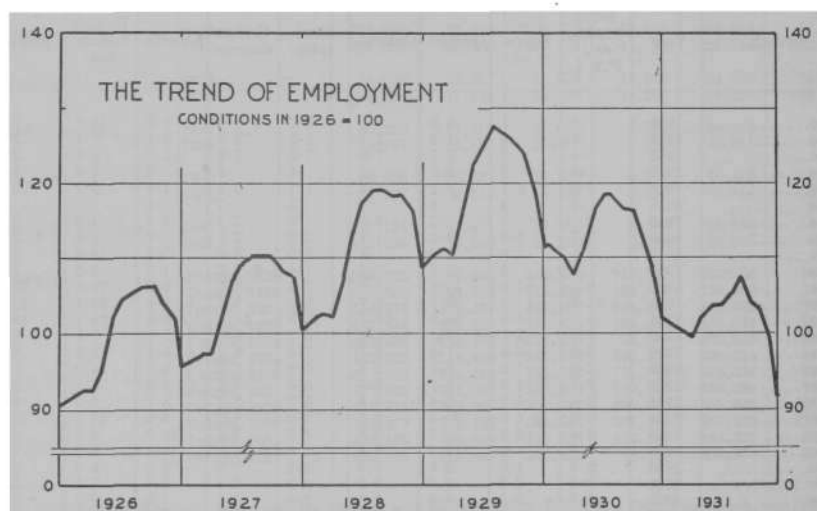


Subsection 3.—Employment as Reported by Employers.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics tabulates monthly reports of the numbers employed by firms having 15 or more persons on their staffs; the returns are representative of practically every industry except agriculture and the more specialized business and professional callings. During 1931, some 7,700 of these employers reported an average working force of 927,485 persons, varying from 899,823 on Jan. 1 to 972,537 at the beginning of September. In Canada, as in other parts of the world, industrial employment continued slack during 1931, activity generally being at a lower level than in any other year since 1926.

A downward trend was shown from the opening of 1931 until April 1, but from May 1 to Sept. 1 the movement was consistently upward. The usual seasonal contraction in industry then caused steady reductions in employment during the remaining months of the year. The following chart illustrates the trend of employment generally over the latest five years.



Employment by Economic Areas.—Firms in all provinces reported considerably less activity in 1931 than in 1930. The index, based on the 1926 average as 100, was higher in the Prairie Provinces than elsewhere. This was due to the execution of important highway construction works undertaken for the relief of the serious unemployment situation that existed during the greater part of the year, both in agricultural and industrial centres, as a result of crop failures and other factors. Table 17 is a record of employment in the five economic areas, by months, 1930 and 1931.