

The changing industrial pattern in the Dominion following the cessation of hostilities lessened the influence of some of these factors during 1945. The existence of several important industrial disputes in Canada during the year had a considerable effect upon the situation, which was also indirectly affected by strikes in the United States. In the case of manufacturing, it is interesting to note that between the latter part of 1944 and 1945, there was a decline of between one and two hours in the average time worked per week by hourly rated wage-earners, accompanied by a falling-off of rather more than three cents per hour in the average hourly earnings in the same period, the transfer of employees from the relatively high-pay to the relatively low-pay industries, together with reduced overtime payments, was responsible for the lowered rate.

The accompanying chart shows the general trends of employment, payrolls and average weekly earnings in the period from June 1, 1941, when the record of earnings was commenced to complement the monthly statistics of employment, available from 1920. This shows clearly that, despite some recession in both curves in 1945, that of payrolls continues considerably above the curve of employment; the graph also illustrates the fact that although the per capita earnings in 1945 were slightly below the maximum weekly averages recorded late in 1944, they were nevertheless maintained at a comparatively high level.

