

The indexes given in Table 8 show, as far as possible, the fluctuations in building costs and their effect upon construction work and employment. The relative proportions of material and wage costs in general building are difficult to determine since such proportions vary with the type of building and the centres studied. Pre-war experience, the result of a special study made for 15 cities, indicates that the proportions of costs of materials to costs of labour in all construction averaged two-thirds for the former to one-third for the latter. The increase in the cost of recent building operations has probably been much more than is indicated by the increase in the indexes of wholesale prices and wages shown 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.

Four of the largest cities, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver, accounted for \$161,025,270 or 30 p.c. of this total. In 1929 the same cities showed a value of \$126,387,555.

8.—Values of Building Permits Taken Out in 204 Municipalities and Index Numbers of the Building Construction Industries, 1940-48

NOTE.—These 204 Municipalities are named in Table 7.

Year	Value of Building Permits, 204 Municipalities	Average Index Numbers of— (1926=100)		
		Wholesale Prices of Building Materials	Wages in Construction Industries ¹	Employment in Building Construction ²
	\$			
1940.....	113,005,208	95.6	103.6	83.5
1941.....	135,301,519	107.3	110.6	139.5
1942.....	104,236,278	115.2	117.5	157.9
1943.....	80,190,123	121.2	126.6	160.2
1944.....	128,728,465	127.3	128.4	95.3
1945.....	197,187,160	127.3	129.9	101.8
1946.....	383,596,698	134.8	142.6	145.7
1947.....	373,231,249	166.4	153.6	190.6
1948.....	536,057,597	195.7	174.7	212.6

¹ Compiled by the Department of Labour.

² As reported by employers.

Trends of Employment and Aggregate Wages Paid in the Construction Industry.—In Tables 9 and 10 the employment figures, shown on a monthly basis, reflect the fact that the industry is not as decidedly seasonal as is sometimes thought. The month of highest employment in the industry as a whole, in 1947, was August with 250,108 wage-earners and the lowest was January with 145,210.