

dropped the employment index in that group by 16.4 p.c. from 1955. Although industrial employment generally was up 6.8 p.c. in Ontario and Quebec, the manufacturing indexes in those areas did not climb in the same proportions. The gains were 5.9 p.c. in the former and 5.1 p.c. in the latter. Employment in practically all branches of industry in Ontario rose, the exceptions being gold mining and the manufacture of agricultural implements and women's clothing. Metal mining, other than gold, reached an all-time high with the index standing at 203.0, 18.6 p.c. above 1955. Employment in the iron castings and primary iron and steel groups of the iron and steel industry and in construction rose by about 14 p.c. in 1956. In Quebec, the working force reported in forestry operations increased by 18 p.c. from 1955. Staffs in the aircraft industry were up 14.3 p.c. in 1956 following a drop in 1955 caused in part by labour-management disputes. Greatly heightened activity was also recorded in construction and in the electrical apparatus and supplies group of manufacturing. In the Atlantic Provinces, construction operations expanded considerably, and logging in New Brunswick reported an employment gain of more than 25 p.c.

The annual average index of industrial employment rose in most of the 32 metropolitan areas for which monthly data are compiled. The exceptions were Saint John, N.B., where a slight decrease was recorded, and Drummondville, Que., where there was no general change as compared with 1955. The increases in the other centres ranged up to 13.9 p.c. for Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. The larger areas of Montreal and Toronto recorded rises of 6.2 and 5.4 p.c. respectively. Higher levels of employment in construction was a main factor in both cities and, in addition, activity increased substantially in the electrical apparatus field in Montreal. Employment in many centres, including the two just mentioned, reached new all-time high levels in 1956.

The 1956 payroll index stood at 180.5, a new high. The advance over 1955 was 12.7 p.c., the highest rate of annual increase since the 1950-51 period, when it amounted to 18.5 p.c. Expanding employment and upward revisions in wage and salary scales contributed to the rise. All major industrial groups surveyed registered substantial gains, with the construction payroll index advancing 26 p.c. Forestry, service and mining also advanced above the national average. Payrolls in manufacturing generally were 10.8 p.c. over 1955; those in the durable goods component rose to a greater extent than the non-durables, the increases being 13.0 p.c. and 8.3 p.c. respectively.

Provincially, Alberta reported the most marked increase in industrial payrolls—19.5 p.c. above 1955. British Columbia was not too far behind, recording a 15.5-p.c. rise, while wages and salaries in Ontario and Quebec reached levels approximately 12 p.c. above the preceding year. All metropolitan areas for which statistics are published showed increases in this comparison, the gains ranging from 2.2 p.c. in Saint John, N.B., to 28.8 p.c. in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. Increased employment and higher pay rates in the surveyed industries were the main factors.

The annual average of weekly wages and salaries continued the uninterrupted upward movement in effect since 1939, the earliest year for which data are available, rising by \$3.31 from 1955 to \$64.18, or by 5.4 p.c. This increase exceeded those recorded in the two immediately preceding years by about 2 p.c. As usual, British Columbia reported the highest average, provincially, with weekly earnings of \$69.91. The greatest rate of increase over the preceding year, however, was in Alberta. The trend of weekly wages and salaries was upward in all metropolitan areas except Windsor, Ont., where a decrease of 1.5 p.c. was caused mainly by short time in the automobile industry. Industrially, there were also general increases in average earnings. Mining, which reported the highest wages and salaries in the industries surveyed, showed a figure of \$77.59, which was 21 p.c. above the industrial composite. The greatest rise over 1955 was in construction, where an advance of 10.2 p.c. brought the 1956 average earnings to \$68.26.

Monthly data on man-hours and hourly earnings are collected from employers who keep a record of hours worked by their wage-earners. The industries for which such statistics are available tend to be those in which wage-earners are generally rated by the hour. In manufacturing, the annual average of hourly earnings increased by 4.8 p.c. to