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THE JULY EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

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The trend of employment at the beginning of July, as shown in reports furnished the Dominion Bureau of Statistics by employers of labour, continued upward, chiefly on account of further seasonal activity in construction and transportation. This movement repeats that indicated during the same period of last year and of 1921, although the improvement this year is more decided. According to reports from 5,765 firms with an aggregate payroll of 815,128 persons, there was an increase of practically 2 per cent in the employment afforded, the index number rising from 97.3 on June 1 to 99.5 at the beginning of July, while at the same time in 1922 it had stood at 91.1 and 87.5, respectively.

Increased activity was reported in all provinces; the additions to staffs in the Maritime and Prairie Provinces were the most extensive, those in Quebec and British Columbia were fairly large, while in Ontario the improvement was slight. Employment in saw and lumber mills everywhere increased notably, offsetting to a large extent reductions, due to seasonal slackness, in other branches of the manufacturing divisions. The construction and transportation industries, however, absorbed the bulk of the additionally employed workers in all provinces.

Employment in Montreal, Ottawa, Winnipeg and Vancouver increased, while in Toronto and Hamilton curtailment was indicated. The largest increases in Montreal occurred in construction; moderate improvement was recorded in leather, tobacco and glass factories, but the gains in those manufactures were not sufficient to counterbalance losses in garment, cotton, railway car, paper box and printing plants. In Toronto general slackness in manufacturing affected the situation and the construction industries showed very little change. Pulp and paper mills in Ottawa reported contractions, but the losses were not large enough to offset increases in construction and in trade. Seasonal dullness in cotton and other textile mills in Hamilton accounted for most of the rather large reduction reported in that city. The changes in Winnipeg were slight, there being general improvement in a number of industries, notably in brick and structural iron factories. Sugar refining, street railway and shipping and stevedoring work caused the bulk of the expansion in Vancouver, although there were smaller increases in a number of groups.

Varying conditions within the manufacturing industries resulted in a small net increase; further marked expansion was indicated in sawmills, and fruit, vegetable and fish canneries, biscuit, sugar, paper, tobacco, brick, electric current and petroleum factories were a good deal busier. On the other hand, textile, iron and steel, rubber, chemical and musical instrument works were slacker, the reductions in payroll being due in some cases to temporary shutdowns for holidays and in others to seasonal inactivity. Considerable curtailment was indicated in logging and minor declines were recorded in the shipping and stevedoring group. The construction industries reported marked expansion, nearly 13,000 persons having been added to the staffs of the firms making returns. Steam railways registered substantial improvement, mainly in the Prairie Provinces and in Quebec. The service, trade and communication groups showed moderate improvement, while in mining there was no change on the whole, declines in the coal fields being offset by increases in metallic ore and in non-metallic mineral mining.

The tables on page 2 show the index numbers of employment by districts and industrial divisions. The chart on page 3 shows graphically the course of employment since the beginning of 1921. It will be seen that the curve has already attained a point some 4 points higher than the highest position indicated last year, although the 1922 peak was not reached until the beginning of November. It may be expected that the curve, parelleling its last year's course, will continue to rise during the next few months.

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	91.4	83.3	84.1
June 1	97.3	89.2	86.6
July 1	99.5	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	July 1 1923	June 1 1923	July 1 1922	July 1 1921
Maritime Provinces	9.2	101.0	93.9	92.6	89.0
Quebec	27.3	100.5	99.1	88.0	87.2
Ontario	42.2	97.2	96.8	89.2	84.2
Prairie Provinces	13.2	101.4	95.5	99.7	94.7
British Columbia	8.1	103.9	100.4	99.2	92.6
CANADA	100	99.5	97.3	91.1	87.5

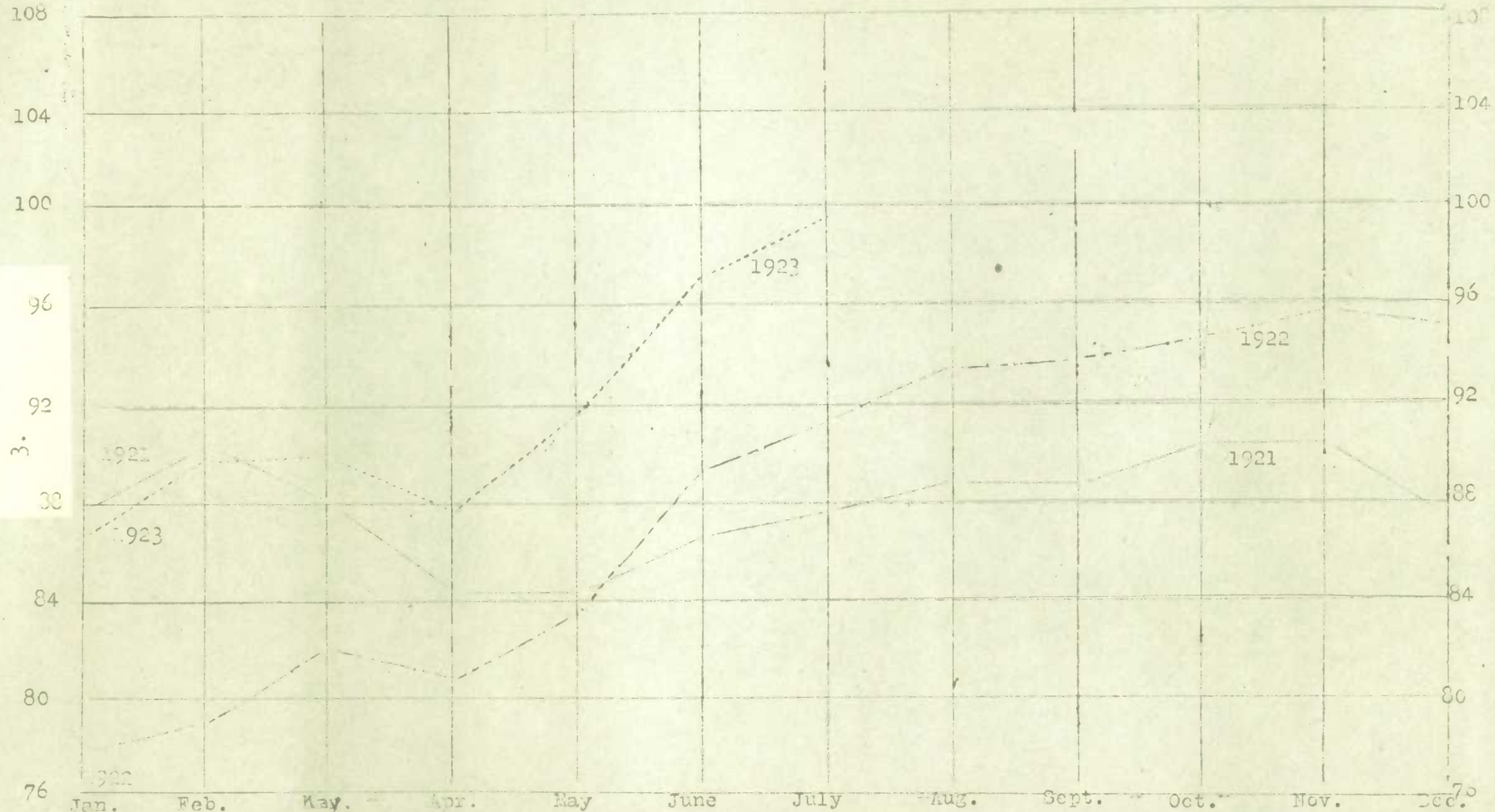
TABLE III- Index Numbers of Employment by Cities.

City	Relative Weight	July 1 1923	June 1 1923	July 1 1922
Montreal	13.6	95.9	95.4	88.2
Toronto	12.0	89.5	89.9	88.4
Ottawa	1.4	110.2	109.6	
Hamilton	3.4	91.4	94.6	
Winnipeg	3.1	87.7	87.1	92.8
Vancouver	2.6	100.3	94.7	97.4

TABLE IV - Index Numbers of Employment by Industries.

Industry	Relative Weight	July 1 1923	June 1 1923	July 1 1922	July 1 1921
Manufacturing	56.6	93.6	93.5	84.2	80.9
Lumber Products	7.4	121.0	112.4	113.3	99.3
Pulp and Paper	6.6	104.9	104.4	97.3	90.9
Textile Products	8.6	87.3	90.6	88.0	80.1
Iron and Steel	16.1	85.0	86.7	65.6	70.1
Other manufacturing industries	18.	93.0	92.2	87.9	84.9
Logging	2.2	48.4	52.5	31.4	35.4
Mining	5.7	101.6	101.6	94.4	92.2
Communication	2.6	103.4	102.2	100.6	107.4
Transportation	13.9	112.2	109.0	109.2	99.6
Construction and maintenance	10.6	169.1	140.2	157.4	126.7
Services	1.7	115.1	108.8	104.4	108.0
Trade	6.7	92.3	91.9	90.7	92.7
ALL INDUSTRIES	100	99.5	97.3	91.1	87.5

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.