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THE
FEBRUARY
EMPLOYMENT SITUATION
1924

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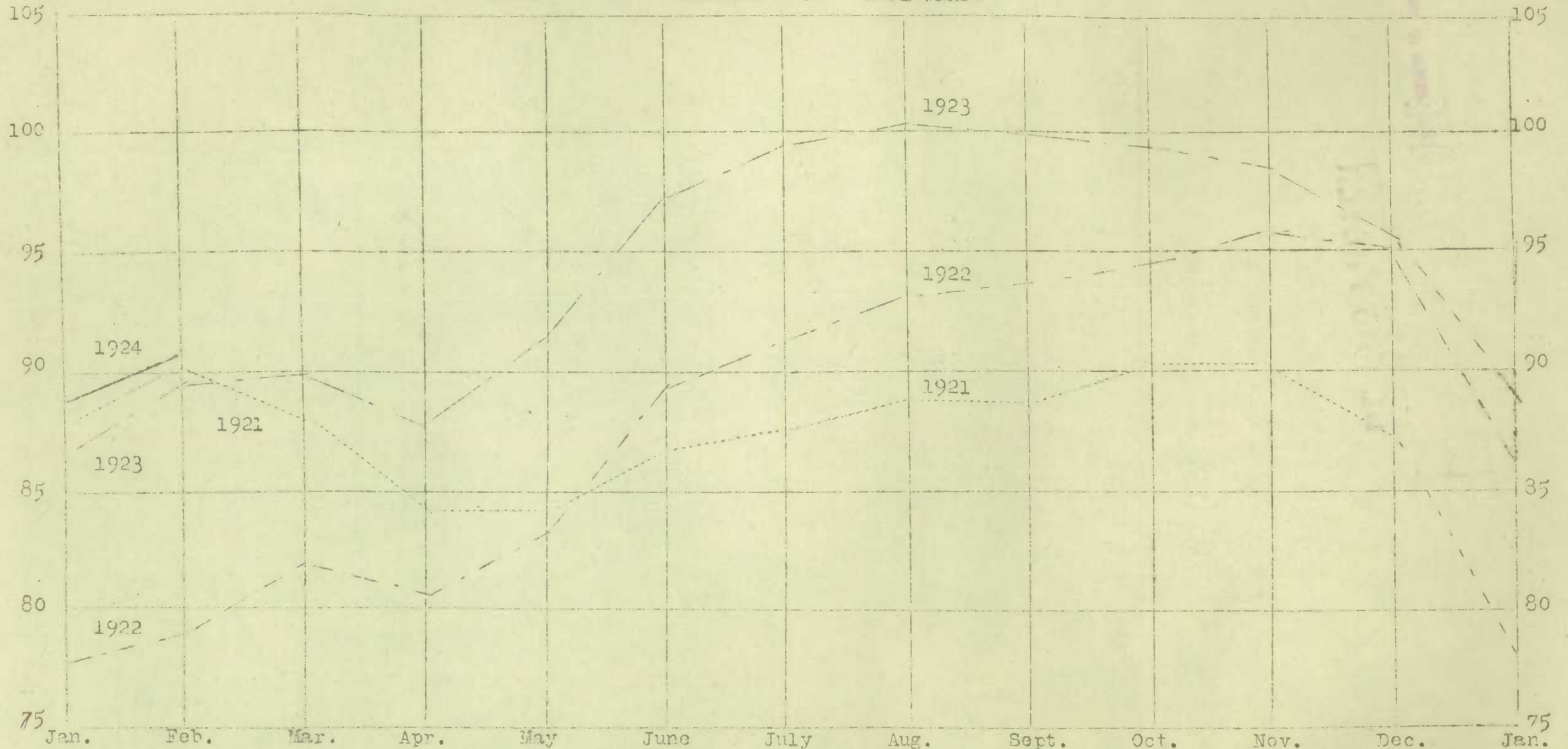
Minister of Trade and Commerce.

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OTTAWA

1924

EMPLOYMENT AS REPORTED BY EMPLOYERS.



The curve is based on the number of employees 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.

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
GENERAL STATISTICS BRANCH
OTTAWA, CANADA.

Issued February 25, 1924.

THE FEBRUARY EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

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At the beginning of February considerable revival from the losses recorded on the first of January was indicated in reports from employers received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The improvement repeats that indicated at the same time of year in 1923 and 1922; the recovery is not quite as extensive as in the former year, but the losses that preceded it had not been as large. The favourable trend of employment is shown in the chart on the opposite page, which also illustrates the fact that the curve continues to be above the level of the same period of the three preceding years.

Reports were tabulated from 5,896 firms, whose payrolls aggregated 749,363 persons as compared with 733,628 in the beginning of January. This increase of 15,735 workers caused the index number to rise slightly from 88.7 on January 1 to 90.6 on February 1. At the corresponding date of 1923 the index had stood at 89.5, in 1922 at 78.9 and in 1921 at 90.1. The tendency in manufacturing was distinctly favourable; logging and mining also showed expansion. On the other hand, transportation, construction and trade recorded curtailment of a seasonal nature.

Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia reported increased activity, while in the Maritime and Prairie Provinces employment declined. In Ontario some 14,000 persons were added to the payrolls of the reporting firms, chiefly in manufactures. The improvement in Quebec and British Columbia was also registered largely in factories; in addition, the latter recorded gains in mining. In the Maritime Provinces employment in iron and steel showed a decline, partly as a result of a trade dispute in the allied coal-mining industry. Seasonal dullness in construction also affected the situation. Railway transportation in the Prairie Provinces showed the usual decline incidental to this time of year, indicating reaction from the heightened activity attendant upon the movement of grain.

Employment in Montreal, Hamilton and Winnipeg was in greater volume than at the beginning of January, while continued curtailment of operations was reported in Toronto, Ottawa and Vancouver. Tobacco, railway car shops, shipyards, rolling and forging mills and other iron and steel works in Montreal recorded considerable recovery, but trade, construction and textile works continued to show contraction. A large share of the decrease in Toronto was registered in retail stores, although the street railways also afforded less employment. On the other hand, textile, confectionery, printing and iron and steel plants reported increased activity. The largest decreases in Ottawa occurred in stores and in construction. Textile and iron and steel works in Hamilton recorded considerable additions to staffs. The improvement in Winnipeg was of a general character; the largest increases were reported in textiles. Varying conditions in different industries resulted in a very small reduction in employment in Vancouver. Construction and trade in that city were rather slacker, while manufacturing as a whole showed improvement.

Practically all branches of manufacturing showed some recovery from the heavy losses recorded on January 1. The resumption of work in many iron and steel plants caused the reinstatement of nearly 9,000 workers. The most extensive increases in this division were registered in automobile and railway car shops and in shipyards, but nearly all branches shared in the revival. In textiles approximately 4,300 persons were added to the payrolls of the reporting concerns; the largest increases occurred in garment and knitting factories. Expansion on a somewhat smaller scale was indicated in sawmills, furniture, boot, shoe, pulp, paper, rubber, tobacco, brick, non-ferrous metal, meat packing and slaughtering establishments. The trend of employment in logging continued to be favourable; mining and railway construction also recorded substantial improvement. On the other hand, transportation, building and highway construction afforded less employment than in the preceding month, and retail stores showed considerable reductions in payroll following the Christmas season.

The tables on page 3 show the index numbers of employment by districts and main industrial groups.

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>1924</u>	<u>1923</u>	<u>1922</u>	<u>1921</u>
January 1	88.7	86.3	77.9	87.7
February 1	90.6	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		100.0	93.7	88.7
October 1		99.5	94.6	90.2
November 1		98.8	95.8	90.2
December 1		95.7	95.1	87.2

TABLE II - Index Numbers of Employment by Provinces.

<u>District.</u>	<u>Relative Weight</u>	<u>Feb.1 1924</u>	<u>Jan.1 1924</u>	<u>Feb.1 1923</u>	<u>Feb.1 1922</u>	<u>Feb.1 1921</u>
Maritime Provinces	8.3	83.2	86.3	90.4	78.6	96.3
Quebec	27.4	92.8	90.5	87.7	74.6	90.4
Ontario	42.9	90.0	86.1	90.0	79.5	88.1
Prairie Provinces	13.1	92.1	94.3	91.6	83.0	93.7
British Columbia	8.3	92.7	90.9	88.4	84.3	87.2
CANADA	100.	90.6	88.7	89.5	78.9	90.1

TABLE III - Index Numbers of Employment by Cities.

<u>City</u>	<u>Relative Weight</u>	<u>Feb.1 1924</u>	<u>Jan.1 1924</u>	<u>Feb.1 1923</u>	<u>Feb.1 1922</u>
Montreal	13.4	87.1	86.3	86.2	73.6
Toronto	12.4	84.7	85.6	88.5	81.8
Ottawa	1.3	89.7	91.0	95.7	
Hamilton	3.4	84.3	79.0	86.0	
Winnipeg	3.2	84.7	85.3	89.0	84.1
Vancouver	2.7	91.2	91.1	85.8	88.7

TABLE IV - Index Numbers of Employment by Industries.

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Relative Weight</u>	<u>Feb.1 1924</u>	<u>Jan.1 1924</u>	<u>Feb.1 1923</u>	<u>Feb.1 1922</u>	<u>Feb.1 1921</u>
Manufacturing	56.2	84.9	80.1	85.0	73.0	84.8
Lumber products	5.4	79.7	74.8	83.2	68.6	69.2
Pulp and paper	6.9	99.7	98.4	96.5	87.7	98.1
Textile products	9.2	86.6	80.9	89.5	86.2	79.4
Iron and steel	16.1	78.5	72.6	78.7	55.4	90.9
Other manufacturing in-						
dustries	18.6	87.2	82.8	85.8	80.3	81.0
Logging	4.9	97.0	92.1	95.1	61.5	94.3
Mining	6.4	104.0	100.5	101.3	89.7	95.8
Communication	2.9	104.0	104.2	96.5	95.7	104.6
Transportation	14.0	103.7	107.3	101.5	97.0	101.3
Construction and maintenance..	6.5	94.2	98.8	86.0	79.8	100.1
Services	1.8	106.3	106.6	92.4	91.7	94.2
Trade	7.3	91.2	99.4	93.7	90.3	92.5
All Industries	100.	90.6	88.7	89.5	78.9	90.1

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