

Employment continued to expand in Ontario during 1949, higher employment was reported above the 1948 figure in all eight leading industries with the exception of logging. This decline was partly a result of a falling-off in demand for wood products and partly a result of unfavourable weather conditions during the cutting periods in 1949. The average weekly earnings in the eight leading industries in Ontario stood at \$44.45 in 1949, compared with \$41.29 in the preceding year.

The annual index of employment for the Prairie Provinces reached a new all-time high in 1949, expansion was reported in each of the provinces, the greatest increase, 6.8 p.c. being recorded in Alberta where growth in the production of gas and oil acted as a stimulus to business generally. It is interesting to note that, except for a decline of only 0.9 p.c. in 1945 as compared with 1944, the annual index of employment for the Prairie Provinces taken as a unit has increased steadily since 1933. Gains in employment in 1949 were reported in all the major industries for which data are published for the Prairie Provinces. The average weekly earnings of persons in recorded employment in the Prairies increased from \$40.50 in 1948 to \$43.35 in 1949.

In 1949, industrial activity in British Columbia was slightly lower than in 1948. General improvement was reported by firms engaged in mining, communications, transportation, construction and trade, but slackening of demand and very extreme weather conditions in the winter months accounted for the drop of 20.6 p.c. in the annual index for employment in logging during the period under review. The average weekly earnings as reported by the larger employees in the eight leading industries in British Columbia increased from \$42.62 in 1948 to \$45.85 in 1949.

**Employment and Payrolls by Cities.**—Approximately 44.6 p.c. of the employees reported by the larger employers in the eight leading industries in Canada in 1949 were employed in the eight leading cities. The gain in employment in 1949 was slightly greater in these cities as a unit than in Canada as a whole. In the smaller cities and rural areas the index for the year declined by 1.3 p.c. An increase in employment was reported in all industries except transportation in the eight larger cities taken as a unit. With this exception, the city trend in the industries for which data are tabulated was similar to that in Canada but a greater increase was reported in manufacturing, communications and construction and slightly smaller increases in services and trade.

As can be seen from Table 6, improvement in employment in 1949 over 1948 was reported in all eight leading cities with the exception of Quebec and Vancouver. The decline of 1.0 p.c. in employment in Quebec City was largely the result of the falling-off in activity in shipbuilding and repairing. Curtailment in this industry was also partly responsible for the decline in the annual employment index in Vancouver; lower employment was also reported in lumber products, transportation and services.

The 1949 annual index of weekly payrolls for the eight leading cities as a unit was 10.4 p.c. above the 1948 figure. An advance of 7.5 p.c. was recorded in the general index number of payrolls for Canada in the same period. The increases in 1948 over 1947 had been 15.3 p.c. for the eight leading cities and 15.6 for the general index. The lower rate of increase in the year under review indicated a change in industrial distribution as well as some levelling-off in wage revisions.

The 1949 average weekly salaries and wages were higher than in 1948 for all the larger cities.