

Employment and Payrolls by Economic Areas.—The contraction in employment previously noted in Canada as a whole, was not uniform in all areas during 1946. The trend during this reconversion stage depended largely on the industrial distribution of the individual area. Employment declined in the Maritimes, Quebec and British Columbia; Ontario showed little change as the expansion of civilian industries, restricted during wartime, counterbalanced declines in industries producing munitions. The only region in which the yearly index was higher in 1946 than in 1945 was the Prairie area, in which the pre-war trend towards increased industrial activity continued during the 12 months under review.

When the situation at Dec. 1, 1946, is compared with that indicated one year previously, it will be noted that the index was higher in all areas except the Maritimes, there being increased industrial activity in the latter part of the year in Quebec and British Columbia, in spite of the decline in the yearly index numbers in those areas. Even in the Maritime Provinces, general improvement was noted in the autumn and winter, although the gain was not enough to raise the annual index to the level of the previous year.

The rate curve of aggregate weekly payrolls did not follow completely the trends shown by employment. In most areas in which employment declined, accompanying reductions in payrolls were not so great. At the same time, a more-than-proportional increase in the salaries and wages took place in those areas where employment was on the upswing. Consequently, the average weekly earnings for 1946 compared favourably with those for 1945 and earlier years in all areas, except the Maritimes. In the latter area, the general decline was very slight. The greatest increase was noted in the Prairies, where the annual average per capita weekly earnings increased by 98 cents, to a new high of \$33.28 in 1946.

2.—Index Numbers of Employment as Reported by Employers in Economic Areas, by Months, 1945 and 1946, with Yearly Averages since 1921

NOTE.—These indexes are calculated as at the first day of each month, on the base 1926=100. The relative weights show the proportion of employees reported in each economic area to the total reported by all employers making returns in Canada at Dec. 1, 1945.

Year	Maritime Provinces	Quebec	Ontario	Prairie Provinces	British Columbia	Canada
Averages, 1921.....	102.4	82.2	90.6	94.0	81.1	88.8
Averages, 1922.....	97.3	81.4	92.8	92.6	82.8	89.0
Averages, 1923.....	105.7	90.7	99.5	94.8	87.4	95.8
Averages, 1924.....	96.6	91.3	95.5	92.1	89.4	93.4
Averages, 1925.....	97.0	91.7	95.8	92.0	93.7	93.6
Averages, 1926 ¹	99.4	99.4	99.6	99.5	100.2	99.6
Averages, 1927.....	103.7	104.0	105.6	105.3	101.1	104.6
Averages, 1928.....	106.6	108.3	113.8	117.9	106.4	111.6
Averages, 1929.....	114.8	113.4	123.1	126.3	111.5	119.0
Averages, 1930.....	118.3	110.3	114.6	117.1	107.9	113.4
Averages, 1931.....	108.1	100.9	101.2	111.5	95.5	102.5
Averages, 1932.....	92.2	85.5	88.7	90.0	80.5	87.5
Averages, 1933.....	85.3	82.0	84.2	86.2	78.0	83.4
Averages, 1934.....	101.0	91.7	101.3	90.0	90.4	96.0
Averages, 1935.....	103.7	95.4	103.3	95.2	97.7	99.4
Averages, 1936.....	109.4	100.7	106.7	99.3	101.1	103.7
Averages, 1937.....	121.0	115.4	118.3	99.3	106.8	114.1
Averages, 1938.....	111.5	117.0	113.7	100.0	104.2	111.8
Averages, 1939.....	110.5	120.8	114.3	103.2	107.5	113.9
Averages, 1940.....	122.2	127.9	129.2	109.0	113.3	124.2
Averages, 1941.....	155.0	157.8	160.0	126.6	135.6	152.3
Averages, 1942.....	174.2	186.2	179.4	135.6	164.8	173.7
Averages, 1943.....	182.1	200.0	185.8	141.4	190.0	184.1
Averages, 1944.....	183.1	196.4	184.7	147.0	185.7	183.0

For footnote, see end of table, p. 614.