

In the post-war period, employment and payrolls have shown general and marked expansion, resulting in the establishment of successive new high levels, while hours of work generally have tended to diminish, owing in part to reductions in the amount of overtime work necessitated by wartime conditions, and in part to industrial agreements calling for lower standard hours of work. Improvement in employment in 1953 over 1952 was recorded mainly from Jan. 1 to Oct. 1, and the general gain in the year was slight. Moderate though fairly widely distributed increases were reported, although contractions in activity were indicated in a greater number of industries and areas than in recently preceding years. A favourable factor in 1953 was a decided decline, on the whole, in the time lost as a result of labour-management disputes as compared with 1952.

Employment.—For the seventh year in succession, industrial employment generally in 1953 showed expansion. The upward movement, which was on a smaller scale than in either 1952 or 1951, was limited to the first 10 months of the year. Although the index in October reached a new high of 116.9 (1949=100), the annual average at 113.4, was only 1.6 p.c. above that for 1952. On the whole, the month-to-month movements during the year followed the seasonal pattern. After October, however, the index numbers were slightly lower than in the corresponding period 12 months earlier. The general figure for 1953 was 53.3 points higher than in 1939, also substantially exceeding the wartime peak figure of 93.0 in 1943. At the post-war low in 1946, the index was 88.2.

The number of women employed as reported by the co-operating establishments in the main industrial groups throughout Canada rose by approximately 4 p.c. in 1953, and the number of men increased by 1 p.c. The disparity in the rates of increase reflected changes in the levels of activity in industries employing larger or smaller numbers of women. Manufacturing generally showed advances of 5.4 p.c. in number of women workers and of 3.2 p.c. in number of men as compared with 1952.

3.—Annual Average Index Numbers of Employment, by Industrial Group, 1941-53, and Monthly Indexes, 1952 and 1953

(Exclusive of Newfoundland prior to 1949)

Note.—These indexes are calculated as at the first day of each month, on the base 1949=100.

Year	Forestry (chiefly Log- ging)	Mining	Manu- factur- ing	Con- struc- tion	Trans- porta- tion, Storage and Com- muni- cation	Public Utility Opera- tion	Trade	Finance, Insur- ance, Real Estate	Serv- ice ¹	Indus- trial Com- posite
Averages—										
1941.....	91.0	99.0	82.6	68.6	70.1	59.2	68.2	69.5	66.1	77.4
1942.....	95.1	95.9	101.6	70.2	74.6	58.0	68.0	72.9	70.5	87.9
1943.....	87.3	88.7	111.5	69.4	79.5	56.8	67.6	73.4	74.8	93.0
1944.....	104.4	86.5	110.6	51.9	82.6	57.0	71.6	75.0	79.6	92.5
1945.....	119.7	82.3	100.0	53.8	86.0	61.1	76.2	77.4	81.1	88.8
1946.....	129.9	86.9	91.0	69.5	89.3	71.1	83.4	85.3	88.3	88.2
1947.....	149.6	88.6	97.2	85.6	95.4	76.7	90.2	91.5	94.6	95.7
1948.....	138.4	97.2	100.1	95.4	99.0	89.0	96.3	96.0	99.1	99.7
1949.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1950.....	100.8	105.5	100.9	102.4	99.9	101.3	103.2	105.4	101.0	101.5
1951.....	138.6	110.6	108.0	110.2	106.1	103.4	107.4	115.2	103.1	108.8
1952.....	123.9	116.8	109.3	122.5	110.9	107.5	109.9	121.9	106.6	111.6
1953.....	100.0	111.7	113.3	118.6	111.3	112.1	113.2	122.4	108.7	113.4

For footnote, see end of table.