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Rec'd APR 10 1923

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DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

THE MARCH EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

Mar. '23

Dominion Statistician: R. H. Coats, B.A., F.S.S.
Chief, General Statistics: S. A. Cudmore, M.A., F.S.S.

The trend of employment as reflected in reports from employers of labour to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, was favourable at the beginning of March, although the movement was not pronounced. Returns were received from 6,387 firms with an aggregate working force of 743,128 persons as compared with 741,511 on February 1. The index number therefore rose slightly from 89.5 on the latter date to 89.9 for the period being surveyed. Varying conditions were indicated in different industries; manufacturing generally was decidedly more active than at the beginning of the preceding month, but contractions continued to be recorded in transportation, construction and trade. The commencement of seasonal slackness in logging camps, moreover, affected a large number of workers and coal mining showed considerable losses. Improvement of a somewhat more decided character had been reported at the same period of last year, due mainly to the resumption of operations in the railway car shops following a temporary shut down. The situation then, however, was not so good as for the period under review. Index numbers of employment by districts and industries as at March 1 and February 1, 1923, and March 1, 1922 and 1921, are given in the tables on page 2.

All districts except the Prairie Provinces shared to some extent in the expansion registered at the beginning of March, but the gains in Ontario and British Columbia were very much larger than those recorded elsewhere. The improvement in the former province was most pronounced in manufacturing, notably so in iron and steel, while in the latter, sawmilling, logging, shipping and stevedoring and building construction, in particular, were busier. Lumber mills, sugar refineries, coal mines and water transportation registered a large share of the gain in the Maritime district. The change in Quebec was insignificant. In the Prairie Provinces important curtailment of operations was indicated in the coal fields; retail trade, steam railways and iron and steel also were slacker.

The volume of employment afforded in Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa and Winnipeg showed a decline, while marked improvement was indicated in Hamilton and Vancouver. In Montreal the most noteworthy reductions occurred in retail stores, water transportation, tobacco and glass concerns. The retail trade group registered the only severe losses in Toronto, while an upward tendency was indicated by wholesalers, in iron and steel, rubber and in several other manufacturing industries. Continued decreases were reported in Ottawa stores, the declines being partly offset by gains in pulp and paper works. In Hamilton substantial improvement occurred in iron and steel and textiles, the former group especially showing greatly increased activity. Further curtailment of staff was noted in retail establishments in Winnipeg; there was general improvement in several other industries but, on the whole, the trend was downward. The largest increases in Vancouver were recorded in building and in lumber mills.

An analysis of the returns by industrial groups shows that the most important expansion within the manufacturing division was indicated in iron, steel, textiles and lumber. In addition, a favourable movement was shown in sugar, pulp, paper, printing, rubber, chemical and electrical apparatus works. Abattoirs, meatpacking and leather manufacturers, on the other hand, were slacker. Coal mining in Alberta suffered substantial curtailment but moderate improvement was indicated in Nova Scotia. The contractions in transportation and construction, although they involved the release of a large number of workers, were nevertheless much smaller than those reported in recent months. Retail stores registered further heavy reduction in payroll.

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

The relative weight represents 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		80.6	84.1
May 1		83.3	84.1
June 1		89.2	86.6
July 1		91.1	87.5
August		93.1	88.9
September 1.....		93.7	88.7
October 1.....		94.6	90.2
November 1.....		95.8	90.2
December 1		95.1	87.2

TABLE II.

Index Numbers of Employment by Provinces.

<u>District</u>	<u>Relative Weight</u>	<u>Mar.1 1923</u>	<u>Feb.1 1923</u>	<u>Mar.1 1922</u>	<u>Mar.1 1921</u>
Maritime Provinces	9.1	90.7	93.3	80.7	90.7
Quebec and Ontario	69.8	89.7	89.1	81.3	87.1
Prairie Provinces	13.0	88.9	91.6	84.4	91.0
British Columbia	8.1	92.0	88.4	85.3	87.3
CANADA	100	89.9	89.5	81.9	88.0

TABLE III.

Index Numbers of Employment by Cities.

<u>City</u>	<u>Relative Weight</u>	<u>Mar.1 1923</u>	<u>Feb.1 1923</u>	<u>Mar.1 1922</u>
Montreal	13.3	85.9	86.2	80.5
Toronto	12.9	85.7	88.5	81.9
Ottawa	1.5	92.2	95.7	
Hamilton	3.6	89.2	86.0	
Winnipeg	3.4	86.4	89.0	82.6
Vancouver	2.7	90.4	85.8	91.1

TABLE IV.

Index Numbers of Employment by Industries.

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Relative Weight</u>	<u>Mar.1 1923</u>	<u>Feb.1 1923</u>	<u>Mar.1 1922</u>	<u>Mar.1 1921</u>
Manufacturing	58.4	87.5	85.0	78.1	84.6
Logging	4.4	88.8	95.1	54.8	81.8
Mining	6.2	98.6	101.3	90.3	92.8
Communication	2.7	97.4	96.5	97.5	104.1
Transportation	13.6	99.8	101.5	97.1	95.8
Construction & Maintenance	5.8	83.8	86.0	83.7	89.2
Services	1.6	93.4	92.4	93.0	96.3
Trade	7.3	88.9	93.7	88.2	92.0
ALL INDUSTRIES	100	89.9	89.5	81.9	88.0



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