

151.5 cents in 1956. This rise was largely attributed to higher wage rates in many establishments and industries, with higher levels of employment in some industries paying above the general average. Labour-management disputes caused smaller losses in working time than in the two previous years and consequently had less effect upon the general average of earnings. The length of the average work week increased negligibly during 1956.

Average weekly wages were up 5.1 p.c. to \$62.27 in the twelve months. The two major components of manufacturing showed similar increases, amounting to 4.8 p.c. in heavy goods manufacturing and 4.7 p.c. in non-durables. The greater advance in manufacturing as a whole reflected relatively larger increases in employment in the former than the latter group. The most significant gains in hourly earnings in the heavy manufacturing industries were reported in primary iron and steel, hardware and tools, and motor vehicle parts and accessories. Almost all individual industries showed higher weekly wages, an exception being motor vehicles, in which wages declined because of a shorter work week. A longer work week and upward revisions of wage rates raised the average in steel mills by 10 p.c. over 1955, the largest increase reported in the durable manufactured goods section.

In the non-durables group, gains of 5 p.c. or more were reported in canned fruit and vegetables, bread and bakery, rubber, paper, chemical and petroleum, and coal products. Substantial losses in employment, hours and earnings were recorded in the textile industry during the summer months, especially in the cotton goods group, partly as a result of strikes. Average weekly wages rose in all light manufacturing industries listed, while the average hours worked were about the same as in 1955. The clothing group as a whole and several of its components, however, showed an average increase of 0.6 hours per week. A similar reduction in the acids, alkalies and salts group resulted chiefly from a shorter standard work week.

In mining, the average hourly earnings rose by 6.4 p.c. to 171.4 cents in 1956, a new high. The largest gains over 1955 were in metal mining and oil and natural gas extraction. In the former, wage-rate increases and a shorter standard work week with the same take-home pay in some mines accounted for part of the increase, although the lay-off of workers from mines paying below the general average was also a factor. Considerable advances in employment in the oil group were reported for higher-paid workers, while pay rates also rose in some cases.

Average hours in mining as a whole dropped by 0.3 per week in 1956 because of a shorter standard work week in metal mining. Other branches reported small gains, the most important of which was coal mining in Alberta. Construction was much more active during the year so that average hourly earnings and weekly wages rose significantly, and the average work week lengthened by 1.2 hours. Moderate increases in average earnings were reported in the electric and motor transportation group, and in those sections of the service industry for which data are available. Average hourly and weekly earnings in manufacturing increased in all provinces and in most of the metropolitan areas in 1956 and established new records.

4.—Annual Average Index Numbers of Employment by Industrial Division and Group 1939 and 1952-56

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

| Industry | 1939 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | 1955 | 1956 |
|---------------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Forestry (chiefly logging)..... | 59.3 | 123.9 | 100.0 | 95.1 | 101.8 | 113.3 |
| Mining | 93.7 | 116.8 | 111.7 | 109.8 | 113.4 | 122.0 |
| Metal mining..... | 100.8 | 118.3 | 112.0 | 111.3 | 116.8 | 126.0 |
| Gold..... | 132.5 | 94.7 | 83.6 | 80.6 | 81.2 | 76.5 |
| Other metal..... | 66.9 | 140.7 | 137.6 | 139.9 | 150.1 | 171.9 |
| Fuels..... | 90.8 | 109.5 | 105.8 | 101.4 | 102.7 | 109.8 |
| Coal..... | 103.3 | 91.2 | 83.8 | 76.8 | 70.3 | 67.6 |
| Oil and natural gas..... | 42.5 | 171.8 | 177.1 | 183.0 | 209.4 | 253.8 |
| Non-metal..... | 72.6 | 132.9 | 130.7 | 129.0 | 131.3 | 141.3 |