

In the 12 months under review, the employment index varied by little more than one point from 181.0 at Jan. 1 to the low point for the year recorded May 1, when the index was 179.6. During this period, the situation had been affected by the dispute in the Maritime coal mines which extended from Feb. 15 to June 11. From the beginning of May the index of recorded employment steadily ascended to reach the all-time maximum of 199.6 at Dec. 1. The 1947 index was calculated from material furnished monthly to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics by some 17,900 establishments in the eight leading industries which reported an average of 1,935,548 employees. In 1946, the employers co-operating in the survey averaged 16,100 and their employees, 1,771,481.

The 1947 index of employment in the manufacturing industries increased over 1946 by 6.8 p.c., compared with an advance of 12.7 p.c. in the non-manufacturing industries as a unit. The relatively greater increase in the latter group resulted in a return to a more normal distribution of recorded employment between these two groups than has been in evidence for several years. Within manufacturing, there were increases in employment in both the durable and non-durable divisions; the relatively larger increase in the former was particularly interesting in that it indicated a reversal of the downward trend indicated in the group since 1943. It may also be noted that in 1946 the situation in the heavy manufactured goods industries as a whole had been seriously affected by industrial disputes and material shortages, factors which were of lesser importance in the year under review. Each of the non-manufacturing industries for which data are available showed improvement, the increases in the index numbers in 1947 over 1946 ranging from 1.9 p.c. in mining and 6.6 p.c. in transportation to 15.8 p.c. in communications and 18 p.c. in construction and maintenance. In most cases, the advance in 1947 resulted in a new all-time high level.

The decline in the proportion of women on the staffs of reporting firms, which became evident in the early post-war period, continued in 1947. The percentage change, however, was not so great as in the preceding year. At Oct. 1, 1947, the proportion of women per 1,000 workers of both sexes in the nine leading industries was 220, compared with 232 at Oct. 1, 1946, and 271 at Oct. 1, 1944, when the ratio was at its maximum. Although the proportion of females in these industries declined, the reported numbers of women employed actually increased by about 4.7 p.c. between Oct. 1, 1946, and Oct. 1, 1947; the advance among men in the same period amounted to about 11.8 p.c. In 1947, the ratio of women workers diminished in each of the nine leading industries except finance, in which there was a small increase over 1946, although that ratio was lower than in 1945, 1944 or 1943. As compared with the war years, the most marked reductions in the proportion of women workers in 1947 were noted in communications, trade and manufacturing. The service industries, mainly hotels, restaurants, laundries and dry-cleaning plants, were in first place in the employment of large proportions of women in 1947; 536 per 1,000 persons on the payrolls of leading establishments in those divisions were