

**Subsection 2.—Employment as Reported by Employers\***

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics has for many years tabulated monthly reports of the numbers employed by firms having 15 or more persons on their staffs in the following main industrial groups: manufacturing, logging, mining, transportation, communications, construction and maintenance, services (i.e., hotels and restaurants, and laundering and dry-cleaning) and trade; in more recent years, information has also been received from financial institutions, but for the present their returns are not included in the general index, the record of which extends from 1920. Monthly statistics are not collected from the agricultural industry, domestic and personal services, governmental, educational and other professional services.

During 1940, about 12,100 employers, in the eight industries first-named, reported an average staff of 1,215,431 persons, varying from 1,093,930 at Apr. 1 to 1,364,720 at the beginning of November. A comparison of these figures with the total adult population, as enumerated in the National Registration of August, 1940, indicates clearly the extent to which the monthly surveys are representative of conditions among the industrial workers of the Dominion. The proportion of the total registered population aged 16 years or over, included in the Aug. 1, 1940, survey of employment, was 16.4 p.c., compared with 13.7 p.c. of the population of the same ages enumerated at the Census date in 1931. When industrial activity was at its 1940 peak (at Nov. 1), 174 men and women in each 1,000 of the registered adult population belonged to the working forces of the industrial establishments furnishing monthly returns to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics; when employment was at its low for the year (at Apr. 1), 139 per 1,000 of the adult population were working for these firms.

The year 1940 witnessed an unprecedented expansion in industrial employment in the Dominion, a continuation and intensification of the upward movement that had its inception late in the preceding year, following the outbreak of war. The situation in 1939 had shown considerable variation; the index rose from a rather low level in the winter and spring to a position at the end of the year that was higher than in any preceding December. However the year's average was only slightly higher than in 1938, and was lower than in 1937 or 1929, the years of maximum activity in the period of observation prior to 1940.

Although seasonal curtailment was indicated in the early months of 1940, the level of employment continued high for the winter months, while the trend from Apr. 1 was uninterruptedly favourable, the rate of improvement accelerating as the year progressed. This resulted in the establishment of successive new all-time peaks from Aug. 1 until Nov. 1; at the latter date the index (1926 = 100), standing at 139.2, was 19.8 p.c. higher than at the opening of the year; this exceeded substantially the previous maximum figure of 127.8 at Aug. 1, 1929. At the beginning of December a very slight seasonal recession reduced the index to 139.1; this falling-off, however, was decidedly smaller than usual.

**Employment by Economic Areas.**—Industrial activity gained in all provinces during 1940, when new high levels were established in four of the five economic areas. In most cases, the improvement was steadily maintained throughout the twelve months, while in every province employment increased in volume as the year progressed. Based on the 1926 mean as 100, the average index numbers for Nova Scotia, Quebec and Ontario were higher than the Dominion figure, while in the remaining provinces they were lower.

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