

Expansion was noted in the remaining industries within this category. The employment index for textiles and textile products, an especially important employer of labour, mounted by 4.6 p.c.

The index of payrolls in manufacturing increased by 15.3 p.c. in 1948, when the durable goods industries showed a gain of 15 p.c. over 1947, and the non-durable, 14.9 p.c. The salaried employees and wage-earners on the payrolls of the co-operating factories earned an average of \$40.91 per week in 1948 compared with \$36.57 in 1947, \$32.65 in 1945, the last year of the War, and \$31.50 in 1943, when wartime activity in manufacturing had reached its peak. In comparing the average earnings in the various industries, as shown in Table 5, the sex, age and industrial distributions of the workers must be kept in mind.

There was some falling-off in employment in logging during 1948, the annual index, at 287.6, being lower than the 1947 figure of 309.1, but above the 1946 average of 268.5, the highest index up to that time. With the heavy demand for lumber for use in construction and in pulp and paper mills at home and abroad, employment has been relatively well maintained in recent years. The industry, which is unusually dependent upon weather conditions, was hampered by the low levels of water in certain areas in the autumn of 1948. The payroll index in logging increased by 2.5 p.c., over 1947, to reach a new all-time high. The average weekly earnings of the employees reported in 1948 were \$39.11 per week, almost \$4.00 above the 1947 average, and \$10.00 above the 1946 weekly figure.

The employment index for mining, after sagging for some years, stood at 173.6 in 1948, only three points below its 1941 maximum. Industrial disputes in western coal fields affected the situation to some extent in 1948, but were of less importance than in 1947. The index for metallic ores increased by 8.6 p.c., and for non-metallic minerals (excluding coal) by 12 p.c. The payroll index for mining as a whole rose by 24.2 p.c. in 1948. The average weekly earnings were \$48.77, being \$5.74 higher than in 1947.

Since 1939 employment in communications has risen steadily, the latest index, at 177.0, showing an increase of 7.7 p.c. over 1947. The greatest percentage gain was made in the telephone section. The weekly earnings in communications, in which the proportion of women workers is very high, averaged \$37.66 in 1948, as compared with \$34.42 in the preceding year. As in communications, employment in the transportation industry has steadily increased for some time. The annual index of employment for 1948 was 140.5, compared with 136.9 in 1947. The increase extended to all major sub-groups; the largest gain of 8.0 p.c. was in shipping and stevedoring. The annual index of payrolls in the transportation industries increased by 13.3 p.c. in 1948, while the per capita weekly earnings rose from \$44.16 in 1947 to \$48.61 in 1948.

Employment in construction and maintenance reached a maximum during 1948. In most areas, shortages of materials and labour were overcome; despite high prices, post-war building continued extremely active. The annual employment index for 1948 was 168.6, compared with 152.9 in 1947, while the payroll index in construction increased by 21.1 p.c. in the year. The average weekly earnings of persons on the payrolls of leading establishments in the construction industry as a whole were \$38.31 in 1948, as compared with \$34.86 in 1947. Employment in building construction showed a gain of 11.5 p.c. in the year, compared with advances of 10.8 p.c. in highway construction and 4.8 p.c. in railway construction. The payroll index for building construction increased by 23.5 p.c., and the average weekly earnings by \$4.00, to reach \$41.41 per week in 1948.