

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 1935, about 9,250 of these employers reported an average working force of 933,085 persons, varying from 874,556 at April 1, to 1,012,103 at the beginning of November.

The generally upward movement that has characterized employment since the first quarter of 1933 continued during 1935. The recovery was not so pronounced as that indicated in 1934 over 1933, in which was recorded the low point of the depression as affecting industrial activity; however, the gains previously made were consolidated and extended, with the result that employment at its 1935 peak (Nov. 1) was in greater volume than in any other month since the end of 1930. It is worthy of note that public employment of one sort or another was a factor of less importance in the general situation during 1935 than it had been in 1934, when substantially larger numbers of persons were provided with work of that nature. The improvement indicated by employers during the year under review may, therefore, be regarded as affording sound evidence of a revival in business resulting from increased public demand for commodities and services rather than from governmental stimulation to industry. The improvement on the whole continued to be quite widely distributed, both geographically and industrially, but the outstanding feature of the year was the recovery in manufacturing, which was both extensive and prolonged; the chief exception to the generally upward movement was construction, employment in the highway division showing a marked decline.

During 1935 the number of man-days worked on a wage basis, on works undertaken for the relief of unemployment, as reported to the Dominion Commissioner of Unemployment Relief by the Dominion and provincial authorities, was 4,388,225 and there were also 6,614,929 man-days relief work afforded in camps operated by the Dominion and Provincial Governments where the unemployed were cared for and given useful work in return for subsistence and a small cash allowance. During 1934, the man-days worked on a wage basis numbered 8,970,721 and the number of man-days relief work afforded on a subsistence basis was 9,557,862.

The fluctuations in employment in the past ten years are illustrated in the chart on p. 770. This shows to October 1935 the generally upward movement that has characterized industrial activity since the low point of employment in the depression was reached at April 1, 1933.

Employment by Economic Areas.—The revival in industrial activity evident during 1934 again extended with a varying intensity to all five economic areas during the year under review. The situation at the end of 1935 was substantially better in each of these districts than it was at the opening of the year, or at the end of 1934, 1933 or 1932, being also more favourable in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia than at the close of 1931. The greatest proportional gain between the 1935 low and high points occurred in the Prairie Provinces, where the maximum of activity was recorded at Nov. 1; the index then stood at 108.1, being 21.2 points higher than the minimum of 86.9 recorded at April 1. Employment in all five economic areas was greater, on the average, than in the twelve months of 1934, when general activity had been at a more satisfactory level than in the preceding year. Table 21 is a record of employment in the five economic areas, by months, in 1934 and 1935, with averages for preceding years since 1921.