

CA

72-002

PROPERTY OF THE LIBRARY

Rec'd JUN 2 1924

DOES NOT CIRCULATE

CANADA BUREAU OF STATISTICS

CANADA

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

GENERAL STATISTICS BRANCH

THE  
MAY  
EMPLOYMENT SITUATION  
1924

+++

Published by Authority of the Hon. Thos. A. Low, M. P.,

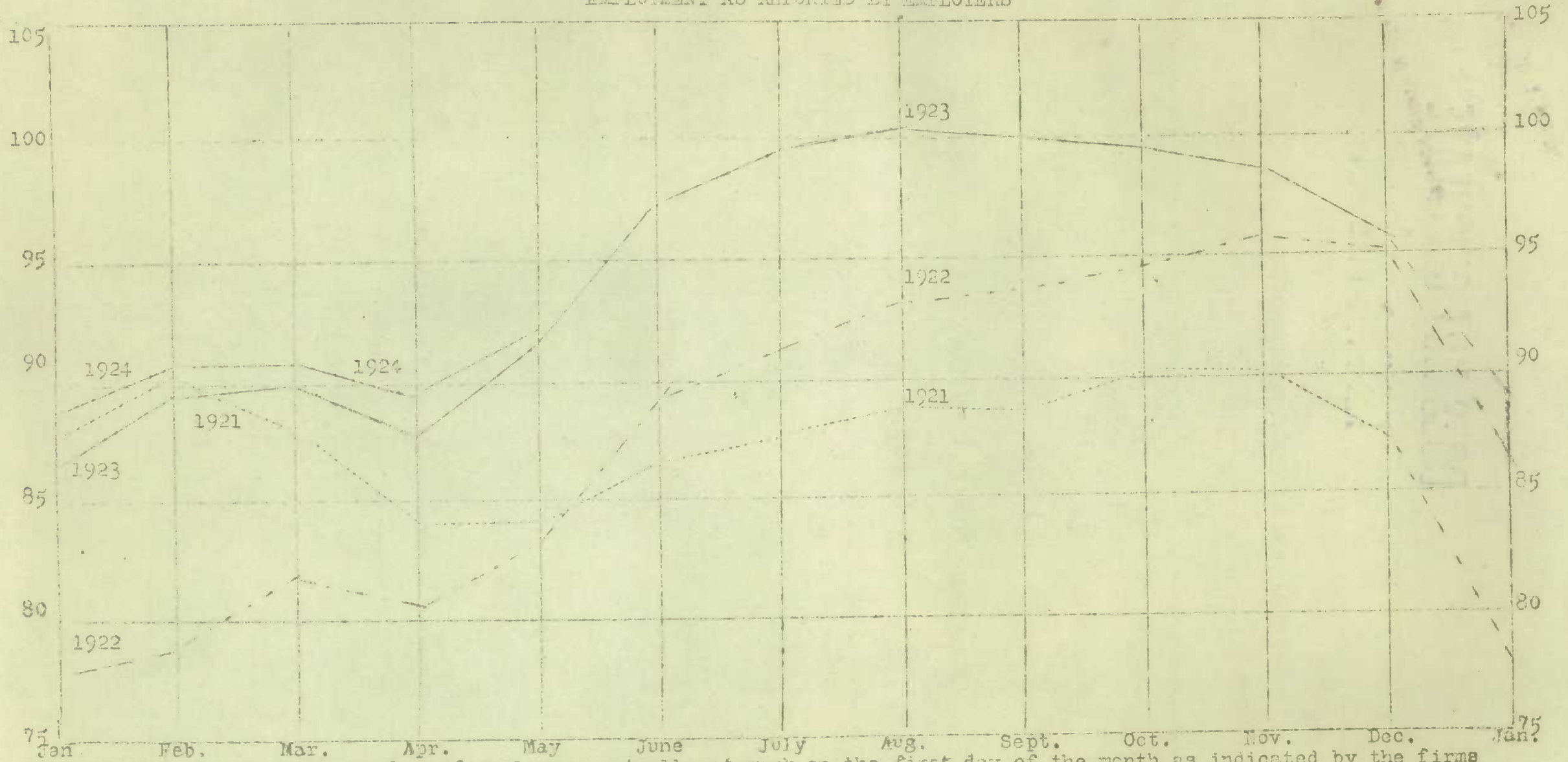
Minister of Trade and Commerce

+++

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 May 22, 1924.

THE MAY EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

---

Dominion Statistician: R. H. Coats, B.A., F.S.S., F.R.S.C.  
Chief, General Statistics: S. A. Cudmore, M.A., P.S.S.

---

Considerable improvement in employment was indicated in reports from employers of labour to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics at the beginning of May, when some 20,500 workers were added to the staffs of the reporting firms. This number was smaller than the increase recorded on May 1, 1923, but then it was recovery from larger losses than were indicated on April 1, 1924. The curve in the accompanying chart, therefore, continues to be slightly above the level of the same date of 1923. It is, however, a good deal higher than at the beginning of May in either 1922 or 1921.

An aggregate payroll of 760,700 persons was reported by the 6,008 firms making returns, who had employed 740,162 workers on April 1. The index number stood at 91.8 as compared with 89.3 in the preceding month and with 91.4; 83.3 and 84.1 on May 1, 1923, 1922 and 1921, respectively. While practically all industries shared in the upward movement, the gains in construction, manufacturing, mining and transportation were most noteworthy. The only declines of any size occurred in textiles, leather, iron and steel and logging.

Employment by Provinces.

All provinces shared in the expansion registered at the beginning of May, showing percentage gains of between 2 and 4 per cent in every case. The largest increase in the Maritime Provinces took place in coal mining, fish preserving plants, lumber mills and logging. Shipping and stevedoring, however, afforded much less employment than at the beginning of April, owing to the closing of the winter ports. Statements were received from 557 firms in this district, whose staffs aggregated 66,747, as compared with 64,399 in the preceding month. In Quebec, construction, transportation and logging showed the greatest improvement, but manufacturing also was more active. Returns were furnished by 1,311 firms; they employed 208,330 workers or 5,374 more than on April 1. Sawmills and other manufacturing plants in Ontario registered large additions to staffs, as did also building and railway construction, transportation and trade. A combined working force of 320,237 persons was indicated by the 2,747 employers reporting, as compared with 312,858 in the previous month. Railroad construction and maintenance recorded the most pronounced gains in the Prairie Provinces, but transportation, building and highway construction, trade, iron and steel also showed improvement. Coal mining, on the other hand, suffered some curtailment. The payrolls of the 777 employers making returns rose from 92,826 persons on April 1 to 95,896 at the beginning of May. In British Columbia, sawmills, fish canneries, metallic ore mines, highway and railway contractors reported large additions to payrolls. Statements were tabulated from 616 employers, whose staffs, standing at 69,490, were larger by 2,367 persons or 3.5 per cent than in the preceding month.

Employment by Cities.

The trend of employment was upward in all of the six cities for which special tabulations are made. Recovery in tobacco, together with increased activity in electric current and electrical appliance works, in transportation and construction accounted for most of the improvement in Montreal, where 2,739 persons were added to the payrolls of the 730 reporting firms. They employed 106,402 workers on May 1. In Toronto, construction and trade recorded expansion and mineral product factories also showed improvement. Statements were received from 812 firms with an aggregate payroll of 94,158 workers, as compared with 93,257 on April 1. Seasonal activity in sawmills accounted for most of the gain in Ottawa; pulp mills, on the other hand, were not as busy. The working force of the 126 firms making



returns aggregated 10,456 as compared with 9,684 in the preceding month. In Hamilton, 423 persons were added to the payrolls of the 206 reporting firms, who employed 26,325 workers on May 1. Improvement in iron and steel, construction and transportation caused the gain. Moderate, but general, increases in activity in Winnipeg resulted in a net gain of about one per cent; 300 firms reported 23,975 employees as compared with 23,733 in the preceding month. Sawmills, shipping and stevedoring registered the largest expansion in Vancouver where the payrolls of the 230 employers making returns were enlarged from 21,827 on April 1 to 22,487 at the beginning of May.

#### Employment by Industries.

Manufacturing. Further and more marked expansion was shown in this division on May 1, when 6,263 persons were added to the payrolls of the 3,909 reporting firms. They employed 435,954 persons or 1.5 per cent more than on April 1. This improvement is in contrast with the decline registered on May 1, 1923. Seasonal activity was indicated in food, rubber, tobacco, brick, electric current, electrical appliance and mineral product factories, but the leather, textile, iron and steel industries afforded less employment than in the preceding month. Logging.- Fluctuations in different parts of the country produced a net decline of 0.6 per cent in the number employed by the 228 logging firms making returns, whose payrolls aggregated 21,046 persons on May 1. River-driving operations in Quebec and the Maritime Provinces caused a revival which was offset by continued curtailment elsewhere. Mining.- Coal and other non-metallic mineral and metallic ore mines employed a larger number of persons; the 216 mine operators reporting employed 48,070 workers as compared with 46,309 on April 1. This was an increase of 3.8 per cent, most of which occurred in the Nova Scotian coal fields. Construction and Maintenance.- A 21 per cent expansion in employment was indicated by the 420 construction firms making returns, whose staffs comprised 57,401 persons on May 1. Railway construction showed especially pronounced increases, but gains were also recorded in the building and highway divisions. Transportation.- Moderate improvement was shown in the employment afforded by steam and electric railways and also in shipping, according to statements from 273 employers; their working forces aggregated 106,778 persons as compared with 105,269 in the previous month. In Trade there was a one per cent increase in employment; the sales force of the 616 establishments reporting rose from 55,024 persons on April 1 to 55,584 on May 1. Communication also showed heightened activity, 22,283 persons being employed by the reporting concerns, as compared with 21,820 in the preceding month.

The tables on pages 3, 4 and 5 show 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 and the United States are taken from the latest available issues of the "Ministry of Labour Gazette" and the "Monthly Labor Review," respectively.

Great Britain. Employment showed a further improvement in March. Among members of the reporting trade unions the percentage of unemployment was 7.8 at the end of March, 1924, compared with 8.1<sup>x</sup> at the end of February and with 12.3 at the end of March, 1923. Among workers covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts, numbering approximately 11,500,000, the percentage unemployed on March 24, 1924, was 9.9, compared with 10.7 on February 25, 1924, and 11.5 at the end of March, 1923.

United States. Employment in manufactures in the United States increased 1.2 per cent in February, this being the first general increase since June, 1923, as shown by figures compiled by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. These unweighted figures are based on reports from 8,222 establishments in 52 industries, covering 2,693,636 employees, whose total earnings in one week in February were \$72,552,483. The same establishments in January reported 2,661,233 employees and total payrolls of \$67,970,982. Therefore, in addition to the increase in employment, there was an increase of 6.7 per cent in payroll totals and an increase of 5.4 per cent in per capita earnings.

x Revised figure.



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 for the period 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	76.3	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
Jun. 1	89.2	87.4	88.1	87.8	92.8	96.6
Jul. 1	91.1	92.6	88.0	89.2	99.7	99.2
Aug. 1	92.1	94.0	90.8	90.8	101.5	99.8
Sep. 1	92.7	90.3	91.6	91.9	101.2	102.0
Oct. 1	94.6	91.8	92.0	93.6	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	96.0	90.3	91.6	90.4	97.5
Jun. 1	97.3	93.9	99.1	96.8	95.5	100.4
Jul. 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
Sep. 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	89.2	84.6	91.5	87.6	87.0	99.6
May 1	91.8	88.1	94.1	89.8	89.4	102.9

Relative Weight on May 1, 1924.

100.            8.6            27.4            42.1            12.6            9.1

TABLE II. Index Numbers of Employment by Principal Cities.

	Montreal	Toronto	Ottawa	Hamilton	Winnipeg	Vancouver
Jan. 1, 1923	79.6	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
Jun. 1	95.4	89.9	109.6	94.6	87.1	94.7
Jul. 1	95.9	89.5	110.2	91.4	87.7	100.3
Aug. 1	97.3	89.1	109.3	93.3	87.5	103.6
Sep. 1	93.6	89.6	107.5	92.2	89.9	104.3
Oct. 1	98.7	90.1	105.5	91.1	89.4	101.6
Nov. 1	99.1	89.9	103.8	89.7	88.6	98.6
Dec. 1	93.6	90.2	94.8	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	89.3	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

Relative Weight on May 1, 1924.

14.0            12.4            1.4            3.5            3.2            3.0

TABLE III - Index Numbers of Employment by Industries.

Industry	Relative Weight	May. 1 1924	April 1924	May 1 1923	May 1 1922	May 1 1921
Manufacturing	57.3	87.7	86.5	90.5	79.0	80.2
Animal products-edible	1.8	86.5	81.0	83.8	86.0	87.5
Fur and products	.1	81.3	80.2	88.7	90.6	79.6
Leather and products	2.3	79.4	80.8	79.1	80.3	73.5
Lumber and products	6.1	91.6	83.8	95.5	88.9	86.6
Rough and dressed lumber	3.9	104.2	88.6	104.0	98.1	97.6
Lumber products	2.2	75.7	77.9	84.5	77.1	75.7
Musical instruments	.3	60.6	61.7	71.6	61.4	70.5
Plant products -edible	3.3	88.9	87.8	88.3	84.6	84.5
Pulp and paper products	6.7	98.7	98.8	101.1	93.6	94.8
Pulp and paper	3.2	102.4	102.1	107.4	93.7	98.2
Paper products	.8	88.4	90.8	90.9	87.5	80.7
Printing and publishing	2.7	97.9	97.8	97.1	95.4	95.2
Rubber products	1.4	76.1	75.1	84.3	66.8	66.0
Textile products	9.0	85.6	86.9	92.5	88.9	81.1
Thread, yarn and cloth	5.2	95.0	96.8	106.4	98.5	83.4
Hosiery and knit goods	1.7	89.2	90.1	96.6	89.7	71.2
Garments and personal furnishings	3.0	73.4	75.4	77.6	81.1	81.7
Others	1.1	94.6	93.5	98.5	88.7	79.0
Tobacco, distilled and malt liquors	1.5	96.4	90.8	92.2	95.1	95.9
Wood distillates and extracts	.1	103.6	111.4	91.7	75.0	89.3
Chemicals and allied products	.9	87.4	86.5	92.5	79.4	82.2
Clay, glass and stone products	1.2	90.0	86.2	94.5	83.8	80.9
Electric current	1.5	119.9	116.9	111.9	110.4	104.1
Electrical apparatus	1.2	113.4	110.8	103.8	74.0	99.3
Iron and steel products	16.6	81.2	82.0	85.4	62.5	72.2
Crude, rolled and forged products	1.9	72.1	71.8	77.5	49.5	65.8
Machinery (other than vehicles)	1.2	72.6	74.0	73.6	62.8	74.6
Agricultural implements	.8	59.1	60.4	64.0	48.6	87.7
Land vehicles	8.0	101.3	101.1	103.6	72.8	66.1
Steel shipbuilding and repairing	.5	34.6	34.2	33.2	21.8	70.2
Heating appliances	.7	82.9	84.8	85.3	82.8	91.9
Iron and steel fabrication, n.e.s.	.8	92.8	93.6	89.6	67.4	84.5
Foundry and machine shop products	.7	83.9	81.3	89.4	68.8	75.4
Others	2.0	74.1	74.0	80.4	66.2	78.7
Non-ferrous metal products	1.5	85.4	84.6	87.0	65.1	69.7
Mineral products	1.3	103.8	96.8	100.2	94.9	93.2
Miscellaneous	.5	87.7	88.9	96.4	90.3	86.7
Logging	2.8	54.5	54.2	48.0	37.0	49.9
Mining	6.3	103.3	99.5	96.7	90.2	86.9
Coal	3.8	92.0	88.8	92.0	91.6	87.2
Metallic ores (other than coal)	1.7	147.7	145.2	112.9	92.4	83.3
Non-metallic minerals (other than coal)	.8	95.9	87.0	96.4	80.5	90.7
Communication	2.9	108.2	106.0	99.7	100.4	103.1
Telegraphs	.6	106.2	99.7	98.6	93.1	92.9
Telephones	2.3	108.7	107.6	100.0	102.2	105.9
Transportation	14.0	105.3	103.7	101.7	98.7	94.0
Street railways and cartage	2.5	113.8	109.0	112.2	119.0	103.1
Steam railways	9.9	97.3	96.8	95.6	89.6	90.4
Shipping and stevedoring	1.6	173.1	169.5	143.8	160.8	122.8
Construction and maintenance	7.6	111.2	91.4	101.6	101.1	92.7
Building	2.4	95.8	85.4	77.9	86.3	87.7
Highway	.6	546.2	521.9	711.9	688.5	448.3
Railway	4.6	109.8	85.1	109.8	102.5	88.1
Services	1.8	108.0	107.9	97.1	95.6	98.3
Hotels and Restaurants	.9	109.8	111.1	95.3	94.7	97.2
Professional	.2	112.3	108.7	96.2	92.5	78.8
Personal (chiefly laundries)	.7	104.2	103.8	99.8	97.6	101.3
Trade	7.3	91.9	91.0	91.7	90.1	94.2
Retail	4.6	90.1	89.3	90.1	88.3	89.8
Wholesale	2.7	95.0	94.0	94.5	93.4	97.5
All Industries	100.	91.8	89.3	91.4	83.3	84.1



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

I n d u s t r y		Relative Weight	May. 1 1924	Apr. 1 1924	May 1 1923
Maritime Provinces-	Manufacturing	40.0	79.9	75.3	85.6
	Lumber products	5.5	73.3	59.9	75.1
	Pulp and paper	3.5	112.3	110.8	115.0
	Textile products	5.5	95.6	97.4	105.6
	Iron and steel	14.5	69.4	69.4	80.9
	Other manufactures	11.0	86.0	75.1	82.6
	Logging	1.6	36.1	21.7	10.8
	Mining	26.0	111.4	98.5	107.2
	Communication	3.2	92.1	87.5	84.4
	Transportation	17.4	90.3	101.4	92.5
	Construction & main-tenance	5.4	80.7	75.1	87.5
	Services	.7	91.9	93.6	94.6
	Trade	5.7	109.4	110.1	114.5
Maritime Provinces-	All Industries	100.	88.1	84.6	90.0
Quebec -	Manufacturing	65.6	89.4	89.3	89.9
	Lumber products	4.2	98.4	97.4	102.0
	Pulp and paper	8.7	96.7	96.8	101.2
	Textile products	13.8	90.6	92.3	96.0
	Iron and steel	15.7	83.3	84.6	80.7
	Other manufactures	23.2	89.2	90.5	87.3
	Logging	2.6	52.0	42.0	59.7
	Mining	1.5	85.0	77.2	86.7
	Communication	2.7	130.6	128.9	120.6
	Transportation	13.9	119.6	100.7	100.0
	Construction & main-tenance	6.9	122.5	103.4	89.9
	Services	1.8	128.3	138.7	96.9
	Trade	5.0	92.2	92.0	91.7
Quebec-	All Industries	100.	94.1	91.5	90.3
Ontario -	Manufacturing	67.5	86.3	85.2	90.6
	Lumber products	6.5	93.5	82.1	94.7
	Pulp and paper	7.5	100.1	100.8	100.9
	Textile products	10.4	80.1	82.2	88.1
	Iron and steel	20.6	82.7	82.4	88.7
	Other manufactures	22.5	86.8	85.3	89.7
	Logging	1.4	31.5	40.6	25.7
	Mining	3.2	140.2	158.6	109.4
	Communication	2.8	111.5	109.5	97.1
	Transportation	10.2	105.1	102.4	113.3
	Construction & main-tenance	6.8	119.1	96.9	109.4
	Services	1.6	115.0	112.6	105.9
	Trade	6.5	93.3	91.1	90.2
Ontario-	All Industries	100.	89.8	87.6	91.6
Prairie Provinces-	Manufacturing	33.1	95.8	95.5	96.1
	Lumber products	1.9	61.6	66.1	78.7
	Pulp and paper	3.1	98.5	96.3	97.8
	Textile products	1.8	93.1	93.8	97.3
	Iron and steel	15.8	98.8	97.4	99.9
	Other manufactures	10.5	101.1	101.7	94.9
	Logging	1.3	36.0	41.0	10.5
	Mining	7.4	69.1	75.2	73.8
	Communication	3.8	83.8	81.7	87.3
	Transportation	24.3	95.6	93.8	92.6
	Construction & main-tenance	11.9	107.0	82.8	120.8
	Services	2.1	89.2	88.7	88.7
	Trade	16.1	82.0	81.4	85.1
Prairie Provinces	-All Industries	100.	89.4	87.0	90.4
British Columbia-	Manufacturing	35.7	91.7	88.1	92.4
	Lumber products	16.4	98.4	91.8	104.4
	Pulp and paper	4.7	91.8	91.7	97.0
	Textile products	1.1	104.4	106.6	119.7
	Iron and steel	4.6	51.3	50.9	48.6
	Other manufactures	8.9	122.8	119.7	113.7
	Logging	12.3	126.4	125.5	117.4
	Mining	14.6	106.9	106.7	99.8
	Communication	3.0	120.5	118.6	111.8
	Transportation	14.9	115.8	114.0	104.2
	Construction & main-tenance	9.1	96.6	79.7	77.3
	Services	3.1	91.0	91.9	90.1
	Trade	7.3	110.9	112.0	108.2
British Columbia	- All Industries	100.	102.9	99.6	97.5

STATISTICS CANADA LIBRARY  
BIBLIOTHÈQUE STATISTIQUE CANADA



1010515350