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GENERAL STATISTICS BRANCH

THE  
DECEMBER  
EMPLOYMENT SITUATION  
1924

(AS REPORTED BY EMPLOYERS OF 15 HANDS AND OVER)

NOTE: STATEMENTS RELATING TO UNEMPLOYMENT AS REPORTED BY TRADE UNIONS, AND TO THE OPERATIONS OF THE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OF CANADA ARE PUBLISHED, TOGETHER WITH THE STATISTICS OF THE PRESENT BULLETIN, IN THE LABOUR GAZETTE, THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR, CANADA.

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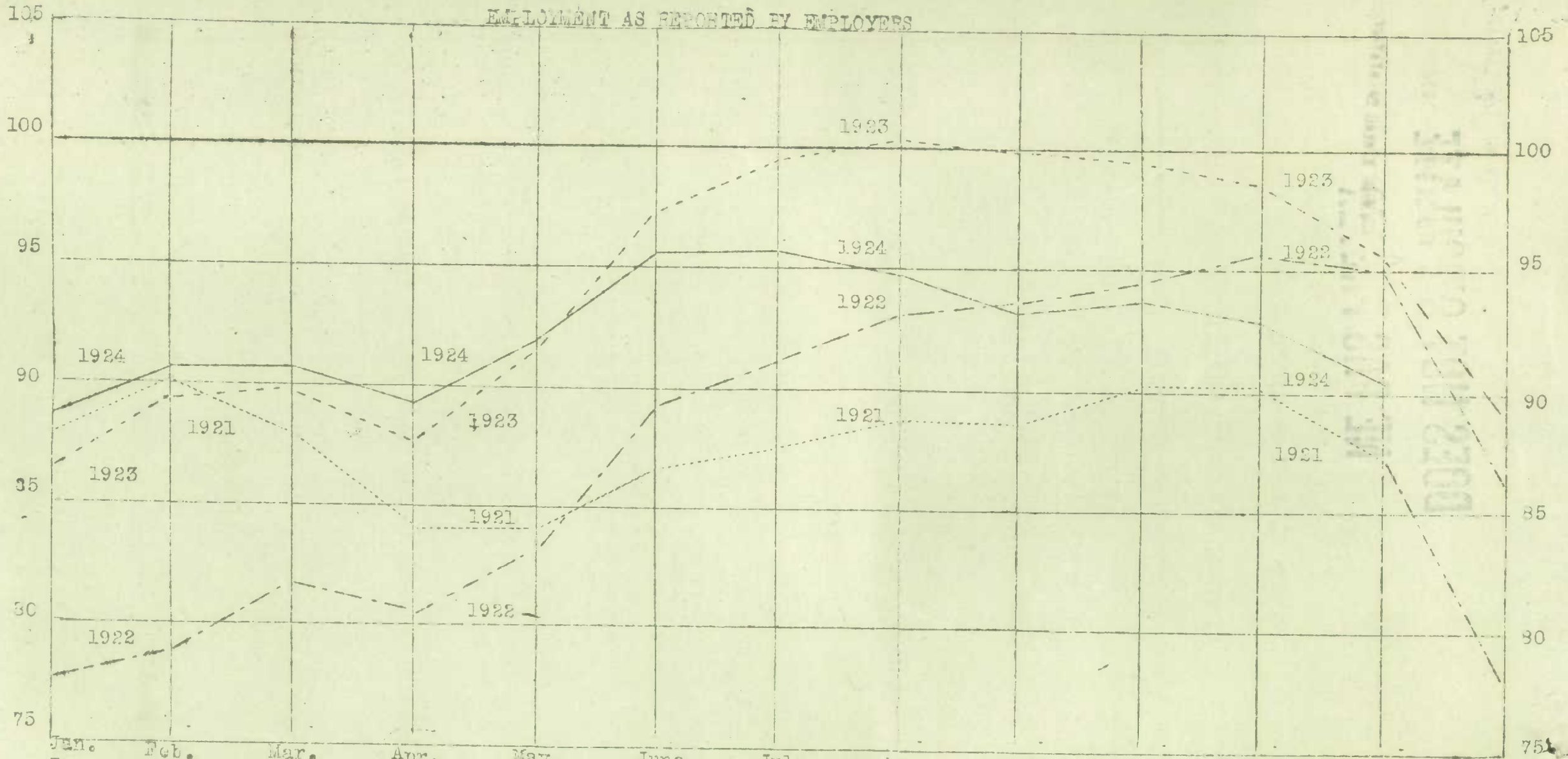
Published by Authority of the Hon. Thos. A. Low. M. P.,  
Minister of Trade and Commerce.

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OTTAWA

1924

# EMPLOYMENT AS REPORTED BY EMPLOYERS



The curve is based on the number of employees 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.



DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS  
General Statistics Branch  
Ottawa, Canada.

Issued December 26, 1924.

THE DECEMBER EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

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Continued contraction in the volume of employment was reported to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics at the beginning of December, when 18,837 persons were released from the payrolls of the 5,880 firms making returns; they employed 749,841 workers on December 1. The index number stood at 90.8, as compared with 93.0 at the beginning of November, and with 95.7, 95.1 and 87.2 on December 1, 1923, 1922 and 1921, respectively. On the same date of last year, some 25,000 workers were let out by the employers reporting but, as may be seen in the chart opposite, the level of employment then was higher.

Employment declined in all industries except logging, mining and retail trade, in all of which there were large seasonal gains. The most extensive shrinkage was noted in construction and manufacturing, and was also chiefly seasonal in character.

Employment by Provinces.

Firms in all provinces recorded reduced activity. Ontario and Quebec registered the largest decreases.

Maritime Provinces.- Sawmills and highway construction showed a pronounced falling off in employment afforded, and fish canning, iron and steel were also slacker. Logging, coal mining and retail trade, however, reported substantial improvement. Statements were received from 506 firms employing 59,028 workers, as compared with 62,454 on November 1.

Quebec.- There was a general slowing up of activity in manufactures in Quebec; sawmills, pulp and paper, textiles, iron and steel recorded the heaviest losses, while electrical appliance works showed the only large increases in the group. Logging, trade and transportation also afforded greatly increased employment, that in the last named representing a final effort to clean up around the harbours before the close of navigation. On the other hand, construction showed pronounced curtailment. The working force of the 1,288 reporting employers aggregated 210,577 or 4,178 less than in the preceding month.

Ontario.- In spite of marked improvement in logging, trade, rubber and electrical apparatus factories, there was a 2 p.c. decrease in employment in Ontario. Contractions in sawmills, textiles, transportation and construction chiefly caused the reductions. A combined payroll of 314,213 persons was employed by the 2,713 firms making returns; they had 321,540 employees on November 1.

Prairie Provinces.- Manufacturing as a whole afforded more employment, chiefly in abattoirs and iron and steel works. Logging, mining and trade also showed expansion. Declines on a larger scale, however, took place in construction. The result was a loss of 2,093 in the staffs of the 767 employers, whose returns were tabulated, and who had 99,052 persons in their employ on December 1.

British Columbia.- There was a further seasonal shrinkage in lumber mills and fish canneries, while employment in construction, mining and transportation also decreased. On the other hand, logging and retail trade were much more active. According to reports from 506 firms, they employed 66,971 workers, as against 68,784 in the preceding month.

### Employment by Cities.

Employment in all cities except Toronto declined; the losses in Hamilton were most extensive.

Montreal.- Further reductions in employment were recorded in Montreal, 510 persons being released from the staffs of the 690 reporting firms; they employed 103,002 workers. There were large gains in transportation preceding the close of navigation, and smaller increases in retail trade and electrical apparatus works. On the other hand, manufacturing as a whole, and particularly textile, iron and steel plants, construction and services afforded less employment.

Quebec.- The staffs of the 92 employers from whom statements were received declined from 8,493 on November 1 to 8,339 at the beginning of December. Construction reported the only large decrease.

Toronto.- Another but smaller increase in personnel was registered in Toronto, largely on account of seasonal expansion in retail stores. Improvement was also indicated in abattoirs. Textiles and some other manufactures, however, were slacker and construction and transportation also afforded less employment. Statements were tabulated from 785 firms whose working forces aggregated 94,380 persons, or 275 more than in the preceding month.

Ottawa.- Curtailment in construction caused a falling off in employment in Ottawa, where 367 workers were released by the 125 reporting employers; they had 9,692 persons on payroll on December 1.

Hamilton.- The trend of employment in this city was downward, mainly on account of losses in textiles and construction. Returns were compiled from 202 firms employing 23,521 persons, as compared with 24,278 at the beginning of November.

Winnipeg.- Building contractors registered the largest declines in Winnipeg, but there were also reductions in manufacturing. Trade, on the other hand, was busier. An aggregate working force of 23,565 was indicated by the 285 reporting employers, as compared with 23,791 in the preceding month.

Vancouver.- Additions to staffs in retail stores were offset by contractions in iron and steel and construction. The payrolls of the 228 employers making returns stood at 22,638 at the first of December; on November 1 they totalled 22,840.

### Employment by Industries.

Manufacturing.- The payrolls of the 3,807 manufacturers making returns declined from 416,278 persons on November 1 to 404,459 at the beginning of December. The completion of the season's cut in many lumber mills accounted for more than half of this decrease; textile, pulp and paper, iron and steel also registered large reductions. The only pronounced gains in this group were in rubber and electrical apparatus factories.

Logging.- Further marked improvement in all provinces was recorded in logging; 228 employers reported 33,917 workers, or 5,335 more than in the preceding month.

Mining.- Coal mines were decidedly more active, while there were decreases in other classes of mining. Statements were tabulated from 212 operators, whose staffs aggregated 46,073 persons as compared with 45,811 on November 1.

Communication.- Fairly small declines were registered on telephones and telegraphs, according to returns from 165 firms employing 22,727 workers, or 225 less than in their last report.

Transportation.- Large increases in shipping and stevedoring, in anticipation of the close of navigation on the St. Lawrence, were offset by general reductions in steam and electric railway operation. The result was a decrease of 47 persons in the payrolls of



the 283 reporting firms, who had 110,111 employees on December 1.

Construction.- Severe losses in employment were indicated in building, railway and highway construction, although the contractions were less extensive than on December 1, 1923. Reports were received from 434 contractors, whose staffs aggregated 59,565, as against 74,781 in the preceding month.

Trade.-There were considerable additions to payrolls in retail stores to meet the demands of the holiday trade. Wholesalers were slightly less fully engaged. A combined salesforce of 59,461 persons was recorded by the 578 establishments making returns; this was 3,037 more than the same firms employed on November 1.

The tables on pages 4, 5 and 6 give the index numbers of employment by districts, cities, industries and also by main industrial groups in the five areas into which the country is divided in these statistics.

#### Employment in Other Countries.

The following notes on employment in the United Kingdom are taken from the latest available issue of the "Ministry of Labour Gazette." The extracts respecting conditions in the United States are taken from the latest official report of the indicated state.

United Kingdom.- Employment showed a further slight decline during October. The industries principally affected were coal mining and some branches of the clothing trade; in the cotton, furnishing and pottery trades some improvement was reported. Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts, numbering approximately 11,500,000, and working in practically every industry except agriculture and private domestic service, the percentage unemployed at 27th October, 1924, was 11.1, compared with 10.8 at 22nd September, 1924, and 11.7 at the end of October, 1923. Among members of Trade Unions from which returns were received the percentage of unemployed was 8.7 at the end of October, 1924, compared with 8.6 at the end of September and with 10.9 at the end of October, 1923.

New York.- Factory employment in New York State showed practically no change in volume from October to November. Textile, wood and railroad equipment manufacturers reported improvement, while sugar refineries, boots and shoes, some branches of iron and steel and building material factories afforded less employment. It was estimated that on the whole, there were about 150,000 workers employed in October, 1923, in New York factories, who at the time of writing (December 9) were not on factory payrolls.

Illinois.- During the month of November the factories of Illinois in the aggregate were operating with about the same number of workers as they had in October. Agricultural implement, iron and steel, tools, cutlery, wood product and slaughtering establishments and building construction reported large additions to staffs, while offsetting reductions took place in car building and repairing, shoe, clothing, confectionery, canning, flour and feed works.

Wisconsin.- From September 15 to October 15, industrial employment generally increased in a wide list of industry classifications. Manufactures showed a gain of 1.1 p.c.; this occurred mainly in rubber; leather, pulp and paper, textiles, agricultural implements, automobiles, railroad repair works, foundries and machine shops. On the other hand, sawmills, stone and clothing factories and building construction reported reductions in employment.

Note: The number employed by the reporting firms in Jan. 1920 is taken as 100 in every case. The "relative weight" in Tables I, II and III shows the proportion of employees in the indicated district or industry to the total number of employees reported in all districts and industries on the date under review. In Table IV, it shows the relative importance of the indicated industry within the specified area.

TABLE I.- Index Numbers of Employment by Districts.

	Canada	Maritime Provinces	Quebec	Ontario	Prairie Provinces	British Columbia
Jan. 1, 1922	77.9	78.1	74.4	78.3	82.8	79.9
Feb. 1	78.9	76.8	74.6	79.5	83.0	84.3
Mar. 1	81.9	80.7	80.6	81.7	84.4	85.3
Apr. 1	80.6	80.6	77.5	81.1	82.1	85.9
May 1	83.3	83.0	81.2	82.4	85.4	91.3
June 1	89.2	87.4	88.1	87.8	92.8	96.6
July 1	91.1	92.6	88.0	89.2	99.7	99.2
Aug. 1	93.1	94.0	90.3	90.8	101.5	99.8
Sept. 1	93.7	90.3	91.6	91.9	101.2	102.0
Oct. 1	94.6	91.8	92.0	93.5	101.9	100.1
Nov. 1	95.8	91.7	92.7	94.9	105.0	100.2
Dec. 1	95.1	92.1	93.9	94.4	101.5	95.6
Jan. 1, 1923	86.3	90.8	83.5	85.6	90.0	88.3
Feb. 1	89.5	90.4	87.7	90.0	91.6	88.4
Mar. 1	89.9	90.7	87.9	90.8	88.9	92.0
Apr. 1	87.6	90.5	85.5	88.4	83.5	92.8
May 1	91.4	90.0	90.3	91.6	90.4	97.5
June 1	97.3	93.9	99.1	96.8	95.5	100.4
July 1	99.5	101.0	100.5	97.2	101.4	103.9
Aug. 1	100.2	97.8	101.9	97.1	104.3	107.2
Sept. 1	100.0	101.4	100.1	98.1	101.1	106.6
Oct. 1	99.5	97.0	104.0	96.0	100.7	104.2
Nov. 1	98.8	95.2	103.2	96.0	99.2	102.8
Dec. 1	95.7	91.2	98.5	93.4	99.3	97.8
Jan. 1, 1924	88.7	86.3	90.5	86.1	94.3	90.9
Feb. 1	90.6	83.2	92.8	90.0	92.1	92.7
Mar. 1	90.7	82.4	93.5	89.8	89.6	97.1
Apr. 1	89.3	84.6	91.5	87.6	87.0	99.6
May 1	91.8	88.1	94.1	89.8	89.4	102.9
June 1	95.2	90.0	99.9	92.1	94.1	103.4
July 1	95.9	90.6	100.6	91.4	99.1	105.8
Aug. 1	94.7	90.2	98.7	90.3	96.4	107.1
Sept. 1	93.1	86.6	97.8	88.9	93.9	106.0
Oct. 1	93.9	88.3	97.6	91.6	91.4	104.0
Nov. 1	93.0	83.7	97.1	90.4	94.1	102.1
Dec. 1	90.8	79.3	95.3	88.4	91.8	100.0
Relative Weight of Employment by Districts as at December 1, 1924.	100.	7.9	28.1	41.9	13.2	8.9

TABLE II.- Index Numbers of Employment by Principal Cities.

	Montreal	Quebec	Toronto	Ottawa	Hamilton	Winnipeg	Vancouver
Jan. 1, 1923	79.8		84.7	94.4	81.5	92.6	87.7
Feb. 1	86.2		88.5	95.7	86.0	89.0	85.8
Mar. 1	85.9		85.7	92.2	89.2	86.4	90.4
Apr. 1	83.3		86.7	90.6	88.4	85.7	86.9
May 1	88.8		88.1	94.8	92.6	86.3	91.8
June 1	95.4		89.9	109.6	94.6	87.1	94.7
July 1	95.9		89.5	110.2	91.4	87.7	100.3
Aug. 1	87.3		89.1	109.3	93.3	87.5	103.6
Sept. 1	82.6		89.0	107.2	92.2	87.6	104.3
Oct. 1	88.7		90.1	105.5	91.1	89.4	101.6
Nov. 1	89.1		89.9	103.6	89.7	88.6	98.6
Dec. 1	83.6		90.2	94.3	88.5	88.2	98.1
Jan. 1, 1924	86.3		85.6	91.0	79.0	85.3	91.1
Feb. 1	87.1		84.7	89.7	84.3	84.7	91.1
Mar. 1	87.7		84.5	86.3	83.0	83.8	94.2
Apr. 1	90.1		84.8	90.9	85.2	82.3	99.8
May 1	92.3		85.6	98.3	86.4	83.0	102.2
June 1	96.2		85.2	101.6	83.1	83.6	99.7
July 1	94.8		83.9	101.3	81.7	85.6	99.0
Aug. 1	95.1	96.9	83.9	100.6	80.9	85.5	102.3
Sept. 1	92.9	96.4	85.3	100.6	79.4	86.4	104.0
Oct. 1	93.7	98.8	85.4	100.8	80.4	86.1	104.0
Nov. 1	92.4	100.3	87.0	94.5	79.6	84.2	103.4
Dec. 1	93.1	100.3	87.4	92.3	77.3	83.5	104.0
Relative Weight of Employment by Cities as at December 1, 1924.	13.7	1.1	12.1	1.3	3.1	3.1	3.0



Industry	Relat- ive wgt.	Dec. 1 1924	Nov. 1 1924	Dec. 1 1923	Dec. 1 1922	Dec. 1 1921
Manufacturing	54.0	82.0	84.2	88.2	87.7	79.3
Animal products - edible	1.9	91.5	92.3	87.6	88.4	89.2
Fur and products	.1	88.0	86.4	110.8	108.3	105.8
Leather and products	2.2	75.6	75.6	82.0	85.1	86.2
Lumber and products	5.5	82.1	94.8	88.6	90.9	76.3
Rough and dressed lumber	3.4	90.2	114.4	100.2	98.5	77.1
Lumber products	2.1	71.7	70.0	73.8	81.0	75.5
Musical instruments	.4	67.9	68.8	69.6	77.5	67.5
Plant products - edible	3.8	100.6	101.0	100.7	100.7	96.1
Pulp and paper products	6.8	98.5	100.4	102.1	98.7	89.0
Pulp and paper	3.2	100.0	103.9	107.2	101.0	85.8
Paper products	.8	90.1	89.7	92.7	93.0	85.5
Printing and publishing	2.8	99.4	99.8	99.5	98.0	84.6
Rubber products	1.4	72.8	69.5	69.0	71.5	70.7
Textile products	8.6	82.5	85.8	88.7	90.7	85.6
Thread, yarn and cloth	3.1	92.2	94.1	101.4	102.7	97.3
Hosiery and knit goods	1.7	88.9	88.7	94.0	96.4	89.7
Garments and personal furnishings	2.6	66.5	74.1	73.5	77.6	74.1
Others	1.2	97.3	95.2	95.8	92.1	84.9
Tobacco, distilled and malt liquors	1.6	101.9	101.7	102.0	97.4	98.9
Wood distillates and extracts	.1	122.0	116.7	114.9	102.6	82.5
Chemicals and allied products	.8	79.7	82.0	88.3	87.9	84.1
Clay, glass and stone products	1.1	81.2	86.1	98.3	97.3	79.8
Electric current	1.6	132.3	134.4	120.4	115.5	107.0
Electrical apparatus	1.3	123.1	116.6	108.8	87.5	72.8
Iron and steel products	13.6	66.4	66.9	79.2	78.1	68.3
Crude, rolled and forged products	1.2	44.1	44.9	64.1	66.7	61.0
Machinery (other than vehicles)	1.0	64.7	64.9	75.9	66.3	62.0
Agricultural implements	.6	43.2	37.5	58.3	57.2	43.4
Land vehicles	6.7	83.4	84.2	97.1	97.2	84.2
Steel shipbuilding and repairing	.4	26.1	27.3	25.7	22.2	23.9
Heating appliances	.6	83.0	85.0	87.9	94.3	87.8
Iron and steel fabrication, n.e.s.	.6	69.8	75.6	91.6	85.6	71.5
Foundry and machine shop products	.6	69.3	66.3	76.7	73.9	61.3
Others	1.9	66.4	68.4	77.6	75.2	65.1
Non-ferrous metal products	1.4	76.1	78.0	86.0	79.6	62.2
Mineral products	1.3	102.7	105.6	97.7	93.1	85.4
Miscellaneous	.5	82.9	83.1	85.3	91.9	83.1
Logging	4.5	85.1	71.8	82.2	84.7	61.2
Mining	6.1	99.2	100.5	105.9	102.8	98.0
Coal	3.6	85.9	86.0	97.3	101.9	104.8
Metallic ores	1.8	148.7	152.0	158.5	109.4	86.6
Non-metallic minerals (other than coal)	.7	89.8	99.0	101.7	97.6	79.2
Communication	3.0	109.3	111.3	106.1	101.5	103.8
Telegraphs	.6	103.9	106.7	107.9	102.6	103.2
Telephones	2.4	111.9	112.5	105.6	101.2	104.0
Transportation	14.7	108.2	108.2	113.8	115.3	106.9
Street railways and cartage	2.7	114.9	116.8	124.2	120.8	119.6
Steam railways	10.0	96.8	98.8	106.3	100.7	98.0
Shipping and stevedoring	2.0	219.0	192.0	170.3	287.3	187.0
Construction and maintenance	8.0	116.6	144.9	125.2	122.6	113.2
Building	3.0	119.2	130.8	127.5	105.1	85.2
Highway	1.1	984.7	1668.6	1230.2	2312.9	2760.1
Railway	3.9	91.9	113.1	98.8	108.0	105.2
Services	1.8	107.2	109.3	106.2	95.8	93.4
Hotel and restaurant	1.0	111.6	113.0	110.9	96.4	92.2
Professional	.2	104.7	111.1	108.2	97.8	86.3
Personal (chiefly laundries)	.6	102.0	103.3	99.7	94.5	95.2
Trade	7.9	99.1	93.8	96.8	97.0	96.3
Retail	5.1	99.9	91.7	96.5	97.1	95.7
Wholesale	2.8	97.7	97.9	97.5	96.8	97.5
All Industries	100.	90.8	93.0	95.7	95.1	87.2

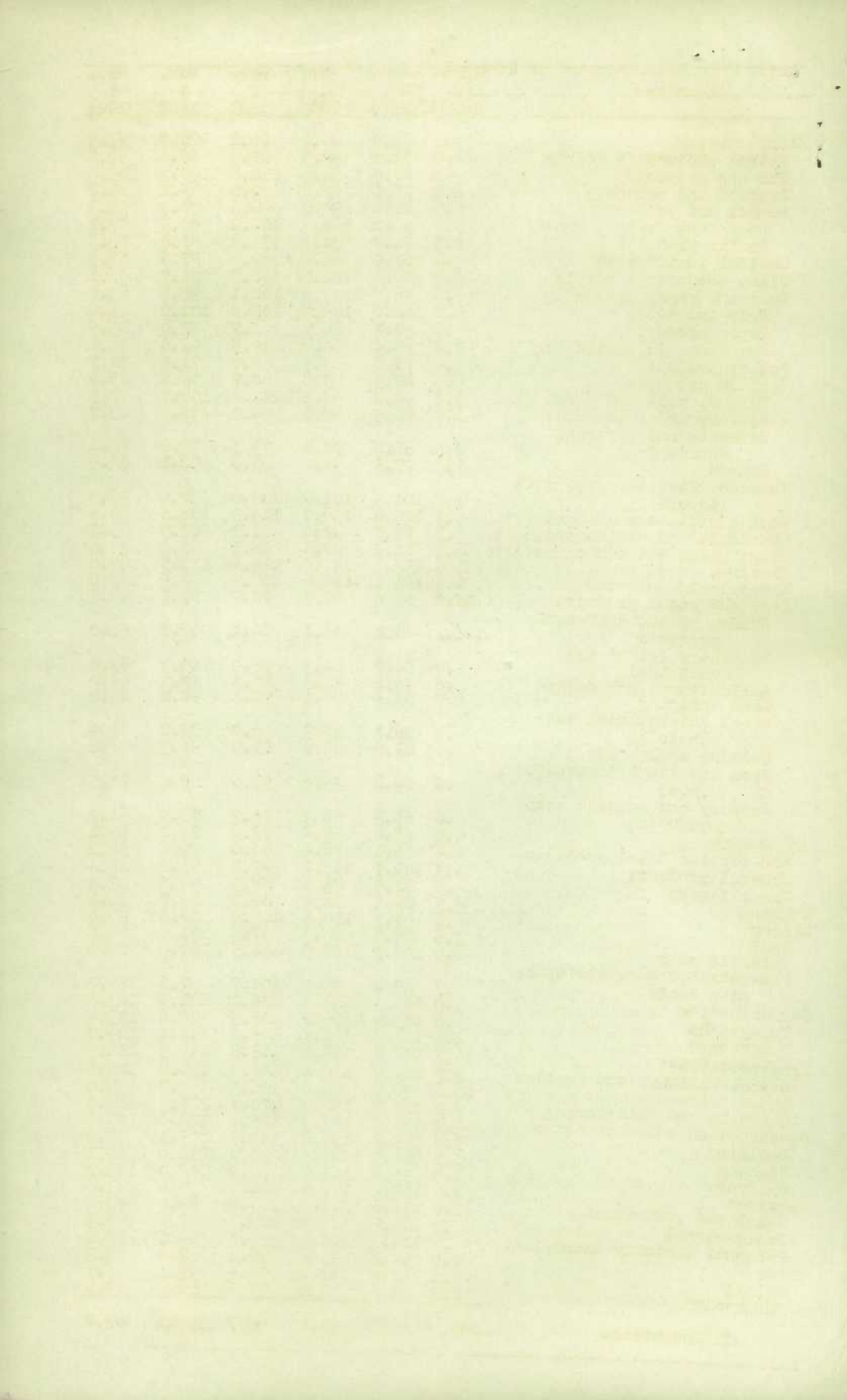




TABLE IV.- Index Numbers of Employment by Areas and Industries.

Industry	xRelative Weight	Dec.1 1924	Nov.1 1924	Dec.1 1923
Maritime Provinces- Manufacturing.....	36.8	67.3	75.1	82.1
Lumber products.....	5.4	67.9	109.2	79.8
Pulp and paper.....	3.7	105.0	109.1	108.0
Textile products.....	6.1	95.0	94.9	96.2
Iron and steel.....	10.5	45.0	48.0	73.4
Other manufactures....	11.0	82.9	84.0	85.0
Logging.....	1.9	37.8	38.2	31.3
Mining.....	26.3	99.2	95.4	109.3
Communication.....	3.6	90.1	91.5	95.7
Transportation.....	15.0	68.6	68.8	77.7
Construction.....	8.7	118.4	159.8	151.6
Services.....	.7	86.7	88.8	88.5
Trade.....	7.0	120.6	116.3	122.2
Maritime Provinces - All industries.	100.	79.3	83.7	91.2
Quebec - Manufacturing.....	60.8	84.1	86.8	90.9
Lumber products.....	3.9	92.7	111.5	103.2
Pulp and paper.....	3.6	97.1	101.4	104.5
Textile products.....	12.9	86.8	89.5	90.9
Iron and steel.....	12.4	66.1	67.4	80.2
Other manufactures....	23.0	89.6	90.2	92.1
Logging.....	5.6	70.3	61.5	68.8
Mining.....	1.3	74.4	78.4	89.0
Communication.....	3.9	144.5	146.9	121.4
Transportation.....	15.9	138.5	132.1	126.7
Construction.....	8.3	149.0	167.8	152.4
Services.....	1.8	132.2	135.9	128.2
Trade.....	5.4	102.2	99.3	97.7
Quebec- All industries.....	100.	95.3	97.1	98.5
Ontario - Manufacturing.....	63.1	79.3	81.3	85.2
Lumber products.....	5.7	81.8	92.6	86.6
Pulp and paper.....	7.6	98.3	98.6	100.3
Textile products.....	9.9	77.5	81.4	85.7
Iron and steel.....	16.5	65.2	65.4	77.1
Other manufactures....	23.4	82.7	83.4	89.9
Logging.....	5.1	97.7	81.5	94.0
Mining.....	3.1	131.4	136.4	136.5
Communication.....	2.7	106.8	107.9	106.9
Transportation.....	10.7	108.3	112.1	117.8
Construction.....	6.6	115.5	148.9	121.4
Services.....	1.5	112.2	113.5	108.7
Trade.....	7.2	102.4	94.2	99.1
Ontario- All industries.....	100.	88.4	90.4	93.4
Prairie Provinces - Manufacturing.....	33.1	97.7	96.9	99.9
Lumber products.....	1.8	59.2	59.7	62.6
Pulp and paper.....	3.2	104.7	104.6	100.1
Textile products.....	1.6	88.8	93.2	93.6
Iron and steel.....	14.9	97.9	96.0	105.9
Other manufactures....	11.6	108.1	98.1	78.9
Logging.....	1.8	53.4	38.4	50.2
Mining.....	8.0	77.7	78.6	89.4
Communication.....	3.2	87.6	88.8	92.1
Transportation.....	25.1	100.3	100.3	114.6
Construction.....	10.5	99.6	136.2	117.5
Services.....	2.3	85.9	86.3	89.5
Trade.....	15.4	81.8	79.7	84.9
Prairie Provinces- All industries...	100.	91.8	94.1	99.3
British Columbia - Manufacturing.....	35.7	83.7	92.3	87.2
Lumber products.....	14.8	86.5	82.5	91.7
Pulp and paper.....	5.0	94.4	98.1	100.7
Textile products.....	1.0	99.4	96.4	110.5
Iron and steel.....	5.1	54.5	55.4	46.9
Other manufactures....	9.8	130.1	139.6	114.5
Logging.....	11.3	115.9	106.6	116.9
Mining.....	16.1	107.6	113.7	100.6
Communication.....	3.2	125.4	123.0	112.9
Transportation.....	14.1	105.5	108.3	115.1
Construction.....	8.6	87.8	98.3	80.5
Services.....	3.3	95.9	94.9	92.6
Trade.....	8.7	128.0	119.8	114.2
British Columbia - All industries...	100.	100.0	102.1	97.8

x For explanation of term "relative weight" see note on page 4.

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