

utilities, trade, finance, insurance and real estate, and certain services (chiefly hotels, restaurants, laundries and dry-cleaning plants). Early in 1941, the monthly inquiries were extended to cover the current earnings of those in recorded employment. Subsequently, a record of weekly payrolls and average wages and salaries was built up for 1939, 1940 and 1941. Since late in 1944, monthly data have also been collected on man-hours and hourly earnings. Inquiries into the sex distribution of the persons on the payrolls of reporting establishments were undertaken on a monthly basis commencing Feb. 1, 1946, replacing the annual and semi-annual surveys of immediately preceding years. Following the entry of Newfoundland into Confederation, the collection of employment and payrolls data was undertaken in that Province. It has not yet been possible, however, to secure the data necessary to include the Newfoundland figures in the Canada indexes, but separate information concerning that Province has been published since 1949.

For practical reasons associated with costs of collection in time and money, the current inquiries* are limited to firms and branches ordinarily employing 15 or more persons. The restriction results in the inclusion of industrial samples of varying size in the monthly survey, the variation depending upon the organization of the industry in large or in small units; from the equally important geographical aspect, however, much greater uniformity exists in the provincial coverage of total employees and, in all cases, the coverage is large. It is estimated that the more than 23,000 firms co-operating in 1951 employed approximately 83 p.c. of the total wage-earners and salaried employees in the industries surveyed.

From 1951, the monthly records of employment, payrolls and man-hours have been grouped according to the Canadian Standard Industrial Classification, and the earlier employment and payroll indexes have been recalculated on 1939 averages as 100 p.c. The tables in this Subsection incorporate classification changes, and all indexes refer to 1939=100.

The employment and payrolls indexes published monthly reflect general economic conditions in the country as a whole and also in specific areas, since workers are taken on staff or released by firms in response to demand for their products. The acceptance by Canada of a share in the responsibility for western defence created a demand for strategic materials; the outbreak of hostilities in Korea in 1950 accelerated a program already in progress and that gained momentum during 1951. The volume of employment in the period under review responded to the impact of defence spending and sustained consumer demand in many lines. Although area and industry movements varied in some instances, the general indexes of employment, payrolls and average earnings rose to unprecedented heights. A favourable factor during 1951 was a decline of about 35 p.c. in the working time lost as a result of industrial disputes as compared with 1950.

Employment.—During 1951, the index of employment for the composite of nine industries (1939=100) reached a new maximum, averaging 180.2. The Dec. 1 figure of 186.6 was the highest on record. These indexes showed gains of

* The methods used in preparing the current statistics of employment and payrolls and man-hours and hourly earnings are explained in the D.B.S. monthly bulletins on these subjects.