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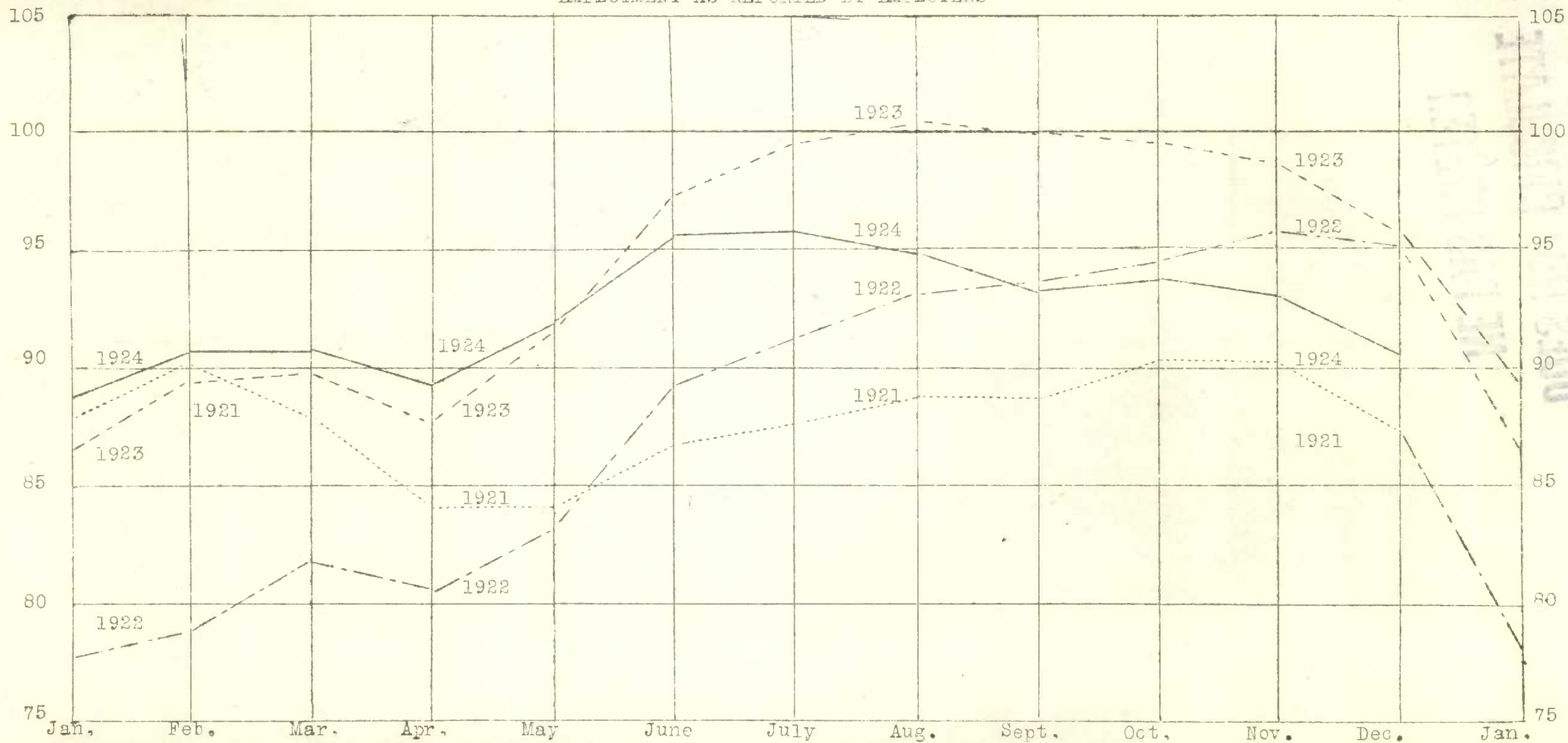
ANNUAL REVIEW
of
EMPLOYMENT
in
CANADA
1924

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OTTAWA

1925

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.

Issued January 12, 1925.

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

GENERAL STATISTICS BRANCH

OTTAWA, CANADA.

ANNUAL REVIEW OF EMPLOYMENT IN CANADA, 1924.

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

According to returns from employers of labour tabulated by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, the employment situation early in 1924 was more favourable than in the same months of the three preceding years, a result of the upward movement that began in 1922 and continued during the greater part of 1923. The fluctuations in the curve of employment in the chart on the opposite page were very much the same as in the first few months of 1923, although the contraction at the beginning of April, 1924, partly reflecting Easter lay-offs, was less pronounced. In succeeding months, however, the rate of seasonal increase was slower than it had been in the preceding year, and by the beginning of June, the curve has sagged below its 1923 level.

Spring and summer expansion was recorded in 1924 only from April to July, when the peak index of 95.9 was reached; in 1923 the crest of employment was at the beginning of August and the index, for the first time since 1920, was above the base level (January 1920), standing at 100.2. Contractions were indicated in 1924 on the first of August and September. There was a brief recovery in October, but the downward movement was soon resumed, and on November 1 and December 1 there were losses, largely seasonal in character. The declines on the latter date, however, were less extensive than at the same period in 1923.

The average working force of the firms reporting (between 5,500 and 6,000 in number) was 760,405, varying between 730,000 persons on January 1 and 786,000 on July 1. The expansion in construction was, as usual, most pronounced; large seasonal gains were also registered in lumber mills, canneries and some other manufactures, but, on the whole, manufacturing was dull during the year. Trade, services, logging and communication reported improvement as compared with 1923, while the index numbers in construction, mining and transportation were somewhat lower during 1924.

Employment by Provinces.

The most favourable situation as compared with 1923 was in Quebec and British Columbia; elsewhere employment was in smaller volume.

Maritime Provinces.—Activity was less throughout the whole of 1924 than in the preceding year, the index number averaging 86.1 as compared with 94.2 in 1923. The peak of employment was in July, when the index was 90.6. Employment in iron and steel, particularly in rolling mills, and in textiles was generally dull; mining, transportation and construction also afforded less employment than in 1923, while logging, communication and services were rather busier. The pay-rolls of the reporting employers averaged 64,324 during 1924.

Quebec.—Firms in this province recorded a more favourable situation than in any other except British Columbia; the index averaged 95.8 as compared with 95.2 in 1923. The working force of the employers whose returns were tabulated averaged 211,242. Manufacturing afforded more employment in the early part of 1924, but from June the level was lower; textiles, lumber, iron and steel, pulp and paper were not so

Textiles.- Employment in textiles in Canada, as in the United States, was slack during 1924. Cotton, woollen, hosiery, knitting and garment factories employed smaller working forces than in 1923; the prolonged seasonal losses were more extensive than usual. During the autumn considerable recovery was indicated, but the downward movement was resumed at the beginning of December.

Tobacco, Distilled and Malt Liquors.- There was continuous improvement in these industries from May 1 to November 1, and the index number averaged slightly higher than in 1923.

Clay, Glass and Stone.- Although there was steady seasonal expansion in building material factories during the spring of 1924, employment was in less volume than in 1923, when building on the whole was more active. The curtailment of operations was fairly general in all provinces.

Electric Current.- The development of electric power continued to afford much employment. The situation in 1924 was a good deal better than in 1923, the index number averaging 125.6 as compared with 117.8 in the latter year. The gains in Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia were most extensive.

Electrical Apparatus.- A high level of employment was indicated in electrical appliance works, chiefly in Quebec and Ontario. This partly reflected expansion in the production of radio equipment, which is manufactured in many cases by makers of electrical devices. The index averaged 111.7, or 10.7 points higher than in 1923.

Iron and Steel.- Employment in iron and steel at the opening of 1924 was in greater volume than at the beginning of the preceding year, but this favourable position was soon lost. There were declines from May to September 1, followed by partial recovery in the next two months. The downward trend was, however, once more established on December 1, but the contractions on that date were not nearly as extensive as at the beginning of the same month in 1923. Railway car, automobile, agricultural implement, crude, rolled and forged works afforded less employment and steel shipyards were slacker; farm implement plants, however, showed considerable recovery on the first of December. The firms reporting had an average pay-roll of 114,129 persons.

Non-ferrous Metal Products.- Some curtailment of operations as compared with the preceding year was indicated in these industries; nickel, copper, and other works were slacker during 1924. At the beginning of the year conditions were better than in 1923, but the improvement in succeeding months was not pronounced, and the trend soon became unfavourable.

Non-Metallic Mineral Products.- Petroleum refineries, gas and other plants coming under this heading were busier than in 1923. The index number in the mineral products group averaged 102.5 as compared with 98.6 in the preceding year.

Other Manufacturing Industries.- Firms in the fur, musical instrument and chemical divisions generally afforded less employment during 1924 than in 1923.

Logging.

Employment in logging followed the usual seasonal trends. The index number was slightly higher on January 1, 1924, than on the same date in 1923, and on the whole continued to be higher until the early summer. During July and August, however, it was lower, but the situation improved in September and employment was slightly above its 1923 level in the following reports.

Winnipeg.- The highest point reached by the index number in 1924 was 86.4 on September 1; in the preceding year it was 92.6 on January 1. An average working force of 23,322 was employed by the firms making returns. Meat slaughtering and packing establishments showed moderate gains during the year and construction was fairly active. Other industries were generally dull.

Vancouver.- Trade, construction and communication reported improvement, as did also food, electric current and iron and steel plants. Lumber mills and shipping, on the whole, did not afford as much employment as in 1923. The reporting employers had an average pay-roll of 21,628 workers, and the index number in 1924 averaged 99.6, as compared with 95.3 in 1923.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRIES

Manufacturing.

Employment at the beginning of 1924 was on a slightly higher level than in the early part of 1923. There were steady gains from January to the first of June, but these were less extensive than during the same months of the preceding year, and the index number soon fell below the 1923 position. The peak of employment was reached on June 1, when the index was 82.4. In 1923 the high point was 93.6 on July 1. Lumber, pulp and paper, textiles, iron and steel and some other manufactures employed smaller working forces, while the food, electric current, mineral product and electrical appliance divisions showed improvement. The average number of operatives employed by the reporting firms was 421,173.

Animal Products, Edible.- Fish and meat preparing and preserving plants were generally more active than in 1923. The index number at its peak of 101.3 on July 1 was over six points above the 1923 high level.

Leather and Products.- Boot, shoe and other leather using factories on the whole afforded less employment than in 1923. Quebec and Ontario shared in the depression in this industry.

Lumber Products.- The pronounced seasonal losses in lumber mills at the beginning of the year were followed by the usual expansion until midsummer, after which employment again waned with the completion of the season's cut. Neither the gains nor the succeeding contractions, however, were as extensive as in 1923; the index has consistently been on a lower level. Furniture and other wood using factories were not so fully engaged as in the preceding year.

Plant Products - Edible.- Employment in this division averaged higher than in 1923; the late season caused activity in canneries during the summer to sag slightly below the 1923 level, but speedy improvement was indicated and the index number at the peak was about three points above the high mark of the preceding year. Chocolate and confectionery factories showed the usual large gains in the autumn in preparation for the holiday season, and sugar refineries were moderately busy, especially in the first half of the year.

Pulp and Paper.- This industry was very active in 1923, but in 1924 was somewhat less so. The gains were on a smaller scale than in the former year and were offset at frequent intervals by declines. At the peak of employment on October 1, the index was 101.1; in 1923 the high point of 105.5 was reached in August. Pulp and paper plants reported curtailment, while employment in printing establishments was generally on a slightly higher level than in the preceding year.

Rubber Products.- The fluctuations in employment in rubber works during 1924 were somewhat less marked than in 1923. The situation was not as favourable in the early part of the year, but improvement has been recorded in recent months.

Textiles.- Employment in textiles in Canada, as in the United States, was slack during 1924. Cotton, woollen, hosiery, knitting and garment factories employed smaller working forces than in 1923; the prolonged seasonal losses were more extensive than usual. During the autumn considerable recovery was indicated, but the downward movement was resumed at the beginning of December.

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Electrical Apparatus.- A high level of employment was indicated in electrical appliance works, chiefly in Quebec and Ontario. This partly reflected expansion in the production of radio equipment, which is manufactured in many cases by makers of electrical devices. The index averaged 111.7, or 10.7 points higher than in 1923.

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Logging.

Employment in logging followed the usual seasonal trends. The index number was slightly higher on January 1, 1924, than on the same date in 1923, and on the whole continued to be higher until the early summer. During July and August, however, it was lower, but the situation improved in September and employment was slightly above its 1923 level in the following reports.

Mining.

Employment in coal mining averaged rather lower. At the beginning of 1924, the index was 92.1 compared with 101.3 on January 1, 1923. Employment declined almost steadily until the autumn, when marked revival was indicated. The prolonged strikes in the western coalfields affected the situation considerably during the summer. Metallic ore mines were very busy in Ontario and British Columbia, the index of employment in this division averaging 148.9 as compared with 123.5 in 1923. The peak of employment, 159.2, was on August 1; in the preceding year it was 138.5 in the early winter. The production of non-metallic minerals was on the whole smaller, although there were considerable gains for many months of the year.

Communication.

Pronounced and consistent expansion was indicated in this division from the beginning of March until August 1; the index number averaged 109.0 as compared with 102.0 in 1923.

Transportation.

The level of employment in this division was higher than in 1923 until June, but from then on the situation was not so favourable. This partly reflects the influence of the smaller harvest upon transport. At the beginning of December, 1924, however, the seasonal contractions were very much less extensive than on the same date in the preceding year. Street and electric and steam railway operation reported reduced employment, while the index in shipping and stowdoring averaged nearly six points higher than in 1923.

Construction and Maintenance.

These industries were very active in 1923 and on the whole only slightly less so in 1924; the index number averaged 131.9 in the former as compared with 130.8 in the latter year. The peak index of employment in 1923 was 183.7 on August 1. In 1924 it was 175.8 on July 1. Employment in construction was relatively most active in the Prairie Provinces, where the index rose to 198.7 at midsummer; this was due to large seasonal expansion in highway and railway construction. The number employed by the contractors making returns varied between 47,000 on April 1 and 89,000 on July 1.

Services.

Improvement over the preceding year was registered in services, mainly in hotels and restaurants and laundries. The index number averaged 112.2 as compared with 105.2 in 1923.

Trade.

On the whole, trade was slightly more active during 1924; the usual increases in anticipation of Christmas and the holidays were larger than in preceding years, especially in Ontario. The reporting firms employed a salesforce of over 59,000 persons at the beginning of December, but employment would increase considerably during the next three weeks. The index number averaged 93.3, compared with 92.8 in 1923.

The tables on pages 6 and 7 give index numbers of employment by provinces, cities and main industrial groups for the last few years; these are based upon the number of persons employed by the reporting firms in January, 1920, as 100. For index numbers by months in some fifty classified industries, reference should be made to the monthly bulletins on employment issued by the General Statistics Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Note: The number employed by the reporting firms in Jan. 1920 is taken as 100 in every case. The "relative weight" shows the proportion of employees in the indicated district to the total number of employees reported in Canada as at December 1, 1924.

TABLE I.- Index Numbers of Employment by Districts.

	Maritime Provinces	Quebec	Ontario	Prairie Provinces	British Columbia	Canada
Jan. 1, 1922	78.1	74.4	75.3	82.8	79.9	77.9
Feb. 1	76.8	74.6	79.5	83.0	84.3	78.9
Mar. 1	80.7	80.6	81.7	84.4	85.3	81.9
Apr. 1	80.6	77.5	81.1	82.1	85.9	80.6
May 1	83.0	81.2	82.4	85.4	91.3	85.3
June 1	87.4	83.1	87.3	92.8	96.6	89.2
July 1	92.6	88.0	89.2	99.7	99.2	91.1
Aug. 1	94.0	90.3	90.8	101.5	99.8	93.1
Sept. 1	90.3	91.6	91.9	101.2	102.0	93.7
Oct. 1	91.8	92.0	93.6	101.9	100.1	94.6
Nov. 1	91.7	92.7	94.9	105.0	100.2	95.8
Dec. 1	92.1	93.9	94.4	101.5	95.6	95.1
Jan. 1, 1923	90.8	83.5	85.6	90.0	88.3	86.3
Feb. 1	90.4	87.7	90.0	91.6	88.4	89.5
Mar. 1	90.7	87.9	90.3	88.9	92.0	89.9
Apr. 1	90.5	85.5	88.4	83.5	92.8	87.6
May 1	90.0	90.3	91.6	90.4	97.5	91.4
June 1	93.9	99.1	96.8	95.5	100.4	97.3
July 1	101.0	100.5	97.2	101.4	103.9	99.5
Aug. 1	97.8	101.9	97.1	104.3	107.2	100.2
Sept. 1	101.4	100.1	98.1	101.1	106.6	100.
Oct. 1	97.0	104.0	96.0	100.7	104.2	99.5
Nov. 1	95.2	103.2	96.0	99.2	102.8	98.8
Dec. 1	91.2	98.5	93.4	99.3	97.8	95.7
Jan. 1, 1924	86.3	90.5	86.1	94.3	90.9	88.7
Feb. 1	83.2	92.8	90.0	92.1	92.7	90.6
Mar. 1	82.4	93.5	89.8	89.6	97.1	90.7
Apr. 1	84.6	91.5	87.6	87.0	99.6	89.3
May 1	88.1	94.1	89.8	89.4	102.9	91.8
June 1	90.0	99.9	92.1	94.1	103.4	95.2
July 1	90.6	100.6	91.4	99.1	105.8	95.9
Aug. 1	90.2	98.7	90.3	96.4	107.1	94.7
Sept. 1	86.6	97.3	88.9	93.9	106.0	93.1
Oct. 1	83.3	97.6	91.6	91.4	104.0	93.9
Nov. 1	83.7	97.1	90.4	94.1	102.1	93.0
Dec. 1	79.3	95.3	88.4	91.8	100.0	90.8
Relative weight of Employment by Districts as at December 1, 1924						
	7.9	28.1	41.9	13.2	8.9	100.

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	31.5	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	83.4	85.7	86.9
May 1	88.8		88.1	94.3	92.6	86.3	91.3
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	97.3		89.1	109.3	93.3	87.5	103.6
Sept. 1	93.6		89.6	107.5	92.2	89.9	104.3
Oct. 1	88.7		90.1	105.3	91.1	89.4	101.6
Nov. 1	69.1		89.9	103.8	89.7	88.6	98.6
Dec. 1	93.6		90.2	94.3	88.5	88.2	98.1
Jan. 1, 1924	86.3		82.6	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	83.6	94.2
Apr. 1	90.1		84.8	90.9	85.2	83.3	90.8
May 1	92.3		85.6	98.3	86.4	83.0	102.2
June 1	96.3		89.2	101.6	83.7	83.6	99.7
July 1	94.3		89.9	101.3	81.7	83.5	99.0
Aug. 1	95.1	96.9	89.9	100.6	80.9	85.5	102.3
Sept. 1	92.9	86.4	85.3	100.6	79.4	86.4	104.0
Oct. 1	93.7	98.3	86.4	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

Note.- The number employed by the reporting firms in January, 1920, is taken as 100 in every case. The "relative weight" shows the proportion of employees in the indicated industry to the total number of employees reported in Canada as at December 1, 1924.

TABLE III.- Index Numbers of Employment by Industries.

	Manufacturing	Logging	Mining	Communication	Transportation	Construction & Maintenance	Services	Trade	All Industries
1921									
Jan. 1	78.4	88.6	100.3	105.4	103.0	102.9	94.5	100.4	87.7
Feb. 1	84.3	94.3	95.8	104.6	101.3	100.1	94.2	92.5	90.1
Mar. 1	84.6	81.8	92.8	104.1	95.8	89.2	96.3	92.0	88.0
Apr. 1	80.7	44.5	88.0	101.8	95.5	86.7	97.3	92.5	84.1
May 1	80.2	49.5	86.9	103.1	94.0	92.7	98.3	94.2	84.1
Jun. 1	81.1	47.3	88.7	106.1	98.1	111.9	103.8	92.5	86.6
Jul. 1	80.9	35.4	92.2	107.4	99.6	126.7	108.0	92.7	87.5
Aug. 1	81.3	32.3	91.0	107.1	102.7	144.6	107.7	91.4	88.9
Sep. 1	79.3	41.9	96.0	106.8	106.6	141.6	107.3	92.1	88.7
Oct. 1	81.3	46.1	96.4	105.1	109.6	142.5	104.5	92.4	90.2
Nov. 1	81.1	59.7	98.1	104.5	110.5	139.3	96.0	93.0	90.2
Dec. 1	79.3	61.2	98.0	103.8	106.9	113.2	93.4	96.3	87.2
1922									
Jan. 1	68.7	59.5	93.0	101.1	99.2	92.4	92.9	96.9	77.9
Feb. 1	73.0	61.5	89.7	95.7	97.0	79.8	91.7	90.3	78.9
Mar. 1	73.1	54.8	90.3	97.5	97.1	83.7	93.0	88.2	81.9
Apr. 1	73.0	27.2	88.9	98.2	96.8	81.4	94.6	88.6	80.6
May 1	79.0	37.0	90.2	100.4	98.7	101.1	95.6	90.1	83.3
Jun. 1	84.2	37.5	92.6	100.6	106.2	129.5	100.3	90.0	89.2
Jul. 1	84.2	31.4	94.4	100.6	109.2	157.4	104.4	90.7	91.1
Aug. 1	85.8	27.9	96.2	103.1	111.6	169.4	104.7	90.1	93.1
Sep. 1	86.5	36.5	97.1	103.4	111.9	164.3	105.0	90.8	94.7
Oct. 1	86.7	42.1	101.1	102.8	114.0	166.2	102.0	91.9	94.6
Nov. 1	87.7	66.0	104.5	102.2	114.7	153.2	96.6	93.8	95.8
Dec. 1	87.7	84.7	102.8	101.5	115.3	122.6	95.8	97.0	95.1
1923									
Jan. 1	78.1	87.0	100.8	97.4	104.8	96.0	92.8	98.2	86.3
Feb. 1	85.0	95.1	101.3	96.5	101.5	86.0	92.4	93.7	89.5
Mar. 1	87.5	88.8	98.6	97.4	99.8	83.8	93.4	88.9	89.9
Apr. 1	85.6	57.8	97.0	98.0	100.2	85.2	94.9	90.2	87.6
May 1	90.5	48.0	96.7	99.7	101.7	101.6	97.1	91.7	91.4
Jun. 1	93.5	52.5	101.6	102.2	109.0	140.2	108.8	91.9	97.3
Jul. 1	93.6	48.4	101.6	103.4	112.2	169.1	115.1	92.3	99.5
Aug. 1	93.5	42.2	101.0	105.2	113.4	183.7	118.7	91.7	100.2
Sep. 1	93.0	43.1	104.0	106.4	113.4	180.9	120.3	92.0	100.1
Oct. 1	91.8	51.7	104.9	106.6	116.2	171.8	113.7	93.2	99.5
Nov. 1	91.2	62.6	105.4	105.3	116.8	159.3	108.5	93.1	98.8
Dec. 1	88.2	82.2	105.9	106.1	113.8	125.2	106.2	96.8	95.7
1924									
Jan. 1	80.1	92.1	109.5	104.2	107.3	98.8	106.6	99.4	88.7
Feb. 1	84.9	97.0	104.0	104.0	103.7	94.2	106.3	91.2	90.6
Mar. 1	86.0	90.8	99.7	105.4	103.1	93.1	106.2	91.2	90.7
Apr. 1	86.5	54.2	99.5	106.0	103.7	91.4	107.9	91.0	89.5
May 1	87.7	54.5	103.3	108.2	105.3	111.2	108.0	91.2	91.8
Jun. 1	88.4	53.6	103.7	109.3	110.1	147.3	113.8	92.5	95.2
Jul. 1	87.7	43.1	99.9	111.7	110.0	175.8	122.5	92.1	95.9
Aug. 1	86.2	36.2	99.4	113.9	110.8	173.1	122.4	91.7	94.7
Sep. 1	84.5	43.7	99.1	113.1	107.8	165.3	121.7	92.1	93.1
Oct. 1	85.7	53.4	99.0	111.2	109.0	157.5	115.0	93.1	93.9
Nov. 1	84.2	71.8	100.5	111.3	108.2	144.9	109.3	93.8	93.0
Dec. 1	82.0	85.1	99.2	109.3	108.2	116.6	107.2	99.1	90.8

Relative weight of industries as at December 1, 1924.

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