

Statistics of average weekly wages of hourly-rated wage-earners in leading manufacturing establishments are published monthly for several of the larger industrial centres. In the year under review, average weekly wages increased in all five of the larger cities for which data are published. The most substantial advance was in Hamilton where the average wages were \$4.26 per week higher than in 1948, longer working time and wage revisions in some of the major industries accounting for the advance. Increases in the other cities varied from \$1.17 in Montreal to \$3.20 in Vancouver.

Employment and Payrolls by Industries.—Employment was at a higher level in 1949 than in 1948 in all of the eight leading industries with the exception of logging. The slight increase in employment in manufacturing in the year under review took place mainly in the non-durable goods. Especially substantial gains in 1949 were made in fur products, paper products, printing and publishing, textiles and beverages. A decline in activity was reported in edible animal products, pulp and paper mills and rubber. Employment in this latter industry was affected by an industrial dispute in the closing months of the year. Employment in the durable goods industries consisting of iron and steel, non-ferrous metals, electrical apparatus, lumber, musical instruments, clay and glass and stone products, were at a lower level of employment in 1949 as compared with 1948 in each of the groups in this category with the exception of the last four. Employment in the iron and steel industry declined by 1.0 p.c. in 1949 largely as a result of a falling-off in employment in agricultural implements and steel shipbuilding and repairing. The annual index for automobiles and parts increased by 7.1 p.c. With expansion to meet heavy demands for power, employment in electric light and power plants increased by 12 p.c.

The index number of weekly salaries and wages in manufacturing rose by 8.2 p.c. in 1949 to reach 208.2, the maximum on record. Increases in the indexes were reported in both the durable and non-durable divisions taken as a unit, the index for the durable goods industries increasing by 7.3 p.c., and that for the non-durable goods by 8.3 p.c. Wage revisions, increased cost-of-living bonuses, and the changing industrial distribution of workers contributed to the advance in earnings. The average weekly salaries and wages in manufacturing in 1949 were \$44.23, an increase of 8.1 p.c. over the 1948 figure of \$40.91. Average earnings in the durable goods division increased by 8.5 p.c. and in the non-durable goods by 7.8 p.c. In comparing the average earnings in the various industries, as shown in Table 11, differences in the sex, age and occupational distributions of the workers must be kept in mind.

The 1949 annual average of employment in logging was 26.7 p.c. below the preceding year, and 31.8 p.c. below 1947, the year of peak employment in logging. The cut of logs was down in some areas as a result of unfavourable weather and poor logging conditions. At the same time, there was a lighter demand for pulpwood with the decline of overseas markets and the United States recession during the earlier months of the year. The average weekly salaries and wages in the logging industry in 1949, at \$40.62, were 3.9 p.c. above the 1948 average earnings.

In 1949, expansion in employment was reported in the mining industry. There was a greater availability of workers. The increased activity was confined to coal and metallic ores, the index of employment for non-metallic minerals (excluding