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Published by Authority of the Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe, Minister of Trade and Commerce

9-7020

Price 10 cents

Trends of Employment, Earnings and Hours in the Principal
Non-Agricultural Industries in Newfoundland.

(December 1949 - June 1950)

Foreword.

Since late in 1949, current data on employment, payrolls and man-hours have been furnished by leading business establishments^{1/} in Newfoundland, comparable to the statistics obtained from employers in the major non-agricultural industries in other parts of Canada. The present report summarizes the results of the enquiries.

Information is not available to show precisely the proportions that the wage-earners and salaried employees of the firms co-operating in the different industries in Newfoundland constitute of the total paid workers in the same industries. From comparison with the Newfoundland Census of 1945, and the labour force survey of Mar. 4, 1950, however, it is estimated that the monthly surveys relate to about two-thirds of the total in logging, and to virtually all paid workers in mining and finance. In manufacturing, over 90 p.c. of the total employees are included. The representation of railway employment is complete. Statistics for the numerous shipping firms operating in Newfoundland waters, each with comparatively few employees, however, are not so complete; as a result, the coverage in transportation as a whole is reduced, being estimated at 78 p.c. The representation in construction and in trade amounts to about 52 p.c. and 58 p.c., respectively. It is not possible at present to measure the extent of coverage in those branches of the service industries for which data are available, mainly hotels and restaurants and laundries and dry-cleaning plants.

For the time being, data for Newfoundland cannot be incorporated in the index numbers of employment and payrolls prepared for the rest of Canada, owing to the lack of necessary base period information. The available statistics for the province and for St. John's, however, will hereafter appear in the monthly bulletins entitled "The Employment Situation at the Beginning of Together with Payrolls" and "Man-Hours and Hourly-Earnings Reported at the First of ". (Reports 9-4010 and 9-4040).

^{1/} That is, by firms usually employing some 15 persons and over, in the major industrial groups listed in the first section of the table on page 2.

1.- Statistics of Employment Reported by Leading Employers^{1/} in Specified Industries in Newfoundland.
With Average Weekly Salaries and Wages at Dec. 1, 1949 - June 1, 1950.

(The latest data are subject to revision).

Industries	Firms Reporting at June 1, 1950	Employees Reported at June 1, 1950	Proportion of Women at June 1, 1950	Average Weekly Salaries and Wages at						
	no.	no.	P.C.	June 1 1950	May 1 1950	Apr. 1 1950	Mar. 1 1950	Feb. 1 1950	Jan. 1 1950	Dec. 1 1949
A.- Provincial Statistics										
Forestry (Logging)	6	1,120	0.9	40.57	42.04	44.63	45.99	40.94	47.64	42.56
Mining	7	2,820	1.8	47.91	50.08	53.67	54.68	55.43	61.03	47.62
Manufacturing (all branches)	107	9,677	15.0	42.98	43.95	44.59	43.56	42.03	39.84	39.62
Foods and beverages	63	3,141	23.3	28.12	27.31	28.33	27.05	25.51	25.10	25.50
Fish Processing	42	2,154	18.1	26.67	23.98	26.36	23.84	21.83	21.32	22.48
Iron and steel products ^{2/}	10	969	1.2	48.06	46.60	46.92	45.97	40.61	43.22	45.32
Construction	18	1,082	3.8	36.14	35.74	38.68	35.70	32.60	28.65	37.52
Transportation & Communications	27	4,527	6.1	42.66	44.72	41.31	42.06	41.90	41.16	43.02
Public Utilities	4	423	7.6	31.11	31.31	30.05	31.91	29.27	28.27	31.27
Trade	110	6,050	23.9	29.53	29.56	30.17	32.24	31.28	28.97	29.79
Finance	4	364	44.2	32.90	32.91	32.97	32.68	32.68	32.44	32.44
Services ^{3/}	17	552	61.4	20.60	20.88	20.48	20.86	20.03	20.25	20.01

B.- Statistics for St. John's

Manufacturing (all branches)	56	3,589	25.0	36.17	35.63	37.00	34.90	32.64	33.35	34.53
Foods and beverages	28	1,538	30.2	33.39	32.45	34.26	31.16	30.18	31.21	32.34
Printing and publishing	6	272	25.7	38.71	36.14	36.79	36.30	35.39	36.05	36.03
Iron and steel products ^{2/}	9	953	1.3	47.63	46.29	46.69	45.74	40.27	43.31	45.06
Construction	12	344	4.7	35.64	37.88	38.25	38.41	36.73	29.80	38.36
Public Utilities	4	423	7.6	31.11	31.31	30.05	31.91	29.27	28.27	31.27
Trade	62	4,100	23.0	32.15	31.51	32.95	35.97	35.20	31.66	31.68
Finance	3	216	53.7	35.00	35.03	35.13	34.78	34.78	33.99	33.98
Services ^{3/}	13	451	57.9	20.96	21.31	20.86	21.16	20.35	20.49	20.37

C.- Statistics of Man-Hours, Hourly Earnings and Weekly Wages Reported by Leading Establishments in Newfoundland, Apr. 1 - June 1, 1950.

Industry	Wage-Earners Reported ^{4/}	Average Hours			Average Hourly Earnings			Average Weekly Wages		
		June 1 1950	May 1 1950	Apr. 1 1950	June 1 1950	May 1 1950	Apr. 1 1950	June 1 1950	May 1 1950	Apr. 1 1950
Mining	2,251	46.9	43.1	47.6	91.6	92.2	92.2	42.96	39.74	43.89
Manufacturing (all branches)	6,681	44.6	44.1	45.2	95.6	100.4	100.0	43.98	44.28	45.20
Foods and beverages	1,791	41.5	38.1	42.7	62.3	63.1	62.2	25.85	24.04	26.56
Animal foods	1,220	37.2	32.6	39.0	65.1	63.7	61.8	24.22	20.77	24.10
Construction	845	43.9	42.6	46.5	81.3	83.3	84.4	35.69	35.49	39.25

1/ Firms usually employing about 15 persons and over.

2/ Including transportation equipment.

3/ Consisting mainly of hotels and restaurants and laundries and dry-cleaning plants.

4/ That is, wage-earners for whom the co-operating firms keep record of hours worked.

1.- Statistics of Employment and Average Weekly Salaries and Wages.

Part A of Table 1 on page 2 gives the distribution of the employees* reported by the larger establishments in Newfoundland at the beginning of June, with the average weekly salaries and wages of members of their staffs during a period of several months. Statistics for several important industries, concentrated in few establishments, are included only in the totals, in order to prevent identification of material from particular firms. This is necessary under the secrecy provisions of the Statistics Act. It should also be noted in connection with these statistics that the comparatively small totals involved tend to exaggerate the effect of local and passing fluctuations in the figures of employment, payrolls, average hours and average earnings.

Table 2 gives the percentage changes in the employment afforded by the

Table 2.- Percentage Changes From Month to Month in the Employment Afforded by Leading Employers in Specified Industries in Newfoundland,

Dec. 1, 1949 - June 1, 1950.

Industries	Change in Employment at:					
	Jan. 1, 1950	Feb. 1	Mar. 1	Apr. 1	May 1	June 1
	from	from	from	from	from	from
	Dec. 1, 1949	Jan. 1	Feb. 1	Mar. 1	Apr. 1	May 1
	P.C.	P.C.	P.C.	P.C.	P.C.	P.C.
Forestry	-32.8	+24.9	+34.2	-17.9	-36.3	+20.2
Mining	1/	1/	+ 0.3	-24.5	+ 9.3	+15.3
Manufacturing	-11.3	- 7.5	- 1.2	+ 1.8	+ 2.7	+12.2
Foods and Beverages	-20.9	- 2.3	+ 2.3	+ 1.3	+ 0.2	+ 8.1
Fish Processing	-26.7	- 2.0	+ 3.2	+ 1.8	- 1.8	+ 9.1
Iron & steel products	+ 0.1	+ 2.7	- 2.3	+ 6.7	+ 0.6	- 3.9
Construction	-13.7	- 2.3	-10.3	- 4.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Transportation, Storage and Communications	- 4.0	+ 8.7	+ 2.2	+ 4.7	- 4.3	+ 8.0
Public Utilities	+15.5	- 5.4	-21.7	+ 1.8	+19.0	+14.6
Trade	- 3.5	-12.7	+ 0.6	+ 0.7	+ 5.3	+ 3.7
Finance	0.0	+ 2.9	0.0	+ 4.0	0.0	+ 0.3
Services	- 2.3	- 1.8	- 0.9	+ 2.8	+ 2.0	- 0.2

1/ Industrial disputes.

* The questionnaire used in collecting these data requires a statement of the total number of wage-earners and salaried employees on the staffs of the co-operating firms in their last pay periods in the month, together with the amounts disbursed in wages, salaries, commissions, etc., in the same pay periods. Sums paid for periods exceeding a week are reduced by the appropriate proportions to obtain for tabulation purposes the amounts which would be earned, on the average, in one week in the pay period. These sums are combined with those reported for the last week in the month by firms paying each week, to show the amounts currently disbursed in weekly salaries and wages. Gross earnings are requested, before deductions are made for income tax, unemployment insurance contributions, etc. In addition to the items mentioned above, the statistics include overtime payments, cost-of-living, production and incentive bonuses, etc., where paid. The earnings of casual and part-time employees are also included.

Note:- The latest data are subject to revision.

co-operating employers in Newfoundland in specified industries and industrial divisions, during the period for which information has been furnished. The returns show widespread curtailment in industrial activity at Jan. 1, conforming to the general seasonal pattern in Canada as a whole; weather conditions, the observance of the year-end holidays and shut downs for inventory purposes are mainly responsible for this contraction. In logging, the peak of employment was indicated at Mar. 1, followed by seasonal losses in the next two months, with improvement at June 1. In mining, the situation was seriously affected during the winter by industrial disputes; employment showed some recovery following the settlement of the dispute, but at the beginning of June it was at a decidedly lower level than at Dec. 1, 1949.

The movement of employment in manufacturing generally was downward in the first 3 months for which data are available. Seasonal activity in several industries then reversed the trend, which has been moderately favourable from Apr. 1. The most important advances were those recently reported in pulp and paper mills. In construction, curtailment in employment was indicated during the winter months and until the early spring; small gains were recorded at May 1 and June 1, but the level of activity continued lower than at Dec. 1.

The number of employees in the transportation, storage and communications division increased during most months for which data are available; at June 1, the reported staff was 15.5 p.c. higher than at Dec. 1. Merchandising establishments reported seasonal reductions in personnel at Jan. 1 and Feb. 1, after which the trend was upward. The recent increases were largely due to activities associated with the fish trade. Employment in financial institutions and in the service industries for which data are compiled has shown only small changes since Dec. 1, 1949.

Sex Distribution.- The proportion of women reported in manufacturing in Newfoundland at June 1 was smaller than in most other parts of Canada, largely due to the industrial distribution of employment therein. Except in trade, finance and services, the ratios of female employees were very low. The proportion in trade was less than in most other provinces, due largely to the comparatively large numbers engaged in the fish-exporting business. The ratios in finance and services did not greatly differ from the general proportions in Canada.

Average Weekly Salaries and Wages.- The general trend of average weekly salaries and wages in leading manufacturing establishments in Newfoundland has been upward in the period for which monthly data are available, the per capita figure rising by 8.1 p.c. from Dec. 1, 1949, to June 1, 1950. In several of the major non-manufacturing classes, seasonal changes in the levels of employment from time to time have had an influence on the average weekly salaries and wages. The marked variations in mining were largely the result of industrial disputes, which affected mainly the wage-earners.

Statistics for St. John's.- The industrial distribution of employment in leading manufacturing establishments in St. John's, given in Part B of Table 1, differs from that generally recorded in Newfoundland as a whole. As in other Canadian cities, the proportion of women is higher, and the general figure of average weekly earnings is lower than in the province as a whole. In trade, finance and the service industries for which data are available, on the other hand, the per capita figures in St. John's exceed the provincial averages for the same industries. Table 3 shows the percentage changes in employment reported

from month to month since Dec. 1, 1949, in the more important industries in St. John's.

Table 3.- Percentage Changes From Month to Month in the Employment Afforded by Leading Employers in Specified Industries in St. John's,

Dec. 1, 1949 - June 1, 1950.

Change in Employment at:

<u>Industries</u>	Jan.1, 1950	Feb. 1	Mar. 1	Apr. 1	May 1	June 1
	from Dec.1, 1949	from Jan. 1	from Feb. 1	from Mar. 1	from Apr. 1	from May 1
Manufacturing	- 9.9	- 1.7	+ 0.5	+2.0	+ 2.8	+ 6.4
Foods and Beverages	-16.6	+ 3.4	+ 2.6	-0.4	+ 2.8	+11.3
Printing and Publishing	- 0.7	- 1.1	+ 0.4	0.0	- 0.4	- 1.1
Iron and steel products	+ 0.3	+ 2.7	- 2.3	+6.7	+ 0.7	- 4.0
Construction	- 3.8	-12.1	-18.0	-6.9	- 3.1	+ 9.9
Public Utilities	+15.5	- 5.4	-21.7	+1.8	+19.0	+14.6
Trade	- 1.7	-14.4	+ 4.5	-1.3	+ 9.9	+ 0.5
Finance	0.0	+ 0.5	0.0	+7.0	0.0	+ 0.5
Services	- 2.8	- 1.6	0.0	+0.5	+ 2.3	- 0.2

2.- Statistics of Man-Hours and Hourly-Earnings.

Section C of the table on page 2 deals with statistics of man-hours, hourly earnings and weekly wages reported by leading employers in Newfoundland for the wage-earners for whom they keep record of hours worked, mainly those paid by the hour.

As in the remaining parts of Canada, the general average of hours worked in mining was relatively high. The comparatively low average in the animal food division of manufacturing was chiefly due to the employment of large numbers of seasonal workers. The small falling-off in the average hourly earnings in manufacturing generally at June 1 from May 1 largely resulted from the seasonal employment of considerable numbers of additional wage-earners in the pulp and paper industry.

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