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THE AUGUST EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

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There was a further small increase in the volume of employment as reported by employers of labour to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics at the beginning of August, when the index number for the first time since December, 1920, rose slightly above 100. That the situation is now more favourable than in any of the intervening months is due to the upward movement experienced during practically the whole of 1923 and to the greater part of 1922, which represented a reaction from the depression recorded during 1921 and the last six months of 1920. Statements for the beginning of August were compiled from 5,862 firms employing 823,605 persons as compared with a total payroll of 818,535 in the month before. Reflecting this small increase, the index number rose from 99.5 on July 1 to 100.2 on August 1, as compared with 93.1 and 88.9 on August 1, 1922 and 1921, respectively. The increase was largely confined to the construction, transportation, communication and service groups, and was seasonal in character; manufacturing as a whole showed a slightly downward tendency, partly on account of inventories and holidays, while trade and logging were also less active.

Quebec, the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia recorded improvement, but in the Maritime Provinces and Ontario the tendency was downward. The sawmill, iron, steel and construction industries registered the bulk of the expansion in Quebec. Increased activity in coal mining, transportation and construction accounted for the improvement in the Prairie district, while in British Columbia there were general gains in manufacturing, mining, transportation and construction. Reduced employment in rolling and forging mills in Nova Scotia, partly reflecting unsettled conditions following the recent strike, caused a large share of the decline in the Maritime Provinces; these losses, moreover, were supplemented by curtailment in coal mining, logging and fish canning. On the other hand, construction, particularly on highways, was very much more active. In Ontario, additions to staff in fruit and vegetable canneries and in construction were counteracted by shrinkage in rubber, automobile and some other branches of the manufacturing industry, in logging, transportation and trade.

An analysis of the returns by cities shows that conditions in Montreal, Hamilton, Winnipeg and Vancouver were considerably better than at the beginning of July, while in Toronto and Ottawa reductions in payroll were indicated. The railway car shops absorbed many of the additionally employed workers in Montreal, and construction was also more active. These gains, however, were partly offset by decreases in rubber, water transportation and retail trade. Textiles and other branches of the manufacturing industries in Toronto were less fully engaged and retail stores were slacker, but, on the other hand, building and electric railways afforded more employment. In Ottawa, the changes were slight, the losses in trade being the most extensive. The resumption of activity in textile works in Hamilton, together with increased operations in building construction, accounted for the revival in that city. In Winnipeg, small additions to staffs were reported in a number of industries, more particularly in construction. Shipping and stevedoring, sawmills and trade absorbed the majority of the extra workers in Vancouver.

Employment in the manufacturing industries on the whole was less active than at the beginning of July in spite of continued seasonal gains in sawmills, in electric current plants and in fruit and vegetable canneries. Rubber, leather, textile, iron and steel factories and fish canneries were not quite as busy. Further curtailment was indicated in logging camps; coal mining and trade afforded less employment, but further seasonal improvement was indicated in construction, transportation, communication, mining of metallic ores and in hotels and restaurants.

The tables on page 3 show the index numbers of employment by districts and industrial divisions, while the chart on page 4 illustrates graphically the course of employment since the beginning of 1921. The substantial improvement that has recently been recorded in comparison with the same period of the last two years may be plainly seen. It may be expected that the present position of the curve will be maintained or slightly improved during the next few months, though it is not likely that the index number in the present year will reach a point much above the 100 line.

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	97.3	89.2	86.6
July 1	99.5	91.1	87.5
August 1	100.2	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>Aug. 1 1923</u>	<u>July 1 1923</u>	<u>Aug. 1 1922</u>	<u>Aug. 1 1921</u>
Maritime Provinces.....	8.9	97.8	101.0	94.0	91.2
Quebec	27.3	101.9	100.5	90.3	87.8
Ontario	41.8	97.1	97.2	90.8	85.0
Prairie Provinces.....	13.5	104.3	101.4	101.5	97.5
British Columbia.....	8.5	107.2	103.9	99.8	96.3
CANADA.....	100.	100.2	99.5	93.1	88.9

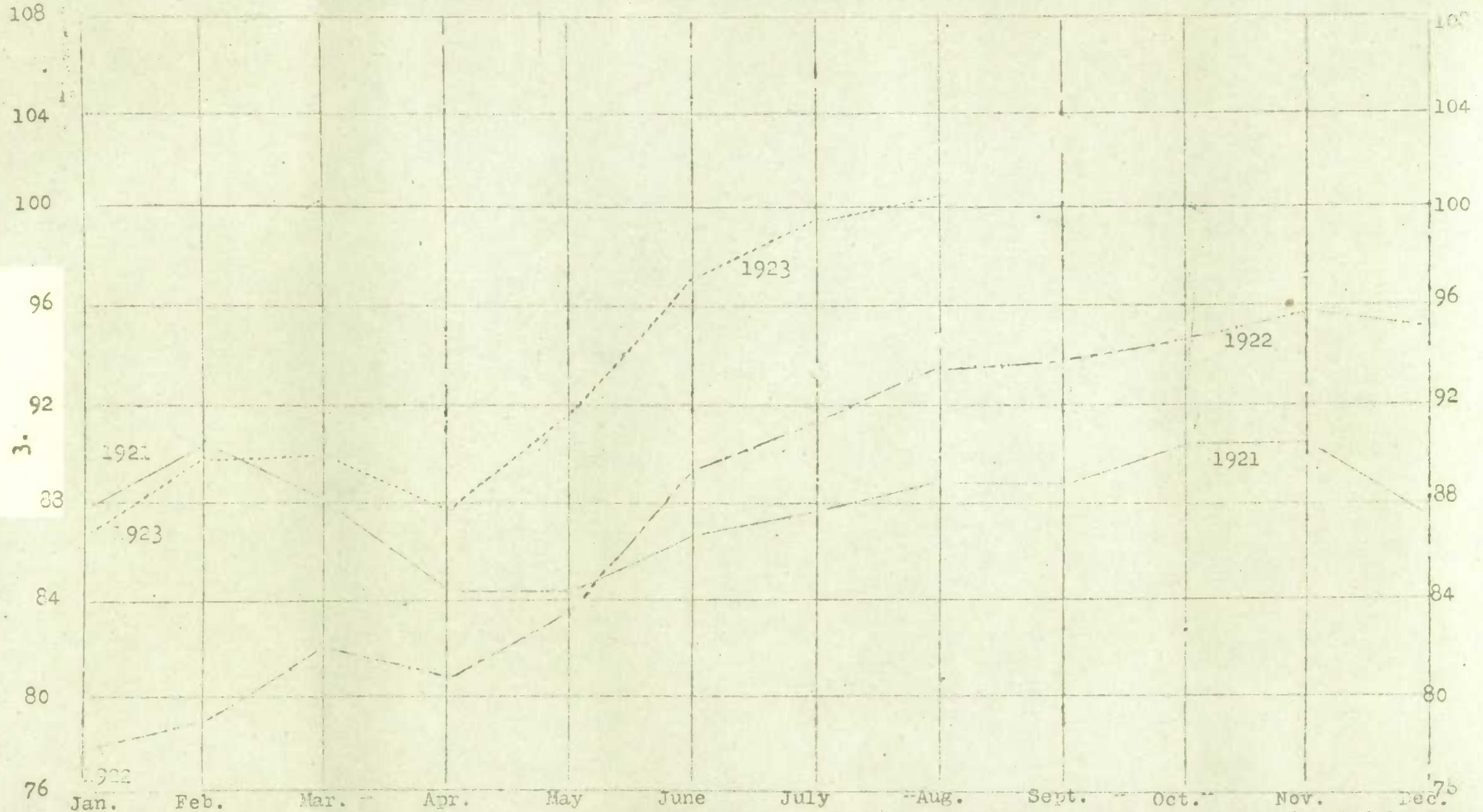
TABLE III - Index Numbers of Employment by Cities.

<u>City</u>	<u>Relative weight</u>	<u>Aug. 1 1923.</u>	<u>July 1 1923</u>	<u>Aug. 1 1922</u>
Montreal.....	13.6	97.3	95.9	88.6
Toronto	11.9	89.1	89.5	88.1
Ottawa	1.4	109.3	110.2	
Hamilton	3.4	93.3	91.4	
Winnipeg	3.5	91.1	87.7	96.5
Vancouver	2.7	103.6	100.3	98.3

TABLE IV - Index Numbers of Employment by Industries.

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Relative weight</u>	<u>Aug. 1 1923</u>	<u>July 1 1923</u>	<u>Aug. 1 1922</u>	<u>Aug. 1 1921</u>
Manufacturing.....	56.0	93.5	93.6	85.8	81.3
Lumber Products.....	7.4	123.0	121.0	116.6	105.4
Pulp and Paper	6.5	105.5	104.9	95.8	89.8
Textile Products.....	8.5	87.2	87.3	86.4	77.6
Iron and Steel	15.9	84.8	85.0	70.8	70.7
Other manufacturing industries	17.7	91.9	93.0	88.0	85.3
Logging	1.9	42.2	48.4	27.9	32.3
Mining	5.7	101.0	101.6	96.2	91.0
Communication	2.7	105.2	103.4	103.1	107.1
Transportation	14.0	113.4	112.2	111.6	102.7
Construction and maintenance....	11.4	183.7	169.1	169.4	144.6
Services.....	1.8	118.7	115.1	104.7	107.7
Trade	6.5	91.7	92.3	90.1	91.4
ALL INDUSTRIES.....	100.	100.2	99.5	93.1	88.9

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.

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