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DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

OTTAWA, CANADA.

THE APRIL EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

Apr. 23

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Employment as indicated in reports made to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics by employers of labour showed a fairly large reduction at the beginning of April, representing chiefly the merely temporary cessation of work over the Easter holidays, supplementing seasonal losses in logging. The lateness of the spring also had an unfavourable influence upon the situation, delaying activity in the out-of-door industries. The contractions, which involved the release of over 20,000 persons, affected slightly more workers than did the declines recorded during the same period of 1922, but were rather less extensive than at the beginning of April, 1921. Speedy recovery was recorded in those two years and it is anticipated that the next reports will show the favourable movement to have been resumed early this April. Statements were tabulated from 5,705 firms with a combined payroll of 736,377 persons of whom 718,524 were actually working during the period under review as compared with 738,877 workers at the beginning of March. This decrease in working force caused the index number to decline from 89.9 on March 1 to 87.6 on April 1 as compared with 80.6 and 84.1 at the beginning of April, 1922 and 1921 respectively. The tables on page 2 give the index numbers of employment by districts and industrial divisions.

The trend of employment in all provinces except British Columbia was downward. The largest declines were recorded in Ontario, but the losses in Quebec and the Prairie Provinces were also pronounced. Curtailment of operations in the railway car shops and in other manufacturing works over the holidays caused a large part of the shrinkage, and the contractions in logging affected very many workers, especially in Ontario. In British Columbia, on the other hand, logging camps were considerably more active; metallic ore mining and transportation also afforded increased employment.

A review of the returns by cities shows that firms in Toronto increased their staffs moderately, while in Montreal, Ottawa, Hamilton, Winnipeg and Vancouver the tendency was downward, although the losses were not pronounced. In Toronto improvement was recorded in retail trade, in iron and steel and in various other manufacturing industries. Biscuit and musical instrument factories and printing and publishing, on the other hand, were slacker. The most important factor influencing the situation in Montreal was the closing of the locomotive shops over the holidays. In Ottawa, the changes were slight, a small decline in pulp and paper concerns causing practically all the loss. Textile and tobacco manufacturers reported the bulk of the shrinkage in Hamilton, while the iron and steel industries there were rather busier. Moderate declines in a number of industries accounted for the reduction in Winnipeg, the largest decreases occurring in construction and local transportation. Sugar refineries, sawmills and retail stores in Vancouver were slacker.

The heaviest losses in the manufacturing division took place in iron and steel, chiefly in the railway car shops, which, however, were scheduled to re-open early in the month with consequent re-instatement of the employees laid off. The textile industries, as a whole, were slacker and the production of edible plant products showed considerable curtailment. On the other hand, sawmills reported substantial increases in personnel, and glass, brick and electrical apparatus factories were busier. As mentioned above, very severe reductions were registered in logging camps in all provinces except British Columbia and activity in coal mines continued to decline. Metallic ore mines, however, employed larger working forces. The commencement of spring-time operations caused moderate improvement in transportation and construction, while the service, trade and communication divisions also showed increased activity.

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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.

	1923.	1922.	1921.
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 .....		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 .....		95.1	87.2

TABLE II - Index Numbers of Employment by Provinces.

District	Relative Weight	Apr. 1 1923.	Mar. 1 1923.	Apr. 1 1922.	Apr. 1 1921.
Maritime Provinces.....	9.4	90.5	90.7	80.6	87.2
Quebec and Ontario .....	69.9	87.3	89.7	79.7	82.3
Prairie Provinces.....	12.3	83.5	88.9	82.1	88.7
British Columbia .....	8.4	92.8	92.0	85.9	88.1
CANADA .....	100	87.6	89.9	80.6	84.1

TABLE III - Index Numbers of Employment by Cities.

City	Relative Weight	Apr. 1 1923.	Mar. 1 1923.	Apr. 1 1922.
Montreal.....	13.3	83.3	85.9	76.0
Toronto .....	13.5	86.7	85.7	82.7
Ottawa .....	1.3	90.6	92.2	
Hamilton .....	3.7	88.4	89.2	
Winnipeg .....	3.4	85.7	86.4	83.6
Vancouver .....	2.3	86.9	90.4	87.8

TABLE IV - Index Numbers of Employment by Industries.

Industry	Relative Weight	Apr. 1 1923.	Mar. 1 1923.	Apr. 1 1922.	Apr. 1 1921.
Manufacturing .....	58.8	85.6	87.5	78.0	80.7
Lumber Products .....	6.0	88.3	85.8	76.2	74.3
Pulp and Paper .....	7.0	97.4	97.7	90.1	91.6
Textile Products .....	10.0	91.1	92.0	90.3	79.8
Iron and Steel .....	16.6	77.2	82.5	64.9	78.2
Other manufacturing industries.....	19.2	86.5	87.2	81.3	82.3
Logging .....	3.0	57.8	88.8	27.2	44.5
Mining .....	6.2	97.0	98.6	88.9	88.0
Communication .....	2.8	98.0	97.4	98.2	101.8
Transportation .....	14.1	100.2	99.8	96.8	95.5
Construction and Maintenance	6.1	85.2	83.8	81.4	86.7
Services .....	1.6	94.9	93.4	94.6	97.8
Trade .....	7.4	90.2	88.9	88.6	92.5
ALL INDUSTRIES .....	100	87.6	89.9	80.6	84.1

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