

without variation from the commencement of the War. Most of this falling-off took place in the production of heavy manufactured goods, there being a small advance in the non-durable manufactured goods industries. Expansion was also reported during 1944 in logging, communications, transportation, services, trade and finance; in certain of these industries, the increases over the preceding year were partly due to the employment of greater numbers of part-time workers. On the other hand, mining was less active, largely as a result of continued curtailment in the metallic-ores division. The construction and maintenance group was also quieter, being seriously affected by wartime shortages of labour and materials.

In spite of the fact that there was a slight recession in employment on the whole in 1944 as compared with the preceding 12 months, the reported payrolls showed a further upward movement, the latest annual index being over 2 p.c. higher than that in 1943. The weekly earnings of the typical individual in recorded employment rose from an average of \$30.79 in that year to \$31.85 in 1944; the 1942 mean had been \$28.61.

During the year under review, monthly returns on employment and payrolls were tabulated from an average of 14,641 firms in the eight leading industries, exclusive of finance; including the latter division, information was received from an average of 15,441 establishments. The persons on the staffs of the respondents in the eight leading industries for which records are available since 1920, numbered 1,850,851, while the average in the nine industrial divisions was 1,916,180. Based on the 1926 average as 100, the index of employment in the eight major industries was 183.0, a figure 0.6 p.c. lower than that of 184.1 in 1943. The latest index was higher by 5.4 p.c. than in 1942, and exceeded by over 60 p.c. the annual index of 113.9 in 1939; it was also 53.8 p.c. above that of 119.0 in 1929, the pre-war maximum.

The weekly salaries and wages paid by the co-operating establishments in the nine major industrial groups during 1944 averaged \$61,033,381; in spite of the loss in employment as compared with 1943, referred to in preceding paragraphs, the reported disbursements during the year under review were over 2 p.c. higher than in the preceding 12 months. From the institution of the current record of payrolls at June 1, 1941, there was an increase of 19.3 p.c. in the 1944 index of employment, while the index of payrolls advanced by 47.1 p.c. in the same comparison. The main factors contributing to the substantially greater rise in the salaries and wages than in the numbers in recorded employment may be stated as follows: (1) the concentration of workers in the heavy manufacturing industries, where rates of pay are above the average and, in addition, there has been a considerable amount of overtime work, (2) the payment of cost-of-living bonuses to the majority of workers; the rates at which these allowances were calculated were increased on more than one occasion before their incorporation in the basic wage-rates as from Feb. 15, 1944; (3) the progressive up-grading of employees as they gain experience in their work; and (4) the payment of higher wage rates in a great many cases. With the conclusion of the European War, these factors may become of diminishing importance, the peak of payrolls probably having been reached in the year under review, as the high point of employment was recorded in 1943.

The accompanying chart depicts the general trends of employment, payrolls and per capita weekly earnings in the period from June 1, 1941; the current record