

The 1948 indexes of aggregate weekly payrolls followed the same general trend as those of employment in all provinces, although the advances were on a relatively greater scale. In all areas, the index numbers of payrolls were the highest on record.

Industrial activity improved considerably in the Maritime region; the index of employment, at 197.8 at Dec. 1, 1948, was only 1.9 points below the peak of 199.7 recorded at Dec. 1, 1943. The movement in all major industries except logging was favourable. The largest gain in the 1948 index over that for 1947 was in the mining industry, which had been adversely affected by disputes in the coal mines in the preceding year. A substantial gain was also noted in construction in 1948 as labour and building materials became more plentiful. The weekly earnings of persons in recorded employment in the Maritime Provinces increased from an average of \$32.80 in 1947 to \$35.98 in 1948, when the figure was at a maximum in the record of 7 years.

The general index of employment in Quebec was 198.5 in 1948 as compared with 192.3 in 1947. The annual all-time high figure was 200.0 in 1943. The maximum monthly index of 207.5 in 1948 was reached at Dec. 1; the figure was then slightly below the all-time high level of 208.3 at Dec. 1, 1943. The upward movement indicated in the Province as a whole extended to all major industries with the exception of logging, which showed a decline of 7.1 p.c. Employment in the textile and textile products industry, one of the largest employers of labour in the manufacturing group in this Province, increased by 4.9 p.c. The average weekly earnings of employees on the staffs of leading establishments in the eight leading industries in Quebec increased by 11 p.c. from \$34.64 in 1947 to \$38.45 in 1948, an advance which exceeded the general average.

The employment index for Ontario averaged 203.0 in 1948, a gain of 4.6 p.c. over the average for the preceding year. The index of 210.4 at Dec. 1, 1948, was the highest on record, which goes back to 1920. As in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec, there was expansion in all the major industrial groups except logging, in which the index of employment declined by 7.5 p.c. Shortages of gas and power during the winter months, and industrial disputes in the automobile parts industry in the summer and early autumn, hampered activity to some extent during 1948. The largest proportional increase in this Province over the preceding year was recorded in construction as shortages of materials and labour were overcome. The annual average of weekly earnings reported in Ontario was \$41.29 in 1948 as compared with \$37.11 for 1947.

Employment in the Prairie Provinces reached a new all-time high level at Dec. 1, 1948, when the index was 180.9. The average index for 1948, at 170.6, rose by 4.4 p.c. over the preceding year. Early in 1948, industrial disputes in the Alberta coal mines had a retarding effect on employment, but by the end of 1948 activity in all the major industrial groups with the exception of logging was at a higher level than at the same date in the earlier years. The greatest proportional gain in employment was recorded in construction, the annual index increasing by 10 p.c. over that for 1947. The per capita weekly earnings, as reported by the larger employers in the eight leading industries in the Prairie Provinces, increased from \$36.46 in 1947 to \$40.50 in 1948.

Although the situation in British Columbia was affected by disputes in coal mining in January and February, and later by the severe floods, the index of 216.2 at Sept. 1, 1948, was the highest on record. An increase over 1947 was noted in