

The average hourly earnings in all the non-manufacturing industries for which data are tabulated were above the 1948 figures.

Employment and Payrolls by Economic Areas.—As previously stated, in 1949 there was an insignificant increase in the annual index of employment in Canada as a whole as compared with the preceding year. The annual employment index for 1949 was lower than the 1948 figures in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and British Columbia. (See Table 7.) These were the first declines in the annual indexes since the post-war reconversion period of 1946. For all regions taken together, the annual indexes of employment for 1949 were 196·2 in comparison with 113·9 in 1939.

The indexes of aggregate payrolls continued to increase in all regions during 1949. Although new high levels were generally reached, the gains over the preceding year were less on the whole than that reported in 1948 over 1947.

The slight falling-off in industrial activity in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in the year under review was largely dependent on export trade. These provinces felt, early in the year, the effect of the limited buying power of some countries and later the devaluation of the pound sterling. The declines in employment were particularly marked in logging, lumber and pulp and paper industries. Employment in manufacturing generally and transportation was also at a lower level than in 1948. Production in the coal mines was uninterrupted, and the employment index for the mining industry as a whole remained constant. With the demand for new industrial and residential buildings, employment in construction was maintained at as high a level as in 1948. Increased activity in retail trade in 1949 was largely the result of the maintenance of domestic purchasing power and a busy tourist season. The average weekly earnings of employees on the staffs of leading establishments in the eight leading industries in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick as a unit increased by 4·8 p.c., to reach \$37·71 in 1949.

7.—Index Numbers of Employment as reported by Employers in Economic Areas, by Months, 1948 and 1949, with Yearly Averages, 1929, 1933 and 1939-49

NOTE.—These indexes are calculated as at the first day of each month, on the base 1926=100. The relative weights show the proportion of employees reported in each economic area to the total reported by all employers making returns in Canada at Dec. 1, 1948. Averages for the years 1921-38 are given at pp. 613-614 of the 1947 Year Book.

Year and Month	Atlantic Provinces ¹	Quebec	Ontario	Prairie Provinces	British Columbia	Totals
Averages, 1929.....	114·8	113·4	123·1	126·3	111·5	119·0
Averages, 1933.....	85·3	82·0	84·2	86·2	78·0	83·4
Averages, 1939.....	110·5	120·8	114·3	103·2	107·5	113·9
Averages, 1940.....	122·2	127·9	129·2	109·0	113·3	124·2
Averages, 1941.....	155·0	157·8	160·0	126·6	135·6	152·3
Averages, 1942.....	174·2	186·2	179·4	135·6	164·8	173·7
Averages, 1943.....	182·1	200·0	185·8	141·4	190·0	184·1
Averages, 1944.....	183·1	196·4	184·7	147·0	185·7	183·0
Averages, 1945.....	179·1	183·2	178·4	145·7	175·1	175·1
Averages, 1946.....	172·1	177·7	177·8	155·1	166·6	173·2
Averages, 1947.....	173·2	192·3	194·1	163·4	193·7	187·9

¹ Exclusive of Newfoundland.