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THE SEPTEMBER EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

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Employment at the beginning of September, as indicated in reports from 5,794 employers tabulated by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, remained on practically the same level as at the first of August. The payrolls included 821,471 persons as compared with 824,398 in the last report; the index number therefore declined from 100.2 on the latter date to 100 at the beginning of this month, while at the same period of 1922, it had stood at 93.7 and in 1921 at 88.7. The minor decrease was to a large extent due to loss in personnel in railway construction gangs on account of men leaving for the harvest, which is the largest on record. Since agriculture is not represented in these employment statistics, a corresponding expansion in that industry is not shown, although employment throughout the country at the beginning of September was no doubt in greater volume than in the month before. The declines in railway construction were supplemented by further shutdowns for inventories and holidays in textile and tobacco works. On the other hand, mining was decidedly more active, railway operation, trade, services, building construction and communication afforded increased employment, and logging showed some revival.

The Maritime Provinces and Ontario reported considerable improvement; the gains in the former occurred largely in Nova Scotia in rolling mills and car shops, where activity had been curtailed in recent months, and also in coal mining and railway transportation. The reopening of logging camps accounted for a substantial share of the increase in Ontario, while there were also gains in railway transportation and construction and in building construction. The largest declines in Quebec were recorded in water transportation, but the textile and tobacco industries suffered fairly heavy losses. The contraction in the Prairie District was entirely due to reductions in staff in railway construction. Logging and lumber firms registered the most pronounced decreases in British Columbia.

Firms in Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver reported moderately increased activity, while in Montreal, Ottawa and Hamilton the tendency was downward. Employment around the harbour and in tobacco and textile factories in Montreal declined quite heavily; recovery in rubber and in some other branches of the manufacturing industry was not sufficient to offset these reductions. The expansion in Toronto was fairly general, the most important increases occurring in textiles. Small reductions in personnel were registered by a large number of Ottawa employers; the decreases in saw and paper mills and in car works were the largest. Improvement was recorded in Hamilton by manufacturers of electric current, electrical appliances and agricultural implements, while textile works were decidedly slacker. The changes in Winnipeg were slight; the largest additions were reported in iron and steel and building construction. In Vancouver small increases were registered in a number of industries. The largest expansion in that city took place in steel ship yards, but these gains were partly offset by contractions in sawmills and in building construction.

Employment in the manufacturing industries as a whole declined moderately. Sawmills showed the first falling off they have recorded since the beginning of the year and textile and

tobacco workers were further affected by shutdowns. On the other hand, marked improvement was registered in rubber, iron and steel. Though comparatively slight, the increases in logging are interesting, since they mark the reopening of the active season. Coal, other non-metallic mineral and metallic ore mining showed improvement, and further gains were indicated in communication, services and trade. Railway operation and building construction also afforded more employment. These gains, however, were counteracted by contractions in water transportation, on railway and highway construction and maintenance; the latter declines, as previously pointed out, were largely due to men leaving for the harvest fields.

The tables on page 3 show the index numbers of employment by districts and industrial divisions, and the course of employment since the beginning of 1921 is illustrated in the chart on page 4. While an almost imperceptible downward tendency on the part of the curve may be seen, it is still on a very much higher level than at any period of 1922 or 1921.

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	82.3	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	100.0	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	Sept.1 1923	Aug.1 1923	Sept.1 1922	Sept.1 1921
Maritime Provinces	9.2	101.4	97.8	90.3	93.5
Quebec	26.8	100.1	101.9	91.6	87.4
Ontario	42.3	98.1	97.1	91.9	83.7
Prairie Provinces	13.0	101.1	104.3	101.2	98.3
British Columbia	3.7	106.6	107.2	102.0	95.6
CANADA.....	100.	100.0	100.2	93.7	88.7

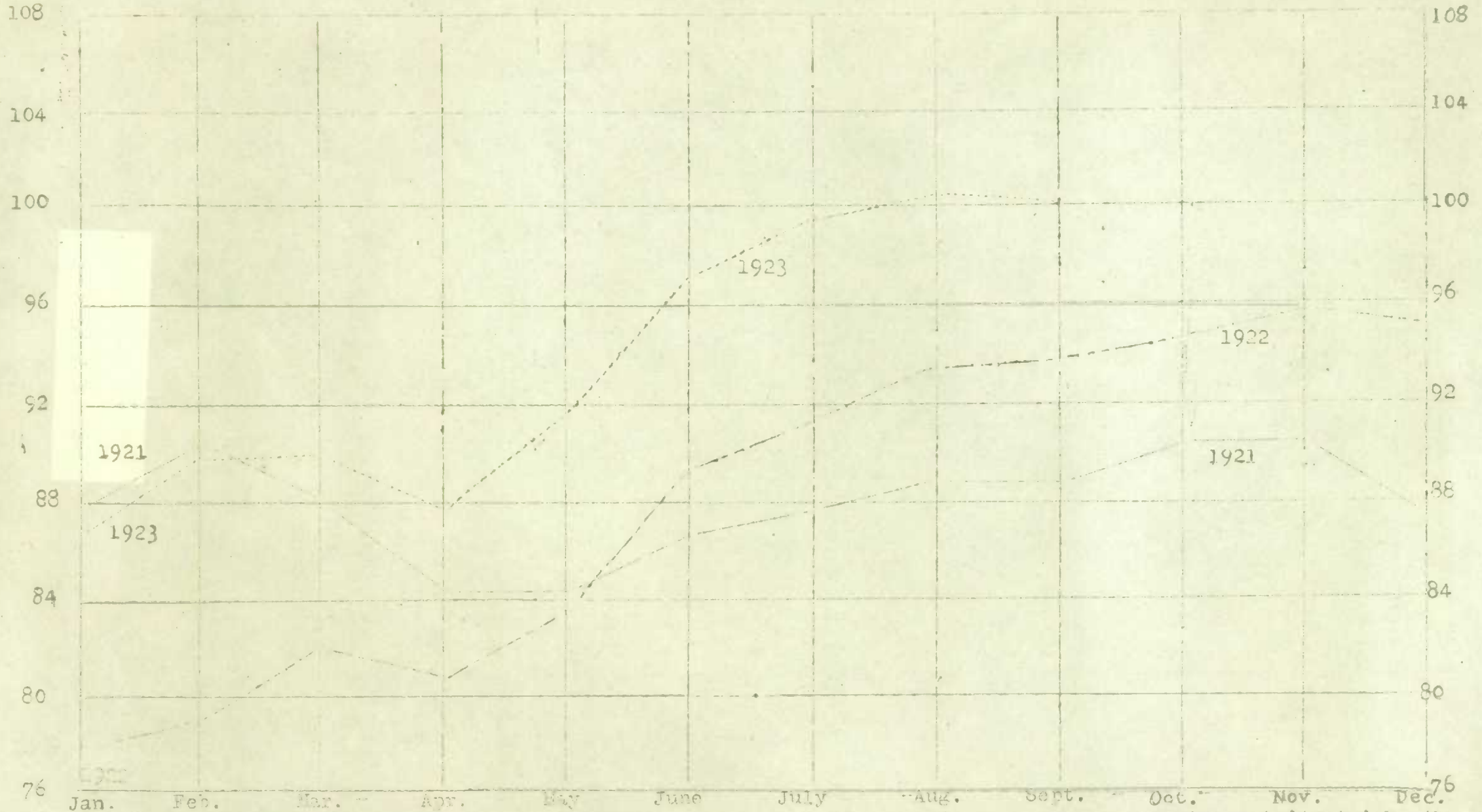
TABLE III- Index Numbers of Employment by Cities.

City	Relative Weight	Sept.1 1923	Aug.1 1923	Sept.1 1922
Montreal	13.1	93.6	97.3	90.5
Toronto.....	11.9	89.6	89.1	88.3
Ottawa	1.3	107.5	109.3	
Hamilton	3.4	92.2	93.3	
Winnipeg	3.1	89.9	87.5	98.9
Vancouver	2.7	104.3	103.6	102.2

TABLE IV - Index Numbers of Employment by Industries.

Industry	Relative Weight	Sept.1 1923	Aug.1 1923	Sept.1 1922	Sept.1 1921
Manufacturing	55.8	93.0	93.5	86.5	79.3
Lumber Products	7.3	119.7	123.0	114.8	95.4
Pulp and Paper	6.5	104.5	105.5	96.6	88.4
Textile Products	8.3	85.0	87.2	85.7	80.7
Iron and Steel	16.1	86.0	84.8	72.3	66.4
Other manufacturing industries...	17.6	91.6	91.9	89.3	84.6
Logging	2.0	43.1	42.2	36.5	41.9
Mining	5.9	104.0	101.0	97.1	96.0
Communication	2.7	106.4	105.2	103.4	106.8
Transportation	13.9	113.4	113.4	111.9	106.6
Construction and maintenance	11.3	180.9	183.7	164.3	141.6
Services	1.8	120.3	118.7	105.0	107.3
Trade	6.6	92.0	91.7	90.8	92.1
ALL INDUSTRIES.....	100.	100.0	100.2	93.7	88.7

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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