts of the country were retarded by lack of snow, there was nevertheless an increase of 33 per cent in the employment afforded in such work. Trade also showed improvement; retail stores, in particular, indicated greatly increased employment in anticipation of the holiday trade. Water transportation, in spite of improvement in the Maritime Provinces and British Columbia, was decidedly slower on the whole, owing to the closing of the summer ports. The seasonal losses in construction noted in the last few reports continued during the present month. Hotels and restaurants also recorded smaller working forces.

Index numbers of employment by districts and by principal industrial groups are given in the table on page 3.

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	80.8	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	92.5	94.6	90.2
November 1	98.8	95.8	90.2
December 1	95.7	95.1	87.2

TABLE II - Index Numbers of Employment by Provinces.

<u>District</u>	<u>Relative Weight</u>	<u>Dec.1 1923</u>	<u>Nov.1 1923</u>	<u>Dec.1 1922</u>	<u>Dec.1 1921</u>
Maritime Provinces	8.7	91.2	95.2	92.1	89.5
Quebec	27.6	98.5	103.2	93.9	83.7
Ontario	42.0	93.4	96.0	94.4	85.9
Prairie Provinces	13.4	99.3	99.2	101.5	95.6
British Columbia	8.3	97.8	102.8	95.6	88.9
CANADA.....	100.	95.7	98.3	95.1	87.2

TABLE III - Index Numbers of Employment by Cities.

<u>City</u>	<u>Relative Weight</u>	<u>Dec.1 1923</u>	<u>Nov.1 1923</u>	<u>Dec.1 1922</u>
Montreal	13.8	93.6	99.1	94.7
Toronto	12.5	90.2	89.9	92.9
Ottawa	1.3	94.3	103.8	98.6
Hamilton	3.4	88.5	89.7	88.2
Winnipeg	3.1	88.2	85.6	97.8
Vancouver	2.7	98.1	98.6	90.7

TABLE IV - Index Numbers of Employment by Industries.

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Relative Weight</u>	<u>Dec.1 1923</u>	<u>Nov.1 1923</u>	<u>Dec.1 1922</u>	<u>Dec.1 1921</u>
Manufacturing	55.3	88.2	91.2	87.7	79.3
Lumber Products	5.7	88.6	106.2	90.9	76.3
Pulp and Paper	6.6	102.1	103.9	98.7	89.0
Textile Products	8.9	88.7	89.8	90.7	85.6
Iron and Steel	15.5	79.2	81.8	78.1	68.3
Other Manufacturing Industries	13.6	92.0	92.1	90.9	85.0
Logging	4.3	82.2	62.6	84.7	61.2
Mining	6.1	105.9	105.4	102.8	98.0
Communication	2.8	106.1	105.3	101.5	103.8
Transportation	14.5	113.8	116.8	115.3	106.9
Construction and maintenance ..	8.1	125.2	159.3	122.6	113.2
Services	1.6	106.2	108.5	95.8	93.4
Trade	7.3	96.8	93.1	97.0	96.3
ALL INDUSTRIES	100.	95.7	98.8	95.1	87.2

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