

2.—Employment as Reported by Employers.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics tabulates payroll data on employment, obtained monthly from employers of 15 persons and over; nearly 6,000 of these firms, representing practically every industry except agriculture and the more specialized business and professional callings, made monthly returns covering in 1926 an average working force of over 807,000 persons. The payrolls varied from approximately 733,000 on Jan. 1 to 865,000 on Oct. 1. The trend of employment in the past three years is shown in the chart on page 706. This depicts the steadily upward movement that characterized the greater part of 1926, employment having shown only one decline (on Apr. 1) between January and October. The curve, each month from the beginning of the year, was higher than in the corresponding month of the years 1921-25. The index, at the peak of 105.2 on Oct. 1, was five points higher than on Aug. 1, 1923, the previous high level since 1920, and, despite seasonal curtailment at the close of the year, the situation on Dec. 1, 1926, was more favourable than in any month of the five years from 1921 to 1925.

Employment by Economic Areas.—An analysis of the returns shows that in 1926 British Columbia again recorded a higher level of employment than any other of the economic areas, while Quebec took second place in this respect. The gains in employment between Jan. 1 and the month in which the indexes in the various provinces reached their peak for 1926, varied from 11.3 points in the Maritime Provinces to 22.8 points in Quebec. Table 19 is a record of employment in the five economic areas, as reported monthly by employers.

19.—Index Numbers of Employment as reported by Employers, by Economic Areas, as at the first of each month, January, 1924, to December, 1926, with yearly averages since 1921.

NOTE.—Number of employees of the reporting firms in January, 1920, is taken as 100 in every case. The relative weight shows the proportion of employees reported in the indicated economic area to the total reported by all employers making returns in Canada on Dec. 1, 1926.

Years and Months.	Maritime Provinces	Quebec.	Ontario.	Prairie Provinces.	British Columbia.	Canada.
1921						
Average.....	91.2	86.2	85.1	94.7	91.4	87.8
1922						
Average.....	86.7	85.4	87.1	93.4	93.3	87.9
1923						
Average.....	94.2	95.2	93.4	95.5	98.5	94.6
1924.						
Jan. 1.....	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
April 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	97.8	88.9	93.9	106.0	93.1
Oct. 1.....	88.3	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
Average.....	86.1	95.8	89.7	92.8	101.0	92.3