

9.—Values of Building Permits Issued by 35 Cities in the calendar years 1910-37 and Index Numbers of the Building Construction Industries.

Year.	Value of Building Permits.	Average Index Numbers of—		
		Wholesale Prices of Building Materials.	Wages in the Building Trades.	Employment in Building Construction. ¹
	\$	(1913=100.)		(1926=100.)
1910.....	100,357,546	2	86.9	2
1911.....	138,170,390	2	90.2	2
1912.....	185,233,449	2	96.0	2
1913.....	153,662,842	100.0	100.0	2
1914.....	96,780,981	93.8	100.8	2
1915.....	33,566,749	90.3	101.5	2
1916.....	39,724,466	103.8	102.4	2
1917.....	33,936,426	130.7	109.9	2
1918.....	36,838,270	150.5	125.9	2
1919.....	77,113,413	175.0	148.2	2
1920.....	106,054,379	214.9	180.9	2
1921.....	100,797,355	183.2	170.5	62.1
1922.....	129,338,017	162.2	162.5	60.0
1923.....	117,243,806	167.0	166.4	66.4
1924.....	113,329,707	159.1	169.1	71.2
1925.....	110,314,698	153.5	170.4	75.8
1926.....	143,052,669	149.2	172.1	100.0
1927.....	164,791,231	143.4	179.3	108.7
1928.....	197,566,322	145.3	185.6	112.0
1929.....	214,277,386	147.7	197.5	135.3
1930.....	152,404,222	135.5	203.2	134.3
1931.....	101,821,221	122.2	195.7	104.3
1932.....	38,443,406	115.2	178.2	54.1
1933.....	19,890,150	116.8	158.0	38.5
1934.....	24,911,430	123.1	154.8	47.8
1935.....	42,839,627	121.2	159.8	55.4
1936.....	36,337,439	127.3	160.8	55.4
1937.....	49,694,847	140.8	165.3	60.1

¹ As reported by employers.

² Not available.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics makes current surveys of the employment afforded by industrial establishments normally employing 15 persons or over. The index of employment in building construction, calculated upon the 1926 average as 100, from data furnished by some 750 employers, averaged 60.1 in 1937, as compared with 55.4 in 1936. The 1937 figure was higher than in any other year since 1931.

Over the period 1911-36, inclusive, or since the beginning of MacLean's record of construction contracts awarded as shown in Table 6, p. 479, there has been an average annual per capita expenditure on construction of about \$30. The period covered includes, of course, the war years and the depression since 1930, as well as the booms of 1911-13 and 1926-30. This average, consequently, is not unreasonably high. For the present population, the annual total of construction, on the basis of this average, should amount to over \$330,000,000. Furthermore, there is undoubtedly an accumulated deficiency in construction from the recent years of sub-normal activity. Some idea may be gained, therefore, of the part which the normal functioning of the construction industry might play in the reduction of unemployment.