

Employment in communications continued to expand during 1949; the index for the year was 192·3, the 1948 index being 177. The heavy demand for telephone service and improvements accounted for most of the advance. The annual index of employment for telephone companies increased in the period under review. The average weekly earnings in the communication industry as a whole were \$40·40, as compared with \$37·66 for 1948. When comparing the per capita figures in communications with the averages for other industries, it must be kept in mind that the proportion of women in this industry is very high. Only a slight improvement in employment over 1948 was indicated in transportation, the gain in the street railway and cartage section being offset by declines in steam railway operation, shipping and stevedoring. The 1949 average indexes of payrolls for the industry as a whole were higher than the 1948 figures in all three main groups. The per capita weekly earnings in transportation increased by 6·1 p.c., to reach \$51·57, a new maximum.

The 1949 annual employment index in construction, at 175·1, exceeded the 1948 figure. With fewer supply difficulties, 1949 was a record year for the construction industry, particularly building construction, in which the employment index advanced from 1948. Included in building construction are the important hydro-electric construction projects in which employment expanded substantially throughout the year. Employment in highway and railway construction and maintenance declined by 3·3 p.c. and 0·8 p.c., respectively, in the year under review. The annual indexes of payrolls increased in all branches of the industry, the most substantial gains being made in building construction. The annual average of weekly earnings in the construction industry as a whole was \$41·34 for 1949, as compared with \$38·31 for 1948.

There was slight improvement in the service industries in the period under review; an increase in employment in laundering and dry-cleaning establishments was almost offset by declines in hotels and restaurants. The average weekly earnings in the service industry as a whole were \$28·05 in 1949, as compared with \$25·87 in 1948. The per capita earnings in the industry are affected by the employment of large numbers of female and part-time workers. The trend of employment in trade continued favourable throughout 1949; the index for the year was above the 1948 figure. The per capita weekly earnings in retail trade rose from \$32·03 in 1948 to \$34·58 in 1949, while in wholesale trade the average earnings were \$42·98, as compared with \$40·26 in 1948.

Subsection 4.—Earnings and Hours of Work of Male and Female Wage-Earners and Salaried Employees in Manufacturing*

In 1946, the Employment Section of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics instituted annual surveys of hours and earnings of male and female wage-earners and salaried employees in manufacturing establishments, usually employing 15 or more persons, which superseded somewhat similar surveys conducted by the Census of Manufactures from 1932 to 1945.† The earlier surveys collected data from practically all manufacturers for one week in the month of highest employment in each establishment: the later series is limited to the larger plants, and covers one week in the autumn of each year. The comparability of the two series is also reduced by differences in the material collected and tabulated. More than 85 p.c. of the employees reported annually to the Census of Manufactures, by virtually all establishments in the industry, are included in the present series.

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†Figures derived from these surveys appeared at pp. 567-574 of the 1948-49 Year Book.