

of \$36.15 reported in 1947. Since June 1, 1941, when the monthly record of payrolls was commenced, to Dec. 1, 1948, the general increase in the average weekly earnings was 67.2 p.c. In each of the main industrial divisions, the average weekly salaries and wages exceeded those reported at any earlier date. The increases in 1948 over 1947 varied from 9.4 p.c. in communications to 13.4 p.c. in mining. The general average of weekly earnings in the manufacturing industries was \$40.91, a gain of 11.9 p.c. over the figure of \$36.57 recorded for 1947.

As has been the case since the record of payrolls was instituted in 1941, the 1948 per capita figure for British Columbia, at \$42.62, was higher than that for any other province. Similarly Windsor, as a result of the large proportion of workers in the automotive industry, maintained a substantial lead over the other seven larger cities, its annual average of weekly salaries and wages being \$47.42. The average earnings indicated in Fort William-Port Arthur, Hamilton, Toronto and Vancouver also exceeded the general figure for Canada as a whole.

There were widespread increases in the average hourly earnings of wage-earners in 1948. In manufacturing, the annual figure advanced from 80.3 cents in 1947 to 91.3 cents in 1948, or by 13.7 p.c. The gain was slightly greater in the durable goods group, the average hourly earnings rising from 87.2 cents in 1947 to 98.4 cents in 1948. In the latter year, the annual average of 84.0 cents in the non-durable goods group exceeded the 1947 figure by 10.6 cents. Within the main manufacturing groups, the highest annual average of hourly earnings in 1948 was recorded in the non-metallic mineral products group, in which the figure stood at 107.8 cents per hour; the employment of many highly-skilled wage-earners in the petroleum products group contributed to the unusually high rate. The annual average also exceeded \$1 an hour in the pulp and paper and iron and steel product groups, and in numerous groups of several other major industries.

Statistics of average hourly earnings are tabulated for manufacturing in the provinces and leading cities. As has been usual, the average hourly earnings in leading establishments were higher in British Columbia than in any other province, the 1948 figure being 108.0 cents. The earnings in the other provinces varied from 82.7 cents an hour in New Brunswick, to 95.8 cents an hour in Ontario. In the larger cities, the highest hourly earnings in 1948 were reported in Vancouver, where the figure was 107.7 cents. The annual averages in manufacturing in the other cities were as follows: Montreal, 87.1 cents; Toronto 95.5 cents; Hamilton, 101.4 cents; and Winnipeg, 88.3 cents. Figures for the average earnings for the cities and the provinces, are greatly affected by the industrial, sex and age distributions of the workers for whom information is available.

Fewer wage-earners are paid by the hour in the non-manufacturing groups than in manufacturing. Data are available, however, for considerable numbers of wage-earners in mining, local transportation, building construction, highway construction, hotels and restaurants and laundries. The annual average of hourly earnings for persons employed in leading mining establishments was 111.1 cents in 1948 as compared with 98 cents in 1947. In building construction the reported wage-earners received 100.9 cents compared with an average of 91 cents in the preceding year.

The average hours worked in leading manufacturing establishments during the four years for which information is available have steadily diminished. In 1948 the decline was 0.3 hours, the average being 42.2 hours per week. The reduction was slightly greater in the durable goods industries, in which the reported wage-earners averaged 42.3 hours as compared with 42.7 hours in 1947. In