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RE PAS PRÊTER

THE MAY EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

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The volume of employment at the beginning of May as anticipated in the last report showed a substantial increase, approximately 32,000 persons having been added to the staffs of the 5,820 firms making employment returns to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Their payrolls aggregated 752,037 workers as compared with 720,270 on April 1; the index number reflecting this gain rose from 87.6 at that time to 91.4 on May 1, while at the beginning of May, 1922, it had stood at 83.3 and in May, 1921, at 84.1. The increases during the period under review, which greatly exceeded those reported during the corresponding period of the two preceding years, were mainly due to a revival of activity in manufacturing and also in construction and other outside industries.

Firms in all provinces except the Maritimes increased their staffs considerably. The gains in Ontario and Quebec, which provided work for over 22,000 persons, were the most extensive, but the percentage gains in the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia were also large. The expansion in these districts was of a general character, though it was especially heavy in manufacturing; the only marked decline in the Central and Prairie Provinces occurred in logging, and was a seasonal movement. The contraction in the Maritime district was slight, increased activity in manufacturing being largely offset by losses due to the closing of the winter ports and in coal mining and logging.

Marked improvement was reported in five of the six cities for which separate tabulations are made, firms in Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton, Ottawa and Vancouver reporting additions to staffs, while in Winnipeg the change was very slightly unfavourable. Manufacturing in Montreal was considerably more active; the resumption of activity in locomotive shops caused the reinstatement of many workers. The construction, transportation, trade and communication divisions also employed larger working forces. In Toronto there was substantial recovery in biscuit factories and the employment afforded in meat-packing, iron, steel, printing, gas and other plants also increased. On the other hand, garment factories were decidedly slacker. Street railways were busier in that city and building contractors reported larger payrolls. Rather small increases in a number of industries accounted for the gain in Ottawa; lumber and paper mills registered improvement and construction and transportation also absorbed more men. In Hamilton, garment, hosiery, knitting, cotton, sheet metal, railway car and other iron and steel, tobacco and construction firms reported considerably increased activity. Sugar refineries, lumber mills and building contractors recorded the bulk of the expansion in Vancouver. In Winnipeg, printing and publishing houses were not as busy and the street railways also afforded less employment.

An analysis of the returns by industrial groups shows increased activity in all manufacturing industries except leather, in which the employment afforded in boot, shoe, tanning and <sup>currying</sup> factories declined by 4 per cent. The most pronounced expansion was registered in iron and steel, representing chiefly the reopening of the railway car shops after brief shutdowns over Easter. Improvement was also recorded in automobile and general machinery works, and in rolling mills. Textile manufacturers, excluding garment makers, were considerably busier, especially so in thread, yarn, cloth and knitting mills. Large additions to staffs were reported by pulp and paper works; seasonal activity was also indicated in fish canning, smoking and curing establishments and in dairies and meat-packing houses. In addition expansion was reported in biscuit, canning, sugar, starch, brick, glass, stone, gas, coke, tobacco, chemical, electric current and electrical appliance plants. The construction, transportation, trade and communication industries were busier, the improvement in the first named being particularly noteworthy. Further heavy seasonal losses were indicated in logging camps in every province except British Columbia, where large additions to staffs were recorded. Coal mining in both eastern and western coal fields afforded considerably less employment, indicating seasonal curtailment of operations.

The index numbers of employment by districts and industrial divisions are given on page 2.

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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.

	<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 .....		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.

<u>District</u>	<u>Relative Weight</u>	<u>May 1 1923.</u>	<u>April 1 1923</u>	<u>May 1 1922</u>	<u>May 1 1921</u>
Maritime Provinces .....	8.9	90.0	90.5	83.0	87.5
Quebec and Ontario .....	69.8	91.1	87.3	82.0	82.6
Prairie Provinces .....	12.8	90.4	83.5	85.4	86.6
British Columbia .....	8.5	97.5	92.8	91.3	90.1
CANADA .....	100	91.4	87.6	83.3	84.1

TABLE III - Index Numbers of Employment by Cities.

<u>City</u>	<u>Relative Weight</u>	<u>May 1 1923</u>	<u>April 1 1923</u>	<u>May 1 1922</u>
Montreal .....	13.5	88.8	83.3	82.1
Toronto .....	13.1	88.1	86.7	84.9
Ottawa .....	1.3	94.8	90.6	
Hamilton .....	3.7	92.6	88.4	
Winnipeg .....	3.3	86.3	85.7	88.6
Vancouver .....	2.6	91.8	86.9	95.4

TABLE IV - Index Numbers of Employment by Industries.

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Relative Weight</u>	<u>May 1 1923</u>	<u>April 1 1923</u>	<u>May 1 1922</u>	<u>May 1 1921</u>
Manufacturing .....	59.5	90.5	85.6	79.0	80.2
Lumber Products .....	6.3	95.5	88.3	88.9	86.6
Pulp and Paper .....	6.9	101.1	97.4	93.6	94.8
Textile Products .....	9.7	92.5	91.1	88.9	81.1
Iron and Steel .....	17.6	85.4	77.2	62.5	72.2
Other manufacturing industries	19.0	89.6	86.5	82.7	82.1
Logging .....	2.4	48.0	57.8	37.0	49.9
Mining .....	5.9	96.7	97.0	90.2	86.9
Communication .....	2.7	99.7	98.0	100.4	103.1
Transportation .....	13.7	101.7	100.2	98.7	94.0
Construction and Maintenance .....	6.9	101.6	85.2	101.1	92.7
Services .....	1.6	97.1	94.9	95.6	98.3
Trade .....	7.3	91.7	90.2	90.1	94.2
ALL INDUSTRIES .....	100	91.4	87.6	83.3	84.1

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