

The indexes given in Table 6 show, so far as possible, the fluctuations in building costs and their effect upon construction work and employment. At various times attempts have been made to determine the relative proportions of material and wage costs in general building; such proportions vary with the type of building and the centres studied, and accurate and representative data are difficult to obtain. Pre-war experience, the result of a study made in 15 cities, indicates that the average proportions of materials to labour in all kinds of construction were about two-thirds for the former to one-third for the latter. The increase in the cost of building operations in the war years has probably been much more than is indicated by the increase in the indexes of wholesale prices and wages shown in Table 6 and the proportions of these items to total costs have, no doubt, undergone some variation due to changes in types and methods of construction and to the greater use of machinery.

#### 6.—Values of Building Permits Taken Out in 35 Cities and Index Numbers of the Building Construction Industries, 1930-45

NOTE.—These cities are the 35 referred to (\*) in Table 5. Figures for the years 1910-29 are given at p. 422 of the 1942 Year Book.

Year	Value of Building Permits	Average Index Numbers of—		
		Wholesale Prices of Building Materials	Wages in Construction Industries <sup>1</sup>	Employment in Building Construction <sup>2</sup>
	\$	(1926=100)	(1939=100)	(1926=100)
1930.....	152,404,222	90.8	119.1	134.3
1931.....	101,821,221	81.9	114.7	104.3
1932.....	38,443,406	77.2	104.5	54.1
1933.....	19,890,150	78.3	92.5	38.5
1934.....	24,911,430	82.5	90.7	47.8
1935.....	42,839,627	81.2	93.6	55.4
1936.....	36,337,439	85.3	94.2	55.4
1937.....	49,694,847	94.4	96.9	60.1
1938.....	54,532,781	89.1	99.2	60.1
1939.....	53,048,231	89.7	100.0	62.1
1940.....	70,789,456	95.6	104.5	83.5
1941.....	85,003,123	107.3	111.6	139.5
1942.....	64,571,168	115.2	118.6	157.9
1943.....	51,646,345	121.2	127.7	160.2
1944.....	83,418,721	127.3	129.6	95.3
1945.....	117,453,652	124.1	129.6	101.6

<sup>1</sup> Compiled by the Department of Labour; this index is also computed on the base 1935-39=100.

<sup>2</sup> As reported by employers. <sup>3</sup> Not available.

**Employment in Building Construction, 1945.**—The Dominion Bureau of Statistics makes current surveys of the employment afforded by industrial establishments normally employing 15 or more persons. The index of employment in building construction, calculated (1926 average = 100) from data furnished by some 1,167 employers, averaged 101.6 in 1945 an increase of 6.3 points from the 1944 index.