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## EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, COST OF LIVING, AND TRADE DISPUTES IN DECEMBER.

### EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT continued to improve in most industries during December.

Among workpeople insured against unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed in all industries taken together was 20·9 at 21st December, 1931, as compared with 21·4 at 23rd November, 1931, and 20·2 at 22nd December, 1930. For males alone the percentage at 21st December, 1931, was 23·2, and for females 15·0. At 23rd November, 1931, the corresponding percentages were 23·6 and 15·9.

*Insured Persons in work in Great Britain.*—It is estimated that on 21st December, 1931, there were approximately 9,592,600 insured persons aged 16 to 64 in work in Great Britain. This was 82,000 more than a month before, and 118,000 more than a year before.

*Numbers Unemployed (excluding Persons normally in Casual Employment).*—At 21st December, 1931, there were 2,002,464 persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain who were out of a situation. This was 67,978 less than a month before, but 321,318 more than a year before. The total on 21st December, 1931, included 1,611,749 men, 52,206 boys, 302,919 women and 35,590 girls. It was made up approximately of 941,059 insured persons with claims for insurance benefit, 777,645 applicants for transitional payments, 177,873 other insured persons not in receipt of insurance benefit or transitional payments, and 105,887 uninsured persons.

*Numbers Temporarily Stopped.*—At 21st December, 1931, there were registered as unemployed in Great Britain 291,723 men, 7,407 boys, 98,913 women and 5,389 girls, who were on short time or were otherwise suspended from work on the definite understanding that they were shortly to return to their former employment. The total of 403,432 was 32,273 less than a month before, and 223,296 less than a year before. It included 345,591 insured persons with claims for insurance benefit, 35,171 applicants for transitional payments, and 22,670 persons not in receipt of insurance benefit or transitional payments.

*Numbers Unemployed normally in Casual Employment.*—At 21st December, 1931, there were on the Registers in Great Britain 102,338 men, 170 boys, 1,508 women and 9 girls, who normally seek a livelihood by means of jobs of short duration; these are mainly employed in dock, harbour, river and canal service. The total of 104,025 was 4,943 less than a month before, but 3,528 more than a year before. It included 75,734 insured persons with claims for insurance benefit, 27,228 applicants for transitional payments, and 1,063 persons not in receipt of insurance benefit or transitional payments.

*Industries in which Principal Variations occurred.*—Employment improved in coal mining and in general engineering, in glass and glass bottle manufacture, in most of the metal trades, in all the textile industries except hosiery manufacture, in the tailoring, paper,

entertainment, and distributive trades, and in dock and harbour, road transport, and hotel and boarding-house services. On the other hand employment declined in the pottery, pig iron, tinsplate, and boot and shoe industries, in marine engineering, and in the building industry.

### COST OF LIVING.

At 1st January the average level of retail prices of the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and miscellaneous items) was approximately 47 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, as compared with 48 per cent. a month earlier and 53 per cent. a year earlier. For food alone the corresponding figures were 31, 32 and 38.

These statistics are designed to indicate the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families. Accordingly, the changes in the prices of the various articles included are combined proportionately to the relative importance of those items in pre-war working-class family expenditure, no allowance being made for any changes in the standard of living.

### WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in December resulted in a decrease of £4,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 53,000 workpeople, and in an increase of £2,375 in those of 34,500 workpeople. The greater part of the increases took effect as the result of the operation of cost-of-living sliding scales.

The largest bodies of workpeople affected by decreases included iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen in the Midlands, men and boys employed in the paint, colour, and varnish industry, and workpeople employed in the dyeing and dry cleaning industry. Those affected by increases included coal miners in Warwickshire, electrical cable makers and chain makers.

The changes so far reported as having come into operation during 1931 have resulted in total net decreases of nearly £405,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 3,000,000 workpeople, and in net increases of £5,000 in those of 46,000 workpeople.

### TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes, involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in December was 16. In addition, 10 disputes which began before December were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in December (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 6,100, and the aggregate duration of all disputes in December was about 52,000 working days.

The aggregate duration of all disputes in progress in 1931 was about 6,985,000 working days, and the total number of workpeople involved in these disputes was about 492,000. The figures for 1930 were 4,399,000 days and 309,000 workpeople, respectively.



# EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, HOURS OF LABOUR, COST OF LIVING, AND TRADE DISPUTES IN 1931.

## EMPLOYMENT.

ALTHOUGH there was no marked general improvement in employment until the last quarter of the year, there was not, during 1931, a steady increase, month by month, in the numbers unemployed such as occurred in the previous year. On the contrary, there were indications early in the year of some slackening in the intensity of the industrial depression.

During 1930, the decline in employment was practically continuous, and even the improvement during the first half of the year, in trades which are normally subject to seasonal influences, had been masked by the growing depression in a number of staple industries. This steady and general decline received a check in February, 1931, and was followed by a slight improvement during the next three months which affected chiefly the seasonal trades, and a number of the textile industries, including cotton, and the woollen and worsted industry. A further decline, however, began in June, which continued until the end of September, when the highest number of unemployed ever recorded in Great Britain was reached. Following the suspension of the gold standard on 21st September, an improvement was recorded at the beginning of October, which continued until the end of the year, and had an influence on almost every industry except those, such as building and contracting, which normally experience slackness in winter.

The estimated number of insured workpeople in employment in Great Britain rose from 9,215,000 in January, 1931, to 9,516,000 in May, but, after some fluctuation, fell to 9,326,000 in September. By December, however, it had risen to 9,593,000, as compared with 9,475,000 in December of the previous year. The average figure for the year as a whole fell from 9,785,000 for 1930 to 9,409,000 for 1931, the lowest average level for any year since 1923 except 1926, when employment was affected by the national stoppage in the coal mining industry.

The following Table gives the estimated average numbers of insured persons, aged 16 to 64 inclusive, in employment in Great Britain from 1924 (the first complete year for which figures are available) to 1931. These figures have been obtained by deducting from the total estimated numbers insured, the average numbers recorded as unemployed and the numbers directly involved in trade disputes, together with an allowance of 3½ per cent. of the numbers insured in respect of absences from work through sickness and other forms of unrecorded non-employment other than "recognised" holidays.

1924 ...	9,514,000	1928 ...	10,007,000
1925 ...	9,599,000	1929 ...	10,207,000
1926 ...	9,050,000	1930 ...	9,785,000
1927 ...	10,003,000	1931 ...	9,409,000

The average rate of unemployment among insured persons in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 21·3 in 1931 (wholly unemployed 16·7 per cent., and temporarily stopped 4·6 per cent.) as compared with 16·1 per cent. in 1930 (wholly unemployed 11·8 per cent., and temporarily stopped 4·3 per cent.).

The average percentages of insured persons recorded as unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, in each year from 1921 to 1931 have been as follows:—

1921 ...	17·0*	1927 ...	9·7
1922 ...	14·3	1928 ...	10·8
1923 ...	11·7	1929 ...	10·4
1924 ...	10·3	1930 ...	16·1
1925 ...	11·3	1931 ...	21·3
1926 ...	12·5*		

The corresponding percentages for each month of 1931, together with the numbers (insured and uninsured) registered at Employment Exchanges at or near the end of each month, are given in a Table on page 14.

At 21st December, 1931, the percentage rate of unemployment among insured persons in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 20·9, as compared with 20·2 at 22nd December, 1930. The number of persons (insured and uninsured) on the registers of Employment Exchanges at 21st December, 1931, was 2,573,552 (2,165,210 wholly unemployed, and 408,342 temporarily stopped) as compared with 2,896,989 (2,257,880 wholly unemployed and 639,109 temporarily stopped) at 28th September, 1931, and with 2,494,842 (1,846,087 wholly unemployed and 648,755 temporarily stopped) at 22nd December, 1930. As might be expected, the improvement in employment in the last quarter of the year led first to a reduction in the numbers temporarily stopped, many of whom had been working short time and were now placed on full time. It is possible that in this respect the real improvement was not fully reflected in the unemployment figures, since numbers of workpeople resumed a full working week whose previous loss of time had been insufficient to enable them to qualify for unemployment benefit; while in the textile trades workpeople who had worked a full week but had been tending less than their full complement of machinery were now enabled to become fully employed. There was some reduction in the numbers wholly unemployed in the first half of the year, but in the second half, until the effect of the Christmas activity was felt, the number of wholly unemployed men showed a steady

increase, while the reduction in the number of wholly unemployed women in the last two months of the year was due in some measure to changes in the conditions for the receipt of unemployment benefit. While the number wholly unemployed at 21st December, 1931, was 319,000 more than a year earlier, the number temporarily stopped was 240,000 less. As compared with 28th September, 1931, however, the number wholly unemployed at the end of the year had decreased by 93,000, while there were 231,000 fewer temporarily stopped.

As explained in the issue of this GAZETTE for December, 1931 (page 457), the legislative changes introduced by the Unemployment Insurance (No. 3) Act, 1931, and the National Economy Act, 1931, had some effect in diminishing the numbers registered at Employment Exchanges, and it is estimated that by 21st December approximately 90,000 persons (most of whom were married women) had ceased to register although apparently they had not obtained employment.

These changes, however, had not affected, by the end of December, the numbers of insured persons recorded as unemployed nor the percentage rates of unemployment among insured persons. The fall in the percentage, from 22·6 in September, to 20·9 in December, represents therefore the measure of a real improvement in employment. As already stated, the downward movement of the unemployment figures in the early part of the year was largely due to the operation of seasonal influences on those industries which are normally subject to such movements, and these included chiefly the building, public works contracting and clothing industries. Some of the more important textile trades, however, also experienced a temporary revival. The subsequent decline in employment, between May and September, was felt by nearly every industry, but more particularly by those which had benefited by the earlier improvement. This may have been due partly to the influence of continued unfavourable weather on the industries connected with the seaside holiday season, such as the transport and hotel services, partly to the effect of increasing financial stringency, and partly to the temporary nature of the improvement in the textile trades. The increase in employment which followed the suspension of the gold standard was shared by nearly all the mining and manufacturing industries except those in which the pressure of seasonal influences continued to predominate. It was most marked in the textile trades and in coal mining, but it extended also, in varying degrees, to metal manufacture and the metal trades (except shipbuilding and ship-repairing), to the clothing, printing and paper trades, and to miscellaneous manufacturing industries. In the building and contracting industries the seasonal decline continued.

Compared with a year earlier, employment at the end of 1931 showed on the whole, a decline, the percentage unemployed for all insured workpeople at the two dates being 20·2 and 20·9 respectively. There was substantial improvement in most of the textile industries, and some improvement also in the clothing trades, and in iron and steel manufacture (except pig iron). The industries mostly contributing to the increase in unemployment were building and public works contracting, coal-mining, engineering, motor vehicle manufacture, shipbuilding, hotel, etc., service, and the distributive trades.

The fact that the textile and the lighter manufacturing industries experienced the greatest degree of improvement, led to a marked change during the year in the relative employment position of males and females. While the increase at the end of 1930 as compared with the end of 1929 in the number of females unemployed was much greater than among males (143 per cent. as compared with 76 per cent.), in 1931 the movement was reversed. The number of males unemployed increased by 14 per cent., while the number of females decreased by 30 per cent., and this change is not entirely accounted for by the disallowance of women's claims to benefit. Among insured females the percentage rate of unemployment has normally been lower than among males, but the acute depression of the last two years in the textile industries and the light metal trades has tended to bring about a more uniform position in this respect. The recent improvement in these industries has tended to re-introduce the disparity. While the average percentage rates of unemployment among insured males and females during 1930 were 16·5 and 14·8 respectively, and in 1931 were 22·7 and 18·0, at 21st December, 1931, the corresponding figures were 23·2 and 15·0 respectively. While the percentage unemployed among males has fallen from 23·7 in September to 23·2 in December, the figure for females has fallen from 19·7 to 15·0, and, as already indicated, these figures are not affected by the changes in benefit conditions.

The following Table gives the average percentage rates of unemployment among insured persons in each Administrative Division for the last four years:—

Division.	Average percentage rates of unemployment among insured persons.				Division.	Average percentage rates of unemployment among insured persons.			
	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.		1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
London ...	5·6	5·6	8·1	12·2	North-Eastern ...	15·1	13·7	20·2	27·4
South-Eastern ...	5·4	5·6	8·0	12·0	North-Western ...	12·4	13·3	23·8	28·2
South-Western ...	8·1	8·1	10·4	14·5	Scotland ...	11·7	12·1	18·5	26·6
Midlands ...	9·9	9·3	14·7	20·3	Wales ...	23·0	19·3	25·9	32·4
Northern Ireland ...	17·0	14·8	23·8	27·9	Great Britain and Northern Ireland ...	10·8	10·4	16·1	21·3

\* Exclusive of persons in the coal-mining industry disqualified for unemployment benefit by reason of trade disputes.



It will be seen that, compared with 1930, the numbers unemployed in the Southern Divisions in 1931 have shown a greater proportionate increase than in the Northern Divisions. This, of course, arises largely from the fact that the industries which have improved most since September are carried on in the latter areas, while the depression in the building and allied industries, and in the other seasonal trades, has been intensified in the Southern Divisions. Nevertheless, the Southern areas still remain relatively much more prosperous than the Northern.

#### EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

A summary of the course of employment in some of the principal industries in 1931 is given below:—

**Mining.**—In the coal-mining industry employment was bad throughout the year. It declined almost continuously during the first seven months, but during the later months there was some improvement, consisting mainly of a decrease in short-time working. Employment in each month was much worse than in the corresponding month in 1930. The percentage of insured persons wholly unemployed increased continuously from 16.1 in January to 19.9 in September, and although there was subsequently some improvement it was still 19.0 at 21st December. This increase in the numbers wholly unemployed is reflected in the almost continuous decline, up to the end of September, in the number of wage earners on the colliery books. At 3rd January, the number was 883,868, the highest for the year, but by 26th September, it had fallen to 821,588. During the last quarter the number increased slowly, but at 19th December it was still over 43,000 below the level of January. The percentage of insured workpeople temporarily stopped rose from 3.4 in January to 18.0 in July, but during the latter half of the year it decreased month by month to 5.6 in December, the corresponding percentage in December, 1930, being 3.9. The average percentages for the year of insured persons wholly unemployed and temporarily stopped, respectively, were 18.2 and 10.0, as compared with 13.3 and 7.1 in 1930. At iron mines also, employment was very bad. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed rose from 30.8 in February to 48.5 in September, and although there was some improvement in the last quarter the percentage was still 42.5 in December, the percentage wholly unemployed being 36.3. In the shale mining industry, employment showed an almost continuous decline throughout the year, and became very bad. In limestone and chalk quarrying and in tin mining it was very slack. In slate quarrying it was generally very slack, with much short-time working, during the first nine months of the year, but in the last quarter it showed some improvement.

**Metal Trades.**—In pig-iron manufacture employment showed little variation during the year and was very depressed. The average percentage of insured workpeople unemployed during the year was 39.3, the lowest figure being 34.9 in March, and the highest 45.4 in September. In December it was 42.0, as compared with 35.7 in December, 1930. Of 356 furnaces, the number in blast did not exceed 83 during the year, that being the number at the end of January. At the end of September it was only 62 and in December it was 70, as compared with 76 in December, 1930, and 162 in December, 1929. The average number in blast during the year was 73, as compared with 123 in 1930 and 158 in 1929. The average monthly production of pig-iron was 313,200 tons, as compared with 515,600 tons in 1930, 631,600 tons in 1929, 669,500 tons in 1920 and 855,000 tons in 1913.

In iron and steel manufacture employment remained, with slight fluctuation, at a very low level throughout the year. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed did not fall below 44.2—the February figure—and by September it had risen to 49.2. In December it was 45.4, as compared with 50.6 in December, 1930. The average monthly production of steel ingots and castings was 431,300 tons, as compared with 608,300 tons in 1930, 755,600 tons in 1920 and 638,600 tons in 1913. In the tinplate industry the arrangement for stoppages of the mills to control output was terminated in June. Employment during the first half of the year was very slack, but the second half showed, on the whole, an improvement, although there were fluctuations during the period. The total percentage unemployed was 51.9 in February, 33.2 in July, 29.2 in November and 36.5 in December, 1931. In steel sheet manufacture employment was very bad, although there was some improvement in the last six months. It was considerably worse than in 1930.

In the engineering industry employment continued to decline in most sections for the greater part of the year, but the extent of the decline was not nearly so great as in 1930. In the industry taken as a whole, the percentage of insured persons unemployed rose from 22.2 in January to 28.1 in September, but during the last quarter there was a slight improvement and in December the percentage was 26.0. The average for the year was 25.7, as compared with 15.5 in 1930. The heaviest decline occurred in marine engineering, in which section, following a continuous increase in 1930, the percentage unemployed rose steadily from 33.8 in January to 51.2 in December. In general and constructional engineering employment was very bad throughout the year, although there was some improvement in general engineering in the last quarter. In the motor vehicle section employment during the first half of the year was slack, and during the latter half it declined and was bad. In electrical engineering employment was much better than in the other sections and remained moderate, with but little fluctuation, throughout the year. In the textile machinery section the acute depression continued, although there was some improvement during the last quarter of the year. The percentages of insured persons unemployed in the various

sections at 22nd December, 1930, and 21st December, 1931, respectively were as follow:—General engineering, 24.7 and 26.8; electrical engineering, 11.1 and 15.1; marine engineering, 32.3 and 51.2; constructional engineering, 23.9 and 29.4; and motor vehicles, cycles and aircraft manufacture, 16.2 and 22.2. In shipbuilding and ship-repairing employment declined steadily month by month, and by December the percentage of insured workpeople unemployed had risen to 60.1, as compared with 45.1 in December, 1930. In the North-Eastern division and Scotland—the two principal districts—the percentages in December, 1931, were 72.9 and 71.8, respectively. There was again a heavy decline in the gross tonnage of merchant vessels under construction in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the figure at the end of March being 693,814 tons as compared with 1,614,993 tons at the end of March, 1930. At the end of December, 1931, and December, 1930, the corresponding figures were 400,505 and 908,902 tons, respectively. In the other metal trades employment showed little variation and was bad in most of the industries included in the group, but there was some improvement in the last quarter of the year.

**Textile Industries.**—In the cotton industry unemployment continued at a very high level for the greater part of the year. Employment in January and February was affected by a dispute in the weaving department, and the percentage unemployed in those months were 43.9 and 41.4, respectively. There was a considerable reduction in the numbers temporarily stopped during the following three months, but this improvement was only temporary, and by September the percentage unemployed had again risen to 45.8, the highest point since the previous December. During the last quarter, however, there was a substantial improvement in employment, following the suspension of the gold standard in September. The percentage unemployed during these three months was very much lower than during the corresponding period of 1930, the figure in December being 27.4, as compared with 47.4 in December, 1930. The exports of cotton piece goods were only 155,629,900 square yards in January, 1931, as compared with 313,183,000 square yards in January, 1930. In December the figure was 149,699,900 square yards.

In the wool textile industry employment was bad during the first nine months of the year, although there was some improvement, reflected in the numbers temporarily stopped, in the spring. The percentage wholly unemployed remained between 13.0 and 14.0 for the first six months, but it then rose to 15.0 in August and September. The percentage temporarily stopped fell from 18.0 in January to 12.4 in April, but subsequently rose to 21.9 in July and August. As in the cotton industry, employment showed a considerable improvement during the last quarter of the year, the percentage unemployed falling well below the level of the earlier part of the year and of the corresponding period in 1930; in December the figure was 16.6, as compared with 27.7 in December, 1930. The decline during the summer was more pronounced in the worsted section than in the woollen section; but the recovery during the last quarter was relatively greater in the former than in the latter. The index number of persons employed in the worsted section by firms rendering returns (based on the numbers employed in January, 1926, equated to 100) fell from 86.4 in April to 77.8 in August, but rose to 91.9 in December. The corresponding index numbers for the woollen section were 85.8, 80.2, and 90.7. The exports of woollen and worsted tissues declined from 10,394,800 square yards in January to 4,997,400 square yards in April. A rise to 8,719,800 square yards in August was followed by a decline during the next three months, but there was a recovery to 7,502,800 square yards in December. In carpet manufacture employment was very slack for the greater part of the year, but during the last quarter showed a marked improvement and was better than during the last quarter of 1930.

In the hosiery industry employment was bad for the greater part of the year, but showed a substantial improvement from September to November. There was a slight decline in December. In the lace trade employment was bad, particularly during the summer months, when it was affected by a trade dispute in the curtain section, but improved considerably towards the end of the year. In the silk and artificial silk industries also an improvement was recorded in the last quarter, but the percentage unemployed was still high. In the jute industry employment was extremely depressed, the average number unemployed during the year being about 50 per cent. of the number of insured persons in the industry. In the linen industry employment was very bad on the whole, although the percentage unemployed fell from 32.6 in September to 19.8 in December. The textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc., industry also participated to some extent in the improvement in the last quarter of the year, and the percentage unemployed was 28.4 in December, as compared with 39.6 in September.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment in the retail bespoke and in the ready-made and wholesale bespoke branches of the tailoring trade was very slack in January, but during the following four months it steadily improved. During the summer, however, it again declined and became very slack. In dressmaking and millinery employment was moderate in the first quarter, good in the second quarter, and moderate, but gradually declining, in the latter half of the year. In the shirt and collar, and glove trades, it was generally slack, though showing some improvement in the last few months. With felt hat manufacturers it was moderate during the first half of the year, but during the latter half it declined and was slack. In the boot and shoe industry employment was bad at the beginning of the year, the percentage unemployed in January being 21.3. It then improved gradually till May, when the percentage unemployed was 18.3. There was a decline in the next two months, but from August to



November there was a steady improvement, followed by a decline in December.

**Building and Woodworking.**—Employment in the building trades followed the usual seasonal course, i.e., a gradual improvement during the first half of the year followed by a decline during the latter half. The decline in 1931 was rather more pronounced than in recent years. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in January to 18.1 in May and June, but thereafter fell from 27.0 in January to 11.9 in May, and rising again to 45.2 in December. The level of unemployment during the year was generally much higher than in 1930. As regards individual occupations, bricklayers and masons had the best record of employment during the year; it was very slack during the winter months, but during the summer months it was moderate. With carpenters, slaters and plasterers it was bad during the winter months and slack during the summer. With plumbers it showed little variation and was very slack throughout the year; with painters, on the other hand, it showed the usual heavy fluctuation, the percentage unemployed falling from 46.1 in January to 11.9 in May, and rising again to 45.2 in December. With tradesmen's labourers employment was very slack from May to September and bad during the other months of the year. In the brick, tile, and pipe industry, employment followed a similar course to that in the building industry. The percentage unemployed fell from 20.1 in January to 15.8 in June and July, and then gradually increased to 20.1 in December. In the furnishing trades employment was slack throughout the year, although it showed a little improvement during the second quarter and also during the last quarter. It was also slack, with little variation, with mill sawyers and coachbuilders.

**Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.**—Employment in paper manufacture showed a downward tendency during the first nine months of the year, but was still moderate at the end of that period. During the last three months it showed a marked improvement and was fair. In the letterpress branch of the printing trade and also with electrotypers and stereotypers employment fluctuated only slightly, and was fairly good throughout the year. With lithographic printers it was slack, and declined towards the end of the year. With bookbinders also it was slack on the whole.

**Pottery and Glass.**—In the pottery industry employment generally was bad, with extensive short-time working, throughout the year, though there was some improvement in the second half, up to the end of November. In the china section it declined heavily during the second and third quarters, but during September to November it improved considerably. In the earthenware section employment showed some improvement during the first four months; but during the latter half of the year, with the exception of an improvement in September, it tended to decline. In the stoneware section in Scotland employment was bad throughout the year. In the glass trades employment showed little variation and remained bad, particularly in the bottlemaking section; but there was some improvement in December.

**Transport Services.**—Employment in the shipping service and with dockers remained very bad throughout the year. The average percentage of insured workpeople unemployed was 33.4 in shipping service and 39.6 in dock, harbour, river and canal service. As regards road transport, there was the normal seasonal variation in the state of employment. The average percentage unemployed in tramway and omnibus service was about 5 per cent., while in the other road transport services it was about 20 per cent.

#### RATES OF WAGES.\*

There was a decline during 1931 in the average level of wage rates, exceeding that recorded in any year since 1922.

The principal industries affected included coal mining (in certain districts), pottery, chemical, iron and steel, engineering, shipbuilding, most of the other metal trades, wool textile, flax and jute, textile bleaching, dyeing, etc., boot and shoe making, building, and railways. The principal industries in which no general change occurred during the year were cotton, flour milling, printing and bookbinding, marine and dock transport, gas, and tramways.

In all the industries and services for which statistics are available† the changes in rates of wages during 1931 resulted in an aggregate net decrease of nearly £405,000 in the weekly full-time rates of wages of about 3,000,000 workpeople, and in a net increase of about £5,000 in those of 46,000 workpeople. The net result of all the changes reported was, therefore, a decrease of nearly £400,000 in the weekly full-time wages of the workpeople in the industries and services covered by the statistics. It is estimated that the average decrease for all industries combined (including agriculture) was equivalent to over 2 per cent. of the wage rates in operation at the beginning of the year.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople affected by the changes in rates of wages reported to the Department in 1930 and 1931, and the net amount of the change in their weekly rates of wages in each of the principal groups of industries for which statistics are available.

Industry Group.	Approximate Number of separate Individuals reported as affected by Net Increases or Net Decreases, respectively, in Rates of Wages.				Estimated net Weekly Increase(+) or Decrease(−) in Rates of Wages of all Workpeople affected.	
	1930.		1931.*		1930.	1931.*
	Net Increases.	Net Decreases.	Net Increases.	Net Decreases.		
Coal Mining ...	15,500	750	14,750	337,000	+ 325	− 39,700
Other Mining and Quarrying	7,250	19,000	...	30,000	− 1,300	− 3,010
Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc. ...	750	2,750	1,000	143,000	− 325	− 21,050
Iron and Steel	69,000	68,000	900	136,000	− 450	− 12,650
Engineering†...	107,000	750	...	342,000	+ 9,225	− 65,800
Shipbuilding	66,000	1,500	...	23,000	+ 4,850	− 3,800
Other Metal ...	27,500	40,250	150	157,000	− 125	− 24,950
Textile ...	4,750	409,000	500	427,000	− 52,450	− 62,375
Clothing ...	2,750	6,600	4,000	136,000	− 650	− 22,900
Food, Drink and Tobacco ...	2,000	19,750	1,250	13,500	− 1,650	− 2,050
Woodworking, Furniture, etc.	1,700	9,500	400	54,000	− 875	− 10,600
Paper, Printing, etc. ...	...	17,000	...	9,500	− 2,575	− 1,400
Building, Public Works Contracting, etc.	16,750	429,500	1,100	500,000	− 37,200	− 47,400
Gas, Water and Electricity Supply ...	2,100	2,400	1,100	32,000	+ 50	− 3,040
Transport ...	425,000	25,000	15,150	449,000	+ 26,850	− 46,450
Public Administration Services ...	19,500	10,000	5,500	142,000	+ 2,750	− 20,800
Other...	450	38,250	200	64,000	− 3,050	− 11,525
Total ...	768,000	1,100,000	46,000	2,995,000	− 56,600	− 399,500

It should be observed that, as the changes in the wages of adult men have usually been greater than those affecting women, boys, and girls, comparisons of the average amount of change per head in the different groups of industries to be deduced from the figures given in this Table are affected by the varying proportions of men, women, and young persons employed in those industries.

**Principal Changes in Wages in 1931.**—Among the largest groups of workpeople whose wages were reduced in 1931 were coal miners in South Wales and Scotland, men employed on systems of payment by results in the general engineering industry, railway shopmen and railway traffic workers, woollen and worsted operatives employed by various firms in Yorkshire, boot and shoe makers, and building trade operatives. In the case of coal miners, the reductions amounted to over 6 per cent. on current rates in South Wales and to nearly 5 per cent. in Scotland. Pieceworkers, etc., in the engineering industry had an all-round reduction in their basis rates. Railway shopmen sustained a deduction of 4½ per cent. from their gross earnings, while a deduction of 2½ per cent., with a further 2½ per cent. on amounts in excess of 40s. a week, was applied to the earnings of most classes of railway traffic workers; in the case of the latter, some of the lower-paid men also had a further decrease of 2s. per week in the cost-of-living bonus. As the result of individual action by various firms in the woollen and worsted industries in Yorkshire, a majority of the operatives had their wages reduced, usually by 11.7 and 11.2 per cent. on current time and piece rates respectively. Adjustments in the basis piecework rates of workpeople in the boot and shoe industry resulted in reductions for the majority of workpeople concerned; and there were further reductions in this industry, applicable to both pieceworkers and timeworkers, under a cost-of-living sliding scale. In the building trade there were reductions of ½d. per hour for skilled men and of ¼d. or ½d. per hour for labourers in England and Wales generally.

In addition to the above, reductions occurred during 1931 in a large number of important industries, including iron and shale mining, brick, pottery, chemical, the iron and steel industries in most of the important centres, shipbuilding and ship repairing, tinplate, light castings, electrical cable, hollow-ware, cutlery and edge tool, brass, flax spinning and linen weaving (in Northern Ireland), jute, hosiery, textile bleaching, dyeing, finishing, etc., road vehicle building, electrical contracting, civil engineering, electricity supply, tanning and currying, and brush and broom making. Reductions also occurred in the wages of the police force, and in those of workpeople employed in the non-trading services of a number of local authorities.

The principal body of workpeople whose wages were increased in 1931 consisted of coal miners in Warwickshire, who had received a small net increase in the percentage addition to their basis rates (under 1 per cent. on current rates) at the end of the year, following both increases and decreases during the year. Other workpeople who received an increase in their wages in 1931 included carters employed in the commercial road transport industry in a number of Scottish towns, and the employees of certain local authorities in various districts.

**Industries in which there was no general wage movement in 1931.**—Among the more important bodies of workpeople whose wages remained unchanged in 1931 were the following:—coal miners in a number of districts, including Durham, Northumberland, Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and North Derbyshire; soap and candle makers, match makers, heating and domestic engineers, cotton operatives, carpet makers, workpeople employed in the flour-milling

\* The figures given for 1931 are preliminary and subject to revision.  
† The statistics are exclusive of changes affecting agricultural labourers, Government employees, domestic servants, shop assistants, and clerks. They relate to rates of wages for a full week, assuming full employment, and do not take account of variations in actual earnings resulting from changes in the state of employment. In many cases changes arranged by individual employers, and affecting unorganised workers, are not reported to the Department.

\* The figures given for 1931 are preliminary and subject to revision.  
† In the engineering group almost the whole of the increase in 1930, and part of the decrease in 1931, occurred in railway engineering shops.



industry, those employed in the cocoa and chocolate and sugar confectionery and food preserving industries, printers and bookbinders, seamen, dock labourers, workpeople employed in the furniture removal industry, gas workers, and tramway employees. In addition to the foregoing the statutory minimum rates fixed by most of the Trade Boards remained unchanged in 1931. The Boards concerned included the majority of those connected with the clothing group of industries (ready-made and wholesale and bespoke tailoring, wholesale mantle and costume, dressmaking, shirtmaking, millinery, boot and shoe repairing, laundering, etc.); other trades in which the minimum rates were generally unchanged included tin box, stamped or pressed metal, tobacco, paper bag, paper box, and milk distribution.

*Changes in Industries outside the scope of the Department's statistics.*—As explained in a footnote on the previous page, the statistics exclude (among other classes) agricultural labourers and Government employees. As regards the latter, it may be observed that a large number of workpeople in the industrial grades employed by the Admiralty, War Department, and Air Ministry were affected by reductions in wages in 1931. Reductions also took place during the year in the minimum rates fixed under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act, 1924, for adult male labourers in the following counties in England: Cheshire, Derbyshire, Gloucestershire, Shropshire, Suffolk, and Yorkshire. No changes for this class of agricultural worker were recorded in other counties in England, or in Wales. In Scotland, however, which is not covered by the above Act, information obtained by the Board of Agriculture for Scotland indicated fairly widespread reductions in the cash rates of farm servants during 1931.

#### METHODS BY WHICH CHANGES IN WAGES WERE ARRANGED.

The net decrease of £399,500 per week shown in the first Table above represents the difference between all the decreases recorded in the year and all the increases. The same workpeople in many cases had their wages both increased and decreased at different dates in the year, and they are included in the increase or decrease columns according to the net effect of all their changes during the year. In addition about 7,000 workpeople had their wages increased and decreased by equal amounts when totalled for the year, leaving their wages at the same level at the end as at the beginning of the year. These latter are omitted from the above Table, but their changes are taken into account in calculating separately the sums of all the increases and of all the decreases recorded in the year, which amounted in the aggregate to £16,000 in respect of increases and £415,500 in respect of decreases.

Of the total decrease of £415,500 per week, nearly £155,000 took effect under arrangements made by Conciliation Boards or other joint standing bodies of employers and workpeople, including £54,000 under cost-of-living sliding scales arranged by such bodies; other cost-of-living sliding scales accounted for £37,600 (making a total of £91,600 for such scales); about £41,300 was the result of arbitration or mediation; over £17,600 took effect under sliding scales based on selling prices of manufactured iron, steel, etc. or on the proceeds of the industry (coal mining); and the remaining sum was mainly the result of direct negotiation between employers and workpeople, or of independent action by employers. Reductions preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work accounted for about £30,700 of the total, most of this amount being due to changes which followed the stoppage in the South Wales coalfield.

Of the total increase of £16,000 per week, about £5,350 took effect under arrangements made by joint standing bodies of employers and workpeople, including £2,750 under cost-of-living sliding scales arranged by such bodies; other cost-of-living sliding scales accounted for £1,400; £4,750 took effect under sliding scales based on selling prices or the proceeds of the industry; nearly £650 was the result of arbitration or mediation; and the remaining sum was the result of direct negotiation, or of independent action by employers. Increases preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work accounted for about £50.

#### CHANGES IN WAGES IN THE YEARS 1919-1931.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople in the industries and services for which statistics are available\* whose rates of wages were increased or reduced (so far as reported) in each of the years 1919-1931, and the net amount of increase or decrease in their weekly rates of wages:—

Year.	Approximate Number of separate individuals† reported as affected by		Estimated Net Weekly Amount of Change in Rates of Wages		Estimated Net Weekly Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in Rates of Wages of all Workpeople affected.
	Net Increases.	Net Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.	
			£	£	£
1919 ...	6,240,000	100	2,547,200	60	+ 2,547,140
1920 ...	7,867,000	500	4,793,200	180	+ 4,793,020
1921 ...	78,000	7,244,000	13,600	6,074,600	– 6,061,000
1922 ...	73,700	7,633,000	11,450	4,221,500	– 4,210,050
1923 ...	1,202,000	3,079,000	169,000	486,000	– 317,000
1924 ...	3,019,000	481,500	616,000	62,100	+ 553,900
1925 ...	873,000	851,000	80,900	159,000	– 78,100‡
1926 ...	420,000	740,000	133,000	83,700	+ 49,300
1927 ...	282,000	1,855,000	30,700	388,500	– 357,800
1928 ...	217,000	1,615,000	21,800	163,800	– 142,000
1929 ...	142,000	917,000	12,900	91,700	– 78,800
1930 ...	768,000	1,100,000	59,500	116,100	– 56,600
1931§ ...	46,000	2,995,000	5,000	404,500	– 399,500

\* See note † in first column on page 4.

† In addition to the workpeople for whom figures are given in this Table there were considerable numbers in most years from 1921 to 1930 whose wages during the year were increased and decreased by equal amounts.

‡ If agricultural labourers were included, the net reduction of £78,100 shown for 1925 would be converted into a slight increase.

§ The figures given for 1931 are preliminary and subject to revision.

In view of the limitations to which attention has been drawn above, and particularly of the fact that certain large groups of workpeople (notably agricultural labourers) are not covered by the statistics, the figures given in this Table should not be regarded as affording more than a general indication of the movement of wages in any year and a rough measure of the extent of such movement in comparison with that in other years; and special significance should not be attached to small differences in the amount of change as between one year and another.

#### HOURS OF LABOUR.\*

The total number of workers whose normal hours of labour were reported as having been changed in 1931 was 401,000. Of these 293,000 had an average increase of slightly over 1 hour per week, and 108,000 an average reduction of about 1½ hours per week. The great bulk (nearly 98 per cent.) of the workpeople affected were coal miners in various districts, whose hours were changed in consequence of the adoption of 7½ hour-shifts under the Coal Mines Act, 1930. Those whose hours were increased were chiefly underground workers in South Wales and Scotland; while there were reductions for surface workers in Scotland and underground workers in several areas, including Leicestershire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, and North Wales.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople whose hours of labour were reported as changed in each of the years 1919-1931, and the aggregate net amount of the change:—

Year.	Approximate Number of Workpeople whose Hours of Labour were.		Aggregate Net Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in Weekly Hours.
	Increased.	Reduced.	
1919 ...	1,150	6,305,000	– 40,651,000
1920 ...	2,000	570,000	– 2,114,000
1921 ...	31,500	12,900	+ 14,500
1922 ...	16,000	302,700	– 93,000
1923 ...	325,000	9,600	+ 108,750
1924 ...	13,150	16,150	+ 12,500
1925 ...	1,300	3,925	– 11,750
1926 ...	934,200	340	+ 3,985,000
1927 ...	18,700	1,700	+ 59,000
1928 ...	1,400	2,000	– 200
1929 ...	4,050	1,050	+ 8,750
1930 ...	13,175	349,225	– 873,500
1931* ...	293,000	108,000	+ 151,000

Since the widespread reductions in hours of labour in the years 1919-1920 there has been comparatively little movement in working hours apart from those of building trade operatives and coal miners. The former constituted the great majority of those for whom changes are recorded in the years 1922 and 1923, while coal miners form the majority of the totals shown for the years 1926, 1930, and 1931.

#### COST OF LIVING.

BETWEEN 1st January and 1st April, 1931, the Ministry of Labour index number, relating to changes in the cost of maintaining the average pre-war standard of living of working-class families, fell from 53 to 47 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, and during the remainder of the year it fluctuated between 45 and 48 per cent. above the pre-war level.

The Table below shows, month by month, during the period under review, the average percentage increase over the level of July, 1914, in the retail prices of each of the five groups of items (food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and miscellaneous other items) included in the figures. The particulars given relate to the changes in the prices of those articles, and those descriptions of each article, most generally bought by working-class families. Details of the separate articles included within these groups, and the methods adopted in compiling these index numbers, are published in "The Cost of Living Index Number: Method of Compilation" (price 3d., post free 3½d., from H.M. Stationery Office).

#### Average Percentage Increase in Retail Prices, Rents, etc., over the Level of July, 1914.

Date.	Food.	Rent (including Rates).	Clothing.	Fuel and Light.	Other Items included.	All Items included.
1931.						
January 1st ...	38	54	105	75	75	33
January 31st ...	36	54	100-105	75	75	52
February 28th ...	34	54	100	75	75	50
April 1st ...	29	54	100	75	75	47
May 1st ...	29	54	95-100	75	75	47
June 1st ...	27	54	95	70	75	45
July 1st ...	30	54	95	70	75	47
August 1st ...	28	54	95	70	75	45
September 1st ...	28	54	90-95	70-75	75	45
October 1st ...	28	54	90	75	75	45
October 31st ...	30	54	90	75	75	46
December 1st ...	32	54	90	75	75	48
1932.						
January 1st ...	31	54	90	75	75	47

*Food.*—The retail prices of food fell sharply in the early months of the year, the average increase above the level of July, 1914, being 38 per cent. on 1st January and 27 per cent. on 1st June. This was the lowest figure reached since May, 1915. A subsequent rise, largely seasonal, brought the increase to 32 per cent. over the pre-

\* The figures given for 1931 are preliminary and subject to revision.



war level at 1st December, but by 1st January, 1932, the figure had fallen to 31 per cent.

Apart from seasonal movements in the prices of eggs and milk, the most noteworthy changes in prices of food were the decreases in those of beef, mutton, bacon and tea. The prices of flour and bread moved downwards until October, after which they recovered slightly, but were still lower at the end of the year than at the beginning. Potatoes were substantially dearer in the latter part of the year than in the opening months.

The following Table shows the average prices of the articles of food included in these statistics in July, 1914, and at 1st January, 1931 and 1932, together with the average percentage increase at the latter dates over the level of July, 1914:—

Article.	Average price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated—to the nearest ½d.).			Average Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.	
	July, 1914.	1st Jan., 1931.	1st Jan., 1932.	1st Jan., 1931.	1st Jan., 1932.
Beef, British—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.		
Ribs ... ..	0 10	1 4½	1 3½	64	53
Thin Flank ... ..	0 6½	0 9	0 8½	34	23
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—					
Ribs ... ..	0 7½	0 10½	0 9½	43	30
Thin Flank ... ..	0 4½	0 5½	0 5	16	2
Mutton, British—					
Legs ... ..	0 10½	1 5½	1 4½	70	54
Breast ... ..	0 6½	0 9½	0 8½	48	30
Mutton, Frozen—					
Legs ... ..	0 6½	0 11½	0 9½	62	43
Breast ... ..	0 4	0 5	0 4½	23	4
Bacon (streaky)* ... ..	0 11½	1 1	0 10	17	-11
Fish ... ..	...	...	...	112	106
Flour ... .. per 7 lbs.	0 10½	1 0½	0 11½	21	10
Bread ... .. per 4 lbs.	0 5½	0 7½	0 7	29	22
Tea ... ..	1 6½	1 11½	1 8½	28	12
Sugar (granulated) ... ..	0 2	0 2½	0 2½	21	21
Milk ... .. per quart	0 3½	0 6½	0 6½	84	81
Butter—					
Fresh ... ..	1 2½	1 6	1 5½	24	20
Salt ... ..	1 2½	1 4	1 3½	13	9
Cheese (Canadian)* ... ..	0 8½	1 0	0 11	38	28
Margarine ... ..	0 7	0 7½	0 7	3	-2
Eggs (fresh) ... .. each	0 1½	0 2½	0 2	96	71
Potatoes ... .. per 7 lbs.	0 4½	0 6	0 9	28	87

**Rents.**—There was little movement in working-class rents (including rates) during 1931. As compared with July, 1914, the average increase was approximately 54 per cent. throughout the year. These statistics take account not only of rents subject to the control of the Rent Restrictions Acts, but also of decontrolled rents.

**Clothing.**—In January, 1931, the average level of retail prices of those articles of clothing and clothing materials included in this group, taking goods of the kinds purchased by the working classes, and, so far as possible, the same qualities of goods at each date, averaged approximately 105 per cent. higher than in July, 1914. During the first nine months of the year there was a general downward trend in the prices of these articles, but subsequently they remained almost stationary at about 90 per cent. above the pre-war level.

**Fuel and Light.**—The retail prices of coal averaged nearly 85 per cent. higher than in July, 1914, in the early part of the year, and fell to an average of between 75 and 80 per cent. above the pre-war level in the summer, after which they rose again and showed an increase of 85 per cent. at the end of the year. The price of gas throughout the year averaged between 45 and 50 per cent. above pre-war. During the year the average price of lamp oil fell from approximately 35 to 25 per cent. above the pre-war level; but the prices of candles (cheap wax) and matches showed no appreciable change.

**Other Items Included.**—There was very little change during the year in the prices of soap, soda, and newspapers, or in fares. The prices of ironmongery, brushware and pottery were slightly lower, and those of tobacco were slightly higher at the end of the year than at the beginning.

#### COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS.

The following Table compares the averages of the percentage increases recorded for the beginning of each of the twelve months of 1931 with the corresponding averages for all complete years since the inception of this series of index numbers:—

#### Average Percentage Increase over the level of July, 1914.

Year.	Food only.	All Items included.	Year.	Food only.	All Items included.
1915	31	23	1924	70	75
1916	60	46	1925	71	76
1917	98½	76	1926	64	72
1918	115	103	1927	60	67½
1919	119	115	1928	57	66
1920	156	149	1929	54	64
1921	129½	126	1930	45	58
1922	76	83	1931	31	47½
1923	69	74			

\* If this kind is seldom dealt with in a locality the returns quote price for another kind locally representative.

Not since 1922 has the average for any year been so much lower than that for the previous year as is the case with 1931. The fall during 1931 was, however, less than the fall during 1930. The figure for "all items included" fell from 53 to 47 per cent. above the pre-war level in 1931, whereas during 1930 it fell from 66 to 53 per cent.

#### TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of disputes, involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as having begun in 1931 in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 419.\*

In these disputes about 424,600 workpeople were directly involved (i.e., on strike or locked out), and 65,100 indirectly involved (i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes). In addition, about 2,100 workpeople were involved, directly or indirectly, in 11 disputes which began in 1930 and were still in progress at the beginning of 1931. The total number of workpeople involved, either directly or indirectly, in all disputes in progress in 1931 was thus about 491,800, as compared with 308,700 in the previous year. The aggregate time lost in 1931 by these workpeople owing to the disputes was approximately 6,985,000 working days, as compared with 4,399,000 in 1930.

In 1931, as in the previous year, the two largest disputes (one occurring in the cotton manufacturing industry and one in the coal-mining industry) accounted for nearly two-thirds of all the workpeople involved in disputes and for over three-quarters of the total number of working days lost through disputes. In the following summary, figures for these outstanding disputes are compared with those for all other disputes:—

	No. of Disputes beginning in period.	No. of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	No. of Working Days lost by such Workpeople.
<b>1930.</b>			
Wool Textile Dispute ... ..	1	120,000	3,258,000
Coal Mining Dispute, Scotland ... ..	1	76,000	428,000
All other Disputes ... ..	420	112,700	713,000
All Disputes ... ..	422	308,700	4,399,000
<b>1931.</b>			
Cotton Manufacturing Dispute ... ..	1	145,000	3,290,000
Coal Mining Dispute, South Wales and Mon. ... ..	1	150,000	2,030,000
All other Disputes ... ..	417	196,800	1,665,000
All Disputes ... ..	419	491,800	6,985,000

The following Table\* summarises by industries the number of disputes reported as beginning in 1930 and 1931 in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the number of workpeople involved in and the aggregate duration of all disputes in progress in each year:—

Industry Group.	1930.			1931.		
	No. of Disputes beginning in 1930.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.	No. of Disputes beginning in 1931.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.
Coal Mining ... ..	150	148,600	663,000	146	280,900	2,849,000
Other Mining and Quarrying ... ..	8	600	8,000	8	600	14,000
Brick, Pottery, Glass, etc. ... ..	7	600	5,000	13	1,000	19,000
Chemical ... ..	3	400	2,000	6	1,000	2,000
Iron and Steel ... ..	5	700	9,000	6	500	2,000
Engineering ... ..	11	800	8,000	8	700	11,000
Shipbuilding ... ..	23	4,200	15,000	14	2,400	36,000
Other Metal ... ..	31	4,200	60,000	34	8,300	52,000
Cotton ... ..	17	2,600	36,000	17	147,400	3,319,000
Wool Textile ... ..	7	122,200	3,279,000	2	3,000	21,000
Other Textile ... ..	20	4,000	77,000	19	13,400	377,000
Clothing ... ..	21	1,400	10,000	21	1,300	16,000
Food, Drink and Tobacco ... ..	5	900	3,000	4	5,100	11,000
Woodworking, Furniture, etc. ... ..	23	3,300	88,000	16	5,900	83,000
Paper, Printing, etc. ... ..	6	800	7,000	4	400	1,000
Building, Public Works, Contracting, etc. ... ..	47	3,800	46,000	57	12,300	145,000
Transport ... ..	22	5,200	25,000	17	5,300	13,000
Commerce, Distribution and Finance ... ..	5	3,500	51,000	9	700	2,000
Other ... ..	11	900	7,000	18	1,600	12,000
Total ... ..	422	308,700	4,399,000	419	491,800	6,985,000

Of the total numbers of workpeople shown as involved in all disputes, approximately 20,900 in 1930 and 65,400 in 1931 were indirectly involved.

**Principal Disputes.**—The two largest disputes in 1931 occurred in the cotton manufacturing industry of Lancashire and adjoining counties, and in the coal-mining industry of South Wales and Monmouthshire, respectively.

\* Disputes involving less than ten workpeople and those which lasted less than one day are omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration (i.e., number of workpeople multiplied by number of working days, allowing for workpeople replaced by others, etc.) exceeded 100 days. The figures for 1931 are preliminary and subject to correction.



The stoppage in the cotton manufacturing industry, which arose out of a proposed increase in the number of looms worked per weaver, began on a small scale at Burnley and certain other centres on 5th January, subsequently extending to the whole area; before the termination of the dispute on 13th February about 145,000 workpeople were involved and 3½ million working days lost.

The stoppage in the South Wales and Monmouthshire coal-mining industry, which arose out of a proposed reduction in the wages of day-wage men in consequence of the reduction in working hours imposed by the Coal Mines Act, 1930, involved about 150,000 workpeople and was in progress from 1st to 17th January, causing a loss of 2 million working days. A smaller dispute involving 14,000 workpeople occurred in the same coal-field in March; at most of the collieries affected the stoppage lasted one or two days only, the aggregate loss of time being 46,000 working days. A stoppage of work began in various coal-mining districts in Scotland on 9th July and subsequent dates, affecting a limited number of collieries and, except in Fifeshire, lasting for one or two days only in most cases. A second stoppage of similar character began in Scotland on 7th August and subsequent dates, with an average duration of three days. In the first of these two stoppages about 11,000 workpeople were involved and 69,000 working days lost, and in the second 30,000 workpeople were involved and 97,000 working days lost. A dispute involving about 9,000 colliery workpeople began in Cumberland on 24th June; the stoppage was prolonged into August, and the total loss of time (327,000 working days) was accordingly high.

In the lace curtain industry of Ayrshire, Glasgow and Nottinghamshire 2,200 workpeople were involved in a dispute which began on 15th June and terminated on various dates in September, with an aggregate duration of 186,000 working days. With the exception of a stoppage of work in October involving about 5,000 herring curers, etc. (females) at Great Yarmouth, which lasted for less than two days, there were no other disputes in 1931 which involved 5,000 or more workpeople or entailed a loss of 100,000 or more working days.

*Causes or Objects.*—Of the 419 disputes beginning in 1931, 32, directly involving 1,900 workpeople, arose out of demands for advances in wages; 116, directly involving 219,100\* workpeople, out of proposed reductions in wages; 85, directly involving 18,700 workpeople, on other wage questions; 33, directly involving 24,600 workpeople, on questions related to working hours; 85, directly involving 15,600 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; 18, directly involving 4,800 workpeople, on questions of Trade Union principle; and 49, directly involving 139,800† workpeople, on other questions. There was in addition one sympathetic strike, directly involving 100 workpeople.

*Comparative Figures for 1919–1931.*—The following Table shows the total number of disputes, involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in each of the years 1919–1931, together with the approximate number of workpeople involved in these disputes, and the aggregate number of working days lost in all disputes in progress during the year (irrespective of the date of commencement), at the establishments where the disputes occurred. It should be observed in comparing these figures with the figures relating to 1930 and 1931 given in the foregoing Tables, that in the Table below the particulars of numbers involved relate to persons involved in disputes beginning in each year, whilst in the previous Tables they relate to the total numbers involved in all disputes in progress, including those beginning earlier which were still unsettled at the beginning of the year:—

Year.	Number of Disputes beginning in Year.	Number of Workpeople involved in Disputes beginning in the Year.†			Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress during Year (to nearest 10,000).
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.	
1919 ...	1,352	2,401,000	190,000	2,591,000	34,970,000
1920 ...	1,607	1,779,000	153,000	1,932,000	26,570,000
1921 ...	763	1,770,000	31,000	1,801,000	85,870,000
1922 ...	576	512,000	40,000	552,000	19,850,000
1923 ...	628	343,000	62,000	405,000	10,670,000
1924 ...	710	558,000	55,000	613,000	8,420,000
1925 ...	603	401,000	40,000	441,000	7,950,000
1926 ...	323	2,724,000	10,000	2,734,000	162,230,000
1927 ...	308	90,000	18,000	108,000	1,170,000
1928 ...	302	80,000	44,000	124,000	1,390,000
1929 ...	431	493,000	40,000	533,000	8,290,000
1930 ...	422	286,000	21,000	307,000	4,400,000
1931‡ ...	419	425,000	65,000	490,000	6,980,000

Analysis by industry-groups of the figures for 1930 and 1931 has been given above. As regards 1926 the magnitude of the figures of workpeople involved and of aggregate duration is due to the prolonged general dispute in the coal-mining industry and the "general strike" occurring in that year. The large figures for 1920 and 1921 were also due in great part to general coal-mining stoppages, while those for 1919 were due to stoppages of exceptional magnitude in several industries.

\* Including 150,000 workpeople directly involved in the earlier dispute in the South Wales and Monmouthshire coal-field referred to above.

† Including 130,000 workpeople directly involved in the cotton manufacturing dispute referred to above, which arose out of a question as to the number of looms per weaver.

‡ Workpeople involved in more than one dispute during the year are counted more than once in the totals for the year. The extent of such duplication is not very considerable except in the case of industries involved in the "general strike" in May, 1926, and in the coal-mining group, in which about 35,000 in 1931, 41,000 in 1926, 100,000 in 1921, 300,000 in 1920 and 150,000 in 1919 were involved in more than one dispute.

§ The figures for 1931 are provisional and subject to correction.

## ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS IN EMPLOYMENT.

IN the issue of this GAZETTE for October, 1931 (page 374), a statement was published giving for the period July, 1928, to September, 1931, estimates of the numbers of insured persons in employment in Great Britain. In the following Table the series is continued to December, 1931. The figures in col. 6 have been obtained by deducting from the total estimated numbers insured, the average numbers recorded as unemployed and the numbers directly involved in trade disputes, together with an allowance of 3½ per cent. of the numbers insured in respect of absences from work through sickness and other forms of unrecorded non-employment other than "recognised" holidays.

	Estimated Total Insured, Aged 16–64.	Number Unemployed.	Number not Recorded as Unemployed.	Estimated Number in Employment after Allowance for Sickness, etc.:	
				(A) Including Persons directly involved in Trade Disputes;	(B) Excluding such Persons.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	A. (5)	B. (6)
1929.	Thousands.	Thousands.	Thousands.	Thousands.	Thousands.
Jan.-Mar. ...	11,786	1,333	10,453	10,040	10,032
Apr.-June ...	11,822	1,138	10,684	10,270	10,265
July-Sept. ...	11,870	1,156	10,714	10,299	10,297
Oct.-Dec. ...	11,923	1,269	10,654	10,236	10,233
1930.					
Jan.-Mar. ...	11,995	1,552	10,443	10,023	10,021
Apr.-June ...	12,115	1,784	10,331	9,907	9,868
July-Sept. ...	12,197	2,056	10,141	9,714	9,712
Oct.-Dec. ...	12,290	2,317	9,973	9,543	9,540
1931.					
Jan.-Mar. ...	12,380	2,595	9,785	9,352	9,308
Apr.-June ...	12,467	2,550	9,917	9,480	9,474
July-Sept.* ...	12,550	2,758	9,792	9,353	9,342
Oct.-Dec.* ...	12,620	2,664	9,956	9,514	9,513
October* ...	12,600	2,723	9,877	9,436	9,436
November* ...	12,620	2,667	9,953	9,512	9,511
December* ...	12,640	2,602	10,038	9,596	9,593

Index Numbers. Average 1924 = 100.

1929.					
Jan.-Mar. ...	106.5	117.2	105.2	105.2	105.4
Apr.-June ...	106.8	100.1	107.5	107.6	107.9
July-Sept. ...	107.2	101.7	107.8	107.9	108.2
Oct.-Dec. ...	107.7	111.6	107.2	107.2	107.6
1930.					
Jan.-March ...	108.3	136.5	105.1	105.0	105.3
Apr.-June ...	109.4	156.9	104.0	103.8	103.7
July-Sept. ...	110.2	180.8	102.1	101.7	102.1
Oct.-Dec. ...	111.0	203.8	100.4	99.9	100.3
1931.					
Jan.-Mar. ...	111.8	228.2	98.5	97.9	97.8
Apr.-June ...	112.6	224.3	99.8	99.3	99.6
July-Sept.* ...	113.3	242.6	98.6	98.0	98.2
Oct.-Dec.* ...	114.0	234.3	100.2	99.6	100.0
October* ...	113.8	239.5	99.4	98.8	99.2
November* ...	114.0	234.5	100.2	99.6	100.0
December* ...	114.2	228.8	101.0	100.5	100.8

## NUMBER OF PERSONS REGISTERED AT EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.

IN the issue of this GAZETTE for July, 1931 (page 254), a statement was published bringing up to that date the record of the number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain in each week from 5th January, 1931, to 29th June, 1931. In the Table below the series is continued to the latest date for which figures are available:—

Date.	Number.	Date.	Number.
1931:		1931:	
July 6th ...	2,634,288	Oct. 5th ...	2,791,520
13th ...	2,642,689	12th ...	2,766,746
20th ...	2,660,733	19th ...	2,737,878
27th ...	2,713,350	26th ...	2,726,092
Aug. 3rd ...	No figures available	Nov. 2nd ...	2,710,944
10th ...	2,714,359	9th ...	2,683,924
17th ...	2,719,376	16th ...	2,648,429
24th ...	2,733,782	23rd ...	2,615,115
31st ...	2,762,219	30th ...	2,622,027
Sept. 7th ...	2,800,631	Dec. 7th ...	2,627,324
14th ...	2,789,080	14th ...	2,572,602
21st ...	2,811,615	21st ...	2,509,921
28th ...	2,824,772	28th ...	No figures available

It is estimated that of the total decrease of 227,957 between 19th October and 21st December, approximately 90,000 was due to the disallowance of claims to benefit and applications for transitional payments, while about 138,000 was due to improvement in employment. An article on the effect of recent changes in the Unemployment Insurance Scheme on the numbers on the registers of Employment Exchanges was published in the issue of this GAZETTE for December, 1931 (page 457).

\* Provisional figures.



# PERSONS INSURED AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT AND PERSONS UNEMPLOYED.

## REPORT ON STATISTICAL ANALYSES.

THE Ministry of Labour have carried out, at the request of the Royal Commission on Unemployment Insurance, two further inquiries by the "sample" method dealing respectively with persons insured against unemployment in Great Britain at July, 1930, and with persons on the live registers of Employment Exchanges at 2nd February, 1931. The results of these two inquiries have now been published, as an appendix to the Royal Commission's minutes of evidence.\*

### I.—PERSONS INSURED AT JULY, 1930.

The sample in this case represented one per cent. of the persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain at the beginning of July, 1930, exclusive of persons insured under the special schemes for the banking and insurance industries. The total number of insured workers at that date was estimated at 12,000,000; and the sample included 120,000 cases, of whom 86,740 were males, and 33,260 females.

The information available from the records enabled analyses to be made as regards age, industry, contributions and benefit. No information was available as to marital state, number of dependants, or personal qualifications and disabilities.

*Age Distribution.*—The following Table shows the age distribution of the persons included in the sample at 1st July, 1930, as compared with that shown by an earlier investigation on a sample basis relating to July, 1925:—

Age Group.	MALES.		FEMALES.	
	Percentage within each age group at		Percentage within each age group at	
	July, 1925.	July, 1930.	July, 1925.	July, 1930.
16-17 ...	6.8	7.0	13.1	13.4
18-20 ...	23.5	10.8	40.8	20.5
21-24 ...	13.0	13.5	15.9	21.7
25-29 ...	11.0	13.7	9.4	15.6
30-34 ...	10.2	10.9	6.6	9.3
35-39 ...	9.0	9.2	4.9	6.1
40-44 ...	8.4	8.7	3.8	4.9
45-49 ...	7.8	8.0	2.7	3.5
50-54 ...	6.0	7.3	1.7	2.4
55-59 ...	4.2	6.3	1.0	1.5
60-64 ...	0.1	4.2	0.1	0.9
Not stated ...	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.2
TOTAL ...	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

There was little change in the age distribution between July, 1925, and July, 1930; on the whole, the average age was slightly lower in the later sample. It will be seen that 55.9 per cent. of the males, and 80.5 per cent. of the females, in the 1930 sample, were under 35 years of age, as compared with 54.3 and 79.2 per cent., respectively, in the 1925 sample.

There are marked differences in the age distribution of insured persons in the various industries. The heavy industries, with dock and harbour service, include smaller proportions of young men under 25 years of age, and larger proportions of middle-aged men, than the lighter trades; while the industries which employ large amounts of unskilled labour tend to include heavier proportions of older men.

*Mobility of Labour.*—The record for each person in the sample showed the industry in which he or she was employed on entry into insurance, as well as that in which he or she was classified in July, 1930. For all industries combined, 64.2 per cent. of the males were in the same industry classification in July, 1930, as at their entry into insurance, and 35.8 per cent. had had a change of classification. A small part—not exceeding 2½ per cent.—of this change may have been due to a change in the basis of industrial classification which took place in July, 1923; allowing for this it would appear that about one-third of the men and youths insured in July, 1930, had moved at least once from one industry to another since their entry into insurance. The average period covered by the record was 7 years for men and 5.4 years for women. In some industries transference is much more frequent than in others. Speaking generally, there is less transference among females than among males. The distributive trades show the largest movement among females, both inwards and outwards. The figures analysed in the Report relate to the movement from one industry to another, and do not necessarily indicate changes of occupation.

*Contributions and Benefits.*—During the period of nine years from July, 1921, to June, 1930, over 30 per cent. of those in the sample had paid the maximum possible number of contributions, and 80 per cent. had paid two-thirds of the maximum. In any one of those nine years nearly 60 per cent. had paid maximum contributions, and 90 per cent. more than half the maximum. The average number of contributions paid by the whole body of insured persons has been 44 per year among males and 46 among females, or over 80 per cent., and about 90 per cent., respectively, of the maximum possible.

\* Appendices to the Minutes of Evidence taken before the Royal Commission on Unemployment Insurance: Part V. H.M. Stationery Office; price 5s. 6d. net (5s. 8d. post free).

A large proportion (35.4 per cent. of males and 48.4 per cent. of females) had never drawn unemployment benefit between November, 1920, and December, 1930. Even among those who entered insurance before July, 1921, 29 per cent. of the men and 36 per cent. of the women had not drawn benefit up to the end of 1930.

While persons of all ages are subject to unemployment, there is an increase in the risk, and in the amount experienced in the year, as age advances. Among men aged 60-64 the rate of unemployment is 50 per cent. higher than at ages 40-44.

Over the seven years ended 1930 only 3 per cent. of males and 1 per cent. of females in the sample had drawn benefit in every year. Among this number over 40 per cent. had drawn benefit for not more than one-third of each year; and over 90 per cent. had drawn benefit for not more than two-thirds of each year. More or less continuous unemployment is confined to a very small section of the insured population, which cannot include more than about 100,000 men and 3,000 women. This group represents the maximum size of the "standing army" of the unemployed. The number of those who have had no unemployment is at least thirty times as large. Between these two extremes there is a group, about one and a half times as numerous as the other two combined, and including about 5½ million men and 1,700,000 women, among whom employment and unemployment are intermittent. In this group the degree of unemployment is not uniform. Among at least half the group unemployment is almost negligible, and it becomes serious among only about 10 per cent.

The greatest average amount of benefit in a year was drawn by those who had paid about one-third of the total possible contributions in the year. These were evidently workers who by means of intermittent employment could most readily satisfy the statutory conditions while maintaining a claim for benefit.

In the period of seven years from October, 1923, to the end of 1930, in which the maximum amount of benefit payable was 2,259 days, only 4.1 per cent. of the men and 0.3 per cent. of the women who drew benefit received it for more than 1,000 days; while 36 per cent. of the men and 38.8 per cent. of the women received it for not more than 100 days in all.

Those who have had little or no employment are necessarily within the transitional benefit class; but nevertheless this class also includes appreciable numbers who secure a fair amount of employment. Among those qualified for full standard benefit at the end of 1930 not more than 10 per cent. had been unemployed, on the average, for six months out of twelve.

Once a worker has had unemployment there seems to be some tendency for it to recur, though in widely varying degrees. Those who made claims in 1930 (exclusive of those who made a claim for the first time in that year) constituted over 50 per cent., in the case of both men and women, of all those who had drawn benefit at any time since 1920. Those who made the greatest number of claims in the seven years ended 1930 also received the greatest amount of benefit, on the average, on each claim.

There are wide variations between different industries in the relation between contributions paid and benefit drawn. Thus, while 75 per cent. of the males, and 83 per cent. of the females, insured at July, 1930, who were classified under commerce and finance had drawn no benefit since November, 1921, and 61 and 69 per cent., respectively, of those in the distributive trades, the percentages in the cotton industry were only 16 and 12 per cent. respectively. Among men in the pig-iron classification the proportion that had not drawn benefit was under 10 per cent.

The relative severity of unemployment in the different industries is apparent from the proportions of benefit drawn to contributions paid. The following Table shows the average number of days of benefit drawn for each 100 contributions paid by those who were within various industry classifications at July, 1930:—

MALES.		FEMALES.	
Principal Industries.	Days Benefit per 100 Contributions.	Principal Industries.	Days Benefit per 100 Contributions.
Shipbuilding and ship repairing ...	194	Cotton ...	85
Public works contracting ...	144	Textile trades (other than cotton and wool) ...	52
Iron and steel ...	126	Woollen and worsted ...	50
Dock, harbour, etc., service ...	100	Metal trades ...	43
Coal mining ...	70	Food, drink and tobacco ...	31
Engineering ...	69	Clothing ...	25
Cotton ...	68	Paper ...	21
Building ...	59	Printing, publishing, etc. ...	20
Motor vehicles, etc. ...	50	Distributive ...	18
Woollen and worsted ...	50		
Clothing ...	37		
Food, drink and tobacco ...	31		
Distributive trades ...	31		
Paper ...	29		
Printing, publishing, etc. ...	20		
All industries	59	All industries	35

"Standard" and "Transitional" Benefit.\*—Of the insured workers included in the sample, 32,384 males and 11,238 females made claims in the year 1930 (up to 17th December), of whom

\* The figures relate to the period up to the end of 1930, i.e., before the changes of November, 1931, in the conditions for insurance benefit and transitional payments came into operation.



3,754 males and 1,182 females—i.e., 10 or 12 per cent. of the total—were qualified for transitional benefit only, on the basis of their contribution record as it stood in the last quarter of the year.

There was a greater change of personnel among those on the register in receipt of standard benefit than among those on transitional benefit. At any given date after May, 1930, there were about 400,000 persons on the register in receipt of transitional benefit, out of a total of about 550,000 for the whole year; the corresponding figures for standard benefit were 1,600,000, out of a total of over four millions.

Age had a considerable influence on the relative proportions entitled to standard and transitional benefit respectively and on the rate of change in personnel. Thus, in the age-group 18–20, only 8·7 per cent. of the males, and 6·6 per cent. of the females, with claims current at 17th December, 1930, were qualified for transitional benefit only; while in the age-group 55–64, the proportions had risen to 28·9 and 14·5 per cent. respectively.

Similarly, the proportion of all claims made in 1930 which were current at 17th December was about one-third greater among those aged 55–64 than among those aged 18–20.

The proportion of transitional benefit claimants also varied according to industry. The following Table shows the percentages of claims current at 17th December, 1930, in some of the more important industries, represented by those on transitional benefit:—

MALES.		FEMALES.	
Principal Industries.	Percentage on Transitional Benefit.	Principal Industries.	Percentage on Transitional Benefit.
Public works con- tracting ...	33·9	Distributive ...	13·7
Coal mining ...	26·6	Cotton ...	12·4
Distributive ...	21·7	Printing, publishing and bookbinding ...	12·2
Shipbuilding and ship repairing ...	19·0	Food, drink and tobacco ...	11·6
Clothing ...	14·9	Pottery ...	8·8
Iron and steel ...	14·0	Woollen and worsted ...	7·8
Motor vehicles ...	13·1	Clothing ...	7·3
Building ...	12·9	Engineering ...	4·1
Engineering ...	12·4		
Cotton ...	11·2		
Dock and harbour service ...	9·7		
Woollen and worsted ...	8·3		
Paper ...	8·1		
All industries ...	17·4	All industries ...	12·7

*Men discharged from the Forces.*—The sample included 2,502 men who had received contribution credits upon discharge from the Forces, and the particulars available enabled an analysis to be made showing the industries in which the men obtained employment. The proportions that had obtained employment up to July, 1930, were 74·1 per cent. from the Air Force, 69·4 per cent. from the Army and 63·2 per cent. from the Navy. Employment was obtained most readily in transport and communication, while men from the Air Force also found work largely in the engineering industry. Men from the Army found work more readily in the building industry, while many from all three branches were absorbed by the distributive trades.

## II.—PERSONS ON THE REGISTERS AT 2ND FEBRUARY, 1931.

An investigation was made by the Ministry of Labour into the personal circumstances and industrial history of a sample of persons aged 18 and over on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain at 2nd February, 1931. The investigation was on similar lines to those of November, 1923, November, 1924, and April, 1927, the chief differences being that on this occasion only one in 200 (instead of one per cent.) was selected for analysis, and that all adults on the register were included, and not only claimants for benefit. Of the total number (12,372) included in the sample, 8,951 were interviewed personally, representing 70 per cent. of the men and 79 per cent. of the women.

The following is a summary of some of the principal conclusions derived from the investigation:—

*Age Distribution.*—Although the total numbers unemployed had doubled, there was little change in age-distribution, so far as men claimants were concerned, as compared with April, 1927. The depression which began towards the end of 1929 had affected all age-groups in much the same degree. About 36 per cent. of the men in the sample were under 30 years of age, 30 per cent. were between the ages of 30 and 45, and 34 per cent. were aged 45 or over.

Among women, however, the claimants to benefit in February, 1931, included a much lower proportion in the age-group under 25, as compared with April, 1927, and an increase in all the age-groups above 25.

Among both men and women, but especially among men, those entitled to transitional benefit were found to be older, on the average, than those qualified for standard benefit. Over 39 per cent. of the men on standard benefit were under 30 years of age, as against 24 per cent. for those on transitional benefit; while, at the other end of the scale, 37 per cent. of those on transitional benefit were 50 or over, as against 22 per cent. for those on standard benefit.

*Effect of Age on Unemployment.*—Among men the rate of unemployment in the age-group 60–64 was found to be more than double the rate in the age-group 18–20, and one-and-a-half times the rate at ages 21–44. The percentage rate of unemployment among men aged 18–44 in the February investigation was 21·3. If this rate had been maintained at the higher ages, the number of men unemployed would have been fewer by about 140,000.

In April, 1927, there was very little difference in the rate of unemployment among women under 25 years of age and among those over that age; but in February, 1931, there was a marked increase in the rate for women over 25. If the rate had remained more or less uniform, as in 1927, there would have been about 126,000 fewer women claimants aged 25 and over in February, 1931, than were actually registered. This increase appears to be related to the recent abnormal increase in the numbers of insured women, owing to the reduction in the numbers of women passing out of insurance. Both phenomena were in large measure due to the relaxation in the conditions for the receipt of benefit. Nearly half of the total number of women claimants at 2nd February, 1931, were married, while it is estimated that only between 25 and 30 per cent. of all insured women are married. In the case of women on transitional benefit, the proportion who were married rose to 70 per cent.

Unemployment due to age was most pronounced in the heavy industries, such as mining, building, and public works contracting; the disparity was also considerable in the glass, woollen and worsted and cotton industries, and in commerce and finance.

*Employability.*—Over 70 per cent. of the persons interviewed were reported as having good physique; over 80 per cent. were reported as being in good health, and a similar proportion as having no physical defects. These results were very similar to those given by previous investigations.

The definitions of the various categories of employability were different from those used in the previous investigations; each person interviewed was judged in relation to his suitability for submission to a local vacancy without exceptional features in his own occupation. Judged by the new standards, 75 per cent. of the men, and 80 per cent. of the women, were considered to be suitable on all grounds for submission to such a vacancy (Category A). 16·5 per cent. of the men, and 13·3 per cent. of the women, came short of the standard in personal qualifications (age, physical condition, etc.) (Category B.); 5 per cent. of the men and 4 per cent. of the women were considered to have adequate personal qualifications but their industrial experience was such as to make engagement doubtful (Category C); and 3·4 per cent. of the men and 2·8 per cent. of the women were considered to be unsuitable on both grounds (industrial experience and personal qualifications) (Category D.).

Those on transitional benefit had distinctly lower employment qualifications than those on standard benefit. For example, among men, 82 per cent. of those on standard benefit were placed in Category A (those suitable on all grounds), but only 52 per cent. of those on transitional benefit. This was in part due to the higher average age of those on transitional benefit.

There were important differences in the various industries in the proportions in the various categories of employability. Coal mining had the lowest proportion in Category A (58·7 per cent.) and the highest in Category B (35·3 per cent.). The engineering, metal and woodworking trades had high proportions in Category A.

*Early Training, Age of Leaving School, etc.*—About 94 per cent. of the persons interviewed had attended elementary schools only, and the same proportion left school before reaching 15 years of age. Nearly 90 per cent. of the men and 80 per cent. of the women under 30 years of age started work before reaching 15. These results are very similar to those given by previous investigations. 26 per cent. of the men, and 7 per cent. of the women, claimed to have been apprenticed to a trade; the proportions were higher among those on standard than among those on transitional benefit.

*Marital State.*—The proportion of married men in the sample was higher than in any of the previous investigations; it has, in fact, tended to rise at each investigation.

The proportion of women claimants to benefit who were married was nearly double that of April, 1927; in the age-group 21–24 it was nearly treble. If the proportion of claimants to benefit among married women had been no higher than among single women, it is estimated that there would have been between 150,000 and 174,000 fewer married women claimants to benefit.

*Dependants.*—Of every 100 men whose claims for unemployment benefit had been authorised, 54 had dependants, consisting of 50 adults and 82 children. Among those who had dependent children, the average number of children was 2·2. Only 3 per cent. of the women with authorised claims had dependants. These results are very similar to those given by previous investigations.

*Poor Relief.*—Only 2 per cent. of the men, and less than 1 per cent. of the women, in the sample were in receipt of outdoor relief in respect of unemployment; and of the insured men in receipt of relief about 60 per cent. were not in receipt of unemployment benefit.

Of the total number of men in the sample who were not entitled to benefit, only 31·4 per cent. were in receipt of out-door poor relief. Of the men who were in receipt of poor relief and unemployment benefit concurrently, nearly 30 per cent. were receiving not more than 5s. a week in poor relief, and nearly 70 per cent. were receiving not more than 10s. a week. The amount of relief was much greater in the case of those not entitled to unemployment benefit.

*Employment Record.*—In the year ended January, 1931, a year of industrial depression, over 6 per cent. of the men on standard benefit at 2nd February, 1931, had paid 50 or more weekly contributions, and about 56 per cent. had paid 30 or more; only 4 per cent. had paid no contributions. Among the men on transitional benefit, about 46 per cent. had paid no contributions in the year. The figures for women showed a slightly less favourable record.

If an average is taken of the record for each of the seven years, July, 1922, to June, 1929, so as to avoid the years of acutest depression, it brings out the fact that among the men on standard benefit



at 2nd February, 1931, 38 per cent. had paid 50 or more contributions in the average year, 79 per cent. had paid 30 or more, and only 4.5 per cent. had paid no contributions. Among the men on transitional benefit, the corresponding percentages were 18, 45, and 18. The figures for women were 37, 82, and 5.5, respectively, for those on standard benefit; and 25, 63, and 13, respectively, for those on transitional benefit.

For the nine years, July, 1921, to June, 1930, taken as a whole, 18 per cent. of the men on standard benefit at 2nd February, 1931, had paid the maximum number of contributions throughout the whole period, and over 55 per cent. had paid nearly 80 per cent. of the maximum. The record for those on transitional benefit fell much below this standard. For women on standard benefit the record was similar to that of the men, but women on transitional benefit had a better record than the men in the same class.

**Unemployment Record.**—Among men, 30 per cent. of those on standard benefit, and 5.5 per cent. of those on transitional benefit, had been unemployed for not more than twelve weeks in the year ended January, 1931; 30 per cent. of the men on standard benefit and 6 per cent. of those on transitional benefit had been unemployed for 12-24 weeks; while less than 2 per cent. of those on standard benefit, and 20 per cent. of those on transitional benefit, were unemployed the whole year.

Those who had been unemployed for twelve months or more on 2nd February, 1931, included about 90,000 men and 30,000 women in all; 30 per cent. were on standard benefit, and 70 per cent. on transitional benefit. Nearly a third of the men were in coal mining, and nearly half the women were in the cotton industry.

The amount of unemployment was found to increase with advancing age, but the increase was not so marked as in the samples taken in March and in September, 1929.\*

The men in the depressed industries had, of course, a worse record than the average. The industries with the highest average number of days of unemployment recorded in the year in respect of those on the live register at 2nd February, 1931, were:—

	Days.		Days.
Cotton ... ..	189	Iron and steel ... ..	161
Public works contracting	183	Shipbuilding and repairing	160
Coal mining ... ..	182	Distributive trades ... ..	153

The average for the building trade was 121, and for pottery, 118.

For women the corresponding figures were:—Engineering, 179; cotton, 176; pottery, 157; distributive trades, 131; wool textile, 128.

**Last Spell of Continuous Unemployment.**—On the average the men on standard benefit had been continuously unemployed for 63 days, as compared with 173 days for those on transitional benefit. The last spell of continuous unemployment extended to not more than four weeks among 41.7 per cent. of the men on standard benefit, and 11.2 per cent. of those on transitional benefit; and it was not more than twelve weeks in the case of 69 per cent. of those on standard benefit, and 28 per cent. of those on transitional benefit. The figures for women were similar.

If the seven-year period ended January, 1931, is taken as a whole, nearly 36 per cent. of the men and 43 per cent. of the women on standard benefit, and 6 per cent. of the men and 16 per cent. of the women on transitional benefit, at 2nd February, had drawn benefit for less than 10 per cent. of the total period.

Those on transitional benefit at 2nd February, 1931, had, generally speaking, drawn about twice as much benefit on the average in the past as those on standard benefit. In proportion to contributions paid, the disparity between the two classes was greater. Thus, among men on standard benefit, the average number of contributions paid in each year was 41, and the average number of days' benefit drawn was 53; while, among those on transitional benefit, the average number of contributions paid was approximately halved, and the average number of days benefit drawn was approximately doubled.

## ADMISSION OF FOREIGN CONCERT ARTISTS.

A CONFERENCE was held at the Ministry of Labour on 7th January between officials of the Ministry and representatives of musical societies, the British Broadcasting Corporation, concert agents, the Incorporated Society of Musicians, the Musical Conductors' Association, and other persons, at which the policy of the Minister with regard to the issue of permits for the employment of foreign concert artists was explained and discussed.

It was subsequently announced that the Minister of Labour had endeavoured to remove the impression which had gained ground in some quarters that there was, or was to be, a wholesale restriction on the entry of foreign artists. There was not, and has not been, any such intention. Permits will continue for the present to be issued without question for artists of first-rate international standing. Further, applications will be considered on their merits for the issue of permits for less well-known artists who by their record, or on the evidence of competent opinion, can claim to be able to contribute something new, distinctive, or original, in the way of musical performance or interpretation.

The Minister has decided that for the present it is reasonable as a rule to refuse the issue of permits for artists for whom such claims cannot be established. If, however, foreign artists for whom, on this basis, permits would be refused are coming to this country to give a recital or recitals on their own account, the Minister will be prepared to consider the issue of permits to cover not more than two paid engagements in addition.

In applying this policy for the remainder of the present season, due weight will be given to definite commitments already entered into by artists.

\* See the issue of this GAZETTE for January, 1930, pages 6-8.

## CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING SOCIETIES IN 1930.

THE statistics in the following Table, relating to the activities, in 1930 and previous years, of housing societies\* in Great Britain, registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, have been compiled by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies from the annual returns furnished to his office:—

	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.
Number of Societies ...	255	264	287	283	288	283
Number of Members ...	16,876	19,161	22,437	25,030	25,657	27,097
Capital:—						
Shares ...	£ 769,406	£ 856,772	£ 964,157	£ 1,051,785	£ 1,102,437	£ 1,118,660
Loans ...	7,695,241	8,788,506	9,851,397	10,473,682	10,766,542	10,666,025
Reserves† ...	265,066	330,144	386,207	477,492	592,675	711,153
Totals... £	8,729,713	9,975,422	11,201,761	12,002,959	12,461,654	12,495,838
Rents receivable	£ 481,504	£ 529,195	£ 604,722	£ 677,367	£ 753,416	£ 795,942
Surplus on year before deduction of interest on shares	83,075	86,500	92,590	122,547‡	106,106	105,268

The particulars in the above Table relate to all societies registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts whose primary concern is the provision of housing for members and others\*. Except in the widest sense, these societies are by no means all co-operative in character. Many have been promoted, and are financed (apart from State loans) and controlled, mainly by public-spirited persons interested in housing; while others are run by employers in the interests of their employees. Most of the societies provide houses for renting rather than for ownership.

From the above Table it will be seen that during the five years 1926-1930 the membership of housing societies increased by over 60 per cent., and that the amount of their reserves nearly trebled. The continued increase in the aggregate reserves was due in some societies to donations, and in others to profits derived from the sale of land and buildings.

During the year the Westminster Housing Trust, Ltd., was registered, and the first return of the society showed the gift to the society of a site in Westminster which had been purchased for £32,000 from subscriptions collected by a pre-existing "site committee."

The large slum clearance societies referred to in the issue of this GAZETTE for December, 1930, viz.: Kensington Housing Trust, Ltd., and the St. Pancras House Improvement Society, Ltd., were still the largest of this type. Both reported further progress in the provision of dwellings during the year. The former society received cash donations of £10,100 during 1930, and the latter £3,800. In the case of the Kensington society the committee reported that a new experiment was being made in respect of one block of flats in fixing rents on the basis of the total family income.

Expenditure by all societies on building operations, including the purchase of land, amounted to £800,000 for 1930, or £279,000 less than for 1929.

Advances by societies in 1930 (including cost price of land and buildings transferred to occupation of tenant purchasers) totalled £38,000, little more than one-third of the amount advanced in the preceding year. Of this amount £24,000 was advanced by the London Housing Society, Ltd.

Ninety-six societies at the end of 1930 showed loans owing to the Public Works Loan Board, amounting in all, with accrued interest, to £2,731,000.

The total value of the land and buildings owned was returned at nearly £11,500,000.

Less than one-third of the total membership of housing societies represented tenant shareholders, and more than half of the returns furnished by societies which provided houses for renting showed no tenant shareholders. Only eight societies showed dividends on rents in 1930. They amounted to £2,090, and the larger part of the amount was attributable to Ealing Tenants, Ltd., and Bournville Works Housing Society, Ltd.

### Housing by Industrial Co-operative Societies, etc.

In addition to the societies included in the foregoing Table, some of the industrial co-operative trading societies have embarked upon housing schemes for their members, and examples of these have been referred to in previous issues of this GAZETTE. Further sales of houses erected by the Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society, Limited, amounted to £12,000, bringing the total sales of houses erected by the Society's works department up to £435,000. In all, 1,369 houses had been completed on the Bostall estate, the annual ground rents payable to the Society exceeding £5,000. Also many co-operative trading societies have mortgage schemes for assisting their members in the purchase of houses, and are developing this form of business to a greater extent than the actual provision of houses. For example, the Bolton Co-operative Society, Limited,

\* The housing societies referred to in this article undertake the building of houses, and must be distinguished from building societies, which help their members to buy houses, but do not erect them. Particulars of building societies will be found in Part 5 of the Annual Report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.

† Includes aggregate of profit and loss balances.

‡ Includes £21,000 representing an additional profit earned by the London Housing Society, Ltd., on the sale of a large block of property.



in 1930 advanced a further £102,000 to its members, and the Oldham Industrial Co-operative Society, Limited, a further £65,000. Mortgage balances due by members at the end of the year exceeded £500,000 in respect of each of these two societies.

In addition, 20 mortgage societies were registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, and were responsible for advances amounting to £319,000 in 1930. These societies, like building societies, make advances to assist house purchase, but do not normally buy or build houses for resale.

## POOR RELIEF: THIRD QUARTER OF 1931.

### ENGLAND AND WALES.

According to a statement\* issued by the Ministry of Health, the total number of persons† in receipt of poor relief (domiciliary and institutional) in England and Wales at the end of September, 1931, was 979,888. This compares with 966,930 at the end of June, 1931, and with 924,837 in September, 1930. A substantial increase in the number of persons in receipt of poor relief took place during the bank holiday period, followed by decreases in the three succeeding weeks. Otherwise there were increases in every complete week in the quarter.

The totals given above include large numbers returned as persons who would ordinarily be employed. Nearly all the relief given to these persons is domiciliary. The following Table gives figures for persons in receipt of domiciliary relief in England and Wales in September, 1931, with comparative totals for June, 1931, and for September, 1930; the figures represent averages of the numbers in receipt of relief on each Saturday of the respective months:—

Classes of persons in receipt of domiciliary relief.‡	England and Wales.	
	Numbers.	Numbers per 10,000 of the estimated population.
1. (a)—Unemployed persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts ...	32,196	8
(b)—Wives and dependent children of above persons ...	84,389	21
2. (a)—Unemployed persons not insured, but registered at an Employment Exchange...	14,673	4
(b)—Wives and dependent children of above persons ...	24,776	6
3. Other persons ordinarily engaged in some regular occupation, and their dependants...	125,524	31
4. Totals of above three classes:—		
September, 1931 ...	281,558	70
June, 1931 ...	284,561	71
September, 1930 ...	229,028	57
5. All other persons:—		
September, 1931 ...	496,719	125
June, 1931 ...	495,322	124
September, 1930 ...	477,220	120
6. Totals (all persons):—		
September, 1931 ...	778,277	195
June, 1931 ...	779,883	195
September, 1930 ...	706,248	177

### SCOTLAND.

The following Table shows the numbers of persons§ in receipt of outdoor relief in Scotland, on the 15th of each month, in the third quarter of 1931. The corresponding total figures for each month in the second quarter of 1931 and in the third quarter of 1930 are also given:—

Classes of persons in receipt of outdoor relief.§	First month.	Second month.	Third month.
1. (a) Unemployed persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts ...	12,403	13,280	13,086
(b) Wives and dependent children of above persons ...	27,987	30,119	29,276
2. (a) Unemployed persons not insured but registered at Employment Exchanges	3,560	3,477	3,643
(b) Wives and dependent children of above persons ...	3,555	3,261	3,507
3. (a) Other unemployed persons ordinarily engaged in some regular occupation	1,577	1,618	1,693
(b) Wives and dependent children of above persons ...	2,529	2,402	2,554
4. Totals of above three classes:—			
Third quarter, 1931 ...	51,611	54,157	53,759
Second quarter, 1931 ...	49,652	50,069	49,561
Third quarter, 1930 ...	33,799	34,889	34,485
5. All other persons:—			
Third quarter, 1931 ...	120,536	121,391	120,708
Second quarter, 1931 ...	122,537	121,852	120,856
Third quarter, 1930 ...	108,428	109,988	111,551
6. Totals (all persons):—			
Third quarter, 1931 ...	172,147	175,548	174,467
Second quarter, 1931 ...	172,189	171,921	170,417
Third quarter, 1930 ...	142,227	144,877	146,036

\* Statement showing the Number of Persons in receipt of Poor Relief in England and Wales in the Quarter ending in September, 1931. H.M. Stationery Office; price 4d. net (4½d. post-free).

† Excluding persons in receipt of domiciliary medical relief only, and casuals, who numbered 13,408 and 12,517 respectively, at the end of September, 1931. Rate-aided patients in mental hospitals are also excluded.

‡ Excluding persons in receipt of domiciliary medical relief only.

§ Excluding lunatics, mental defectives, persons in receipt of outdoor medical relief only, and casuals.

## OUTPUT, COSTS AND PROCEEDS OF THE COAL-MINING INDUSTRY.

### Third Quarter of 1931.

A STATISTICAL summary\* of the output, and of the costs of production, proceeds and profits of the coal-mining industry for the quarter ended 30th September, 1931,† prepared by the Mines Department and based partly upon returns made for the purpose of wages ascertainties for certain districts and partly upon other returns supplied by individual colliery owners, shows that at undertakings which produced 49,189,334 tons of saleable coal, or about 96 per cent. of the total quantity raised in the quarter, 45,307,451 tons were disposable commercially.

The net costs, after deducting the proceeds of miners' coal, amounted to £31,742,316, equivalent to 14s. 0.14d. per ton. The proceeds of commercial disposals amounted to £31,355,746, equivalent to 13s. 10.09d. per ton. There was thus a debit balance of £386,570 or 2.05d. per ton. An analysis by districts shows that there were debit balances, ranging from 0.51d. to 1s. 0.79d. per ton, in all districts except North Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire and in South Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Cannock Chase and Warwickshire, in which two districts there were credit balances of 10.49d. and 8.95d. per ton, respectively.

The number of workpeople employed was 787,749, and the number of man-shifts worked was 46,080,977. The average output per man-shift worked was 21.35 cwt., and the average earnings per man-shift worked were 9s. 2.43d.

Information as to the value of allowances in kind is also given in the return. The value of these allowances ranged from 0.42d. to 3.90d. per shift, except in Northumberland and Durham, in which it was 1s. 0.41d. and 1s. 1.20d. respectively. For Great Britain as a whole the average value of such allowances was 4.47d. per shift.

The following Table compares some of the more important figures with those in previous returns:—

Quarter ended	Proportion of Industry covered.	Amount of Saleable Coal raised.	Credit ( + ) or Debit ( - ) balance per ton.‡	No. of Work-people employed.	Output per man-shift worked.	Earnings per man-shift worked.§
1928.	Per cent.	Tons.	s. d.		Cwts.	s. d.
31st Mar.	97	61,833,281	-0 9.34	921,448	21.24	9 5.02
30th June	97	55,034,291	-1 5.02	890,863	20.98	9 3.09
30th Sept.	96	53,552,053	-1 4.11	859,259	21.13	9 3.25
31st Dec.	96	59,099,369	-0 2.87	850,770	21.80	9 2.84
1929.						
31st Mar.	97	63,851,058	+0 9.15	880,941	22.13	9 2.69
30th June	96	59,422,734	-0 3.43	894,282	21.45	9 2.59
30th Sept.	97	60,497,604	-0 0.22	894,390	21.40	9 2.61
31st Dec.	97	64,872,965	+0 11.29	903,914	21.78	9 2.78
1930.						
31st Mar.	97	64,749,447	+1 1.37	911,218	21.94	9 3.25
30th June	96	55,850,573	-0 1.94	886,229	21.32	9 3.26
30th Sept.	96	54,249,688	-0 2.40	853,477	21.34	9 3.85
31st Dec.	96	57,061,222	+0 6.20	849,344	21.84	9 3.79
1931.						
31st Mar.	96	56,723,277	+0 9.04	838,696	21.78	9 2.45
30th June	96	51,595,921	-0 1.34	818,718	21.44	9 2.18
30th Sept.	96	49,189,334	-0 2.05	787,749	21.35	9 2.43

## INTERNATIONAL INQUIRY INTO COSTS OF LIVING.

### RELATIVE LEVELS IN DETROIT AND 14 EUROPEAN TOWNS.

THE International Labour Office have published the results of an inquiry|| into the comparative costs of living in Detroit (U.S.A.) and in 14 large towns in Great Britain, Germany, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, the Irish Free State, Poland, Spain, and Turkey. In Great Britain the town selected for the purpose of the inquiry was Manchester.

The object of the inquiry was to ascertain what expenditure would be required to enable a worker in each of the towns under consideration to maintain a standard of living approximately equivalent to the average standard of a specially selected group of workers at Detroit. As the result of an investigation made by the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics, detailed particulars were obtained of the average expenditure, in 1929, of 100 Detroit families, each consisting of a man, wife and two or three children. The families concerned were selected from those whose head had been working approximately full time throughout the year on the minimum wage scale of a particular automobile manufacturing firm. In collaboration with the competent statistical authorities in the various countries, the International Labour Office subsequently collected information as to the cost, in each of the 14 European towns, of the principal articles and services (food, housing, fuel and light, clothing, medical treatment, insurance, taxation, and miscellaneous other expenses) included in the Detroit budgets. Although some allowance was made

\* Cmd. 3987. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net (1½d. post free).

† In the case of South Wales and Monmouthshire the period covered is the quarter ended 31st October, 1931.

‡ Calculated on the quantity of coal disposable commercially.

§ Excluding the value of allowances in kind.

|| *An International Inquiry into Costs of Living*.—International Labour Office: Studies and Reports, Series N (Statistics), No. 17. Published in the United Kingdom for the International Labour Office by P. S. King & Son, Ltd., price 7s. 6d., post free.



for the influence of variations in national habits, climatic conditions, etc., on the amount and allocation of working-class family expenditure in the different towns, it is pointed out in the Report that there is no direct means of measuring the relative amounts of "satisfaction" to be derived from different distributions of expenditure, or, consequently, of determining exactly what standard of living in any European town may be regarded as the equivalent of that of the selected families in Detroit. Moreover, although steps were taken to ensure that the price-data collected in the different countries should, so far as practicable, be on a comparable basis, strict comparability was not always obtainable. Consequently the figures arrived at for the different towns can only be approximate. Subject to these and other qualifications referred to in the Report, the general results of the inquiry, adjusted to apply to January, 1931, are summarised in the following Table, in which the total expenditure in each of the 14 European towns, on the articles and services covered by the investigations, is expressed as a percentage of the corresponding expenditure in Detroit:—

Detroit	...	100	Marseilles	...	75-81
Stockholm	...	99-104	Manchester	...	70-74
Frankfort-on-Main	...	85-93	Warsaw	...	67
Berlin	...	83-90	Rotterdam	...	65-68
Cork	...	85	Antwerp	...	61-65
Helsinki-Helsingfors	...	83	Istanbul	...	65
Paris	...	80-87	Barcelona	...	58

The Report contains a series of detailed Tables showing for each town the prices of the various commodities and services for which particulars were collected. An Appendix is also given, summarising the results of the investigation of the expenditure of the 100 selected families in Detroit.

## COMPULSORY WAGE AND PRICE REDUCTIONS IN GERMANY.

ON 8th December, 1931, the President of the German Reich issued his Fourth Order for the Safeguarding of the National Finances and Economic Structure and the Preservation of Internal Order. The official explanatory memorandum accompanying the Order states that the increased intensity of the economic crisis and the operation of international factors affecting the economic position of Germany necessitated the adoption of drastic measures for strengthening the competitive position of the country and reducing unemployment. Accordingly, it was the primary aim of the Order to cheapen production, prices, and the cost of living by every possible means. A sensible diminution in the costs of production could be effected only if wages and salaries were reduced to the level prevailing at the beginning of 1927. The Government recognised how serious such a wage reduction would be to the workers; but the cost of living was already below that for 1927, and a further appreciable fall would result from the price reduction measures.

The terms of the Order as it affects wages and prices are summarised below:—

**Price Reductions.**—(i) All prices fixed and controlled by cartels, trusts and similar organisations, or by sales agreements, must be reduced before 1st January, 1932, to a level at least 10 per cent. below that of 1st July, 1931. Exception may be made by official authority in the case of prices fixed by international agreements. If the reduction is not effected by the prescribed date, agreements regulating prices become null and void. During the period up to 1st July, 1932, no increase in the reduced prices, and no new price-fixing agreements, may be entered into without official authority. In the case of the coal-mining and potash industries, the general provisions are not to apply, specific provision being made for the reduction of prices by 10 per cent., with effect as from 1st January, 1932.

(ii) The enforcement and general regulation of reductions in freely fixed prices is entrusted to a Federal Commissioner for Price Control,\* with wide powers to secure price reductions in "the essential commodities and services of every-day life." He may appoint committees to investigate prices, require the posting up of prices in markets and shops, and close down undertakings which fail to comply with his regulations. Furthermore, his powers are not confined to the supervision of freely fixed prices, but extend also to matters affecting reductions in controlled prices under the general provisions of the Order.

(iii) The Order also provides for reductions in the charges for house rent (by from 10 to 15 per cent.), in conjunction with reductions in fixed interest and taxation charges.

**Wage and Salary Reductions.**—(a) *Employees in Private Undertakings.*—For manual and non-manual workers employed by private undertakings, wage and salary rates fixed by collective agreements current at the date of the Order, are, in principle, reduced as from 1st January, 1932, to the level of the rates fixed by corresponding agreements in force at 10th January, 1927. The reduction may not, however, exceed 10 per cent. in general; but this limit may be extended to 15 per cent. in the exceptional cases in which agreed rates have not been reduced since 1st July, 1931. Having regard to the difficult economic situation of the coal-mining and potash industries and the special importance of the wage factor in these industries from the point of view of general price reductions, the existing rates are to be reduced by 10 to 15 per cent., with effect from 1st January, 1932, without regard to the wage or salary level at 10th January, 1927.

\* Dr. Goerdeler, ex-Mayor of Leipzig, has been appointed to this post.

(b) *Civil Servants and Employees of Public Bodies.*—As from 1st January, 1932, the salaries of non-manual workers are reduced by 9 per cent. of the existing rates. Manual workers' wages are reduced by 10 per cent.

## WAGES AND HOURS MOVEMENTS OVERSEAS.

### BELGIUM.

*Engineering Industry.*—By agreement between the employers' and workers' organisations concerned, a wage reduction of 2½ per cent. has been applied from 28th December, 1931, at earliest, the date of application varying in the different regions. A further reduction of 2½ per cent. will become effective on 1st March, 1932.

### FRANCE.

*Textile Industry.*—It is reported that wage reductions of 10 per cent. were enforced in the early part of January by the woolcombing establishments in Roubaix-Tourcoing, and, later, by the textile employers in Halluin; and that a similar reduction has since been applied in all branches of the textile industry in Roubaix-Tourcoing, with the exception of cotton spinning and dyeing and finishing.

### GERMANY.

As reported in the article in the preceding column, under the Presidential Order of 8th December, 1931, all wage and salary rates throughout Germany were to be reduced in principle to the level of 10th January, 1927, with effect as from 1st January, 1932. Details of the revised rates fixed either by agreement between the employers and workers or by decision of the conciliation authorities are available only in a few instances, of which the following are the most important:—

*Iron and Steel Industry.*—Further details regarding the arbitration award issued on 14th December, 1931, for the North-West Group of the heavy iron and steel industry confirm the wage reductions reported in the last issue of this GAZETTE (page 464), viz., the reduction of the basic hourly rates for skilled and unskilled workers over 21 years of age from 79 and 63 pfennigs to 70 and 55 pfennigs, respectively. Piece-rates must be fixed in such a way as to enable the hourly earnings of pieceworkers to exceed those of timeworkers by 10 instead of 15 per cent., as hitherto. The revised rates, which took effect as from 1st January, 1932, are to remain in force until 30th April, 1932. With regard to working hours, the 52 and 57-hour weeks for workers engaged in the working-up and producing industries, respectively, were reduced to 48 and 54 hours (instead of 52 hours as originally reported). In the working-up industry, the employers were empowered to introduce extended overtime working by agreement with the Works Council, if special circumstances so required or for the due fulfilment of contracts. The working hours agreement set up by the award took effect on 1st January, 1932, and is to remain operative until 30th September, 1932.

*Metal and Engineering Industry.*—For the Berlin metal and engineering industry, a recent award provided for reductions of from 9 to 12 per cent. in the rates for skilled and semi-skilled workers and 15 per cent. in the case of unskilled workers, no change being made in the piecework supplement of 15 per cent. The new basic rates for highly skilled workers, skilled workers, semi-skilled workers and unskilled workers over 21 years of age now amount to 93, 82, 72 and 66 pfennigs, respectively, the corresponding rates for male workers between 18 and 21 years of age being 78, 69, 59.5 and 55.68 pfennigs. For female workers over 18 years of age the new rate is 46.2 pfennigs. The reductions took effect on 1st January, 1932.

*Coal Mining Industry.*—Under awards for the Ruhr and Saxony areas of the coal mining industry wage rates have been reduced by 10 per cent., with effect from 1st January until 30th April, 1932.

*Dock Workers.*—As from 1st January, 1932, the wage rates of dock workers at Hamburg were reduced by 10 per cent. under a conciliation award, the rate previously in force for the first or lowest paid shift being 8.30 Reichsmarks.

### LUXEMBURG.

*Iron and Steel Industry.*—A general reduction of wages has been made by the principal Luxemburg iron and steel works. In certain undertakings, wages were reduced by 5 per cent. as from 15th December, 1931; in another firm, reductions amounting to about 9 per cent. are to be applied in two stages with effect from 1st January and 1st February, 1932, but the rates of family allowances have been readjusted to the workers' advantage. In another large undertaking, the cost of living bonus of 2.2 francs per day was abolished as from 1st January, 1932, and the supplements for Sunday work and overtime and family allowances were reduced.

### NORWAY.

*Dockworkers.*—The Norwegian dockworkers' agreement, which expired on 31st October, 1931, has been replaced by an award, issued by the State Conciliator after the failure of the parties concerned to reach an agreement, and valid until 31st October, 1934, whereby hourly rates for dockworkers in Oslo and Stavanger are reduced from 1.18 to 1.14 kroner, whilst those in other ports (including Bergen) are reduced from 1.15 to 1.11 kroner. Provision is made for a readjustment of rates at December, 1932, in accordance with changes in the cost of living.



## EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER.

## GENERAL SUMMARY.

EMPLOYMENT continued to improve in most industries during December. It improved in coal mining and in general engineering, in glass and glass bottle manufacture, in most of the metal trades, in all the textile industries except hosiery manufacture, in the tailoring, paper, entertainment and distributive trades, and in dock and harbour, road transport, and hotel and boarding house services.

On the other hand, employment declined in the pottery, pig-iron, tinplate, and boot and shoe industries, in marine engineering, and in the building industry.

Employment showed a further improvement in the North of England, particularly in the North-Western division, where it was considerably better than at the corresponding date in 1930. It also showed an improvement in Wales; but in all these areas and also in Scotland and Northern Ireland, it was still very bad. In the Midlands and the Southern part of the country it showed little change and remained bad in the former and slack in the latter.

## SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Among the workpeople, numbering approximately 12,770,000, insured against unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and working in practically every industry except agriculture and private domestic service, the percentage unemployed at 21st December, 1931 (including those temporarily stopped as well as those wholly unemployed), was 20.9, as compared with 21.4 at 23rd November, 1931, and with 20.2 at 22nd December, 1930. The percentage wholly unemployed at 21st December, 1931, was 17.7 as compared with 18.0 at 23rd November, 1931, while the percentage temporarily stopped was 3.2, as compared with 3.4. For males alone, the percentage at 21st December, 1931, was 23.2, and for females 15.0; at 23rd November, 1931, the corresponding percentages were 23.6 and 15.9.

At 21st December, 1931, the number of persons on the Registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain were 2,002,464 wholly unemployed, 403,432 temporarily stopped, and 104,025 normally in casual employment, making a total of 2,509,921. This was 105,194 less than a month before, but 101,550 more than a year before. The total included 2,005,810 men, 59,783 boys, 403,340 women and 40,988 girls.

The 2,002,464 wholly unemployed included approximately 941,059 insured persons with claims for insurance benefit (consisting of those who (a) had paid at least 30 contributions during the preceding two years, (b) had received less than 156 days' benefit in their current benefit years and, (c) if 156 days' benefit had become payable in a previous benefit year ending on or after 12th November, 1931, had paid at least 10 contributions since the 156th day of benefit); 777,645 insured persons with claims for transitional payments; 177,873 insured persons not in receipt of insurance benefit or transitional payments, and 105,887 uninsured persons.

In Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the total number of persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges at 21st December, 1931, was 2,573,552.

*Mining and Quarrying.*—Employment in the coal-mining industry continued to improve, but was still bad on the whole. The total number of wage earners on the colliery books at 19th December, 1931, showed an increase of 0.5 per cent. as compared with 28th November, 1931, but a decrease of 5.2 per cent. as compared with 20th December, 1930. The average number of days worked per week in the fortnight ended 19th December, 1931, was 4.95, an increase of 0.17 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 28th November, 1931, but a decrease of 0.33 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 20th December, 1930.

In the iron-mining industry employment showed little change, and remained very bad. In the West Lothian shale mines it declined and was very bad. In the limestone quarries in the Cleveland area employment was bad; in the Clitheroe area it was good; and in the Buxton area it continued to improve and was fair. In the slate quarries in North Wales employment was fair, although there was considerable short time working at some centres. In the East of Scotland whinstone quarries it was slack. At chalk quarries and at tin mines it was very slack; while at china clay quarries it was fair, on the whole.

*Pig Iron, Iron and Steel and Tinplate.*—In the pig iron industry employment showed a decline and was very bad. Of 356 furnaces, the number in blast at the end of December was 70, the same as at the end of November, as compared with 76 at the end of December, 1930.

At iron and steel works employment showed little change and remained very bad. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed was 45.4 at 21st December, 1931, as compared with 45.5 at 23rd November, 1931, and 50.6 at 22nd December, 1930.

In the tinplate industry employment remained very slack; in steel sheet manufacture there was a slight decline and employment continued bad.

*Engineering, Shipbuilding, and Metal Industries.*—In engineering employment remained bad, though improving slightly in some sections. The greatest improvement occurred in textile engineering, but employment in that section was still bad. There was also some improvement, on the whole, in general engineering and motor vehicle manufacture, but employment continued very bad in both sections. In marine engineering it continued to decline and was very depressed. In constructional and electrical engineering it showed little change and remained very bad in the former and slack in the latter.

In shipbuilding and ship-repairing employment remained very bad. In the North-Eastern Division and Scotland—the two principal districts—the percentage of insured workpeople unemployed was over 70.

In the other metal trades employment showed a slight improvement on the average and was moderate to slack, on the whole. It was moderate in the tube, nut and bolt, and needle and fishing tackle trades, and slack in the hollow-ware, sheet metal, brasswork, wire manufacturing, cutlery, file, metallic bedstead, chain and anchor, and jewellery and plated ware trades.

*Textile Industries.*—In the cotton industry the improvement previously reported continued in all sections up to the Christmas holidays, but at the end of the month there were some signs of falling off, particularly in the section spinning American cotton. Employment generally was considerably better than a year ago. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed was 27.4 at 21st December, 1931, as compared with 29.3 at 23rd November, 1931, and 47.4 at 22nd December, 1930.

In the wool textile industry the improvement previously reported continued. Employment was better than it was a year ago. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed was 16.6 at 21st December, 1931, as compared with 17.9 at 23rd November, 1931, and 27.7 at 22nd December, 1930. In the carpet trade also there was little general change and employment was fair.

Employment in the hosiery trade showed little change and was still moderate, on the whole. In the lace trade it continued to improve, but still remained slack. The improvement continued also in the silk and artificial silk industries, but employment, generally, was still very slack. In the linen industry it continued to improve but was still bad, while in the jute industry there was little change as compared with the previous month, and employment was very bad. It continued to improve in the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc., trades, but still remained very bad, with much short-time working.

*Clothing Industries.*—Employment in the retail bespoke and ready-made and wholesale bespoke branches of the tailoring trade showed a slight improvement, but was slack, on the whole. In the dress-making and millinery trades there was little change, and employment remained moderate to slack. There was little change in the shirt and collar trades, employment remaining moderate to slack. In the corset trade employment was fairly good, while in the glove trade the improvement continued and employment was good. In felt hat manufacture it showed little change and continued slack.

In the boot and shoe industry employment showed a further decline and was slack, with short-time working fairly general. The holiday stoppage was extended by many firms. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed was 19.5 at 21st December, 1931, as compared with 16.7 at 23rd November, 1931, and 25.6 at 22nd December, 1930.

*Leather Trades.*—Employment in the leather trades showed little change as compared with the previous month. In the tanning and currying section it continued moderate, and in the portmanteau, trunk and fancy leather section, and with saddlery and harness makers it was still slack.

*Building, Woodworking, etc.*—In the building trades employment showed a further slight decline and was generally very slack or bad. Adverse weather conditions curtailed outside operations, with consequent short-time working, in a number of districts. As regards individual occupations, employment declined and was very slack to bad with bricklayers, masons and tradesmen's labourers; it also declined with carpenters, plasterers and plumbers and was bad with these classes. Employment showed a further marked decline with painters and was very bad; while with slaters it improved a little, but was still generally bad. In brick manufacture employment showed a further slight decline and continued slack on the whole.

Employment in the furnishing trades and with millsawyers showed little change and remained slack; with coachbuilders it improved slightly, but was still very slack.

*Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.*—In the paper-making industry employment continued fair generally. The improvement previously noted was maintained in most centres, full time being reported in an increasing number of mills. With letterpress printers employment continued moderate, although there was a decline as compared with the previous month. With electrotypers and stereotypers it was generally fair. With lithographic printers employment continued slack, on the whole. With lithographic artists it was described as bad at Birmingham, Manchester, and Leeds, and slack to moderate in most other centres from which reports were received. With bookbinders it showed a marked improvement, but was still slack, on the whole.

*Pottery and Glass.*—In the pottery industry employment in North Staffordshire showed a decline and continued bad, on the whole, with much short-time working. At Worcester employment continued fair. At Derby and Bristol it was slack. In the stoneware section in Scotland it was bad.

In the glass trades there was an improvement in all sections, but employment, generally, was slack.

*Fishing.*—Employment with fishermen showed a further decline and was bad on the whole.

*Dock Labourers and Seamen.*—Employment with dock labourers showed, on the whole, a further slight improvement, but was still slack. With seamen it was very slack.

## SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

In Tables which appear on subsequent pages of this GAZETTE detailed statistics bearing on the state of employment during December are given, based on information obtained from employers or employers' associations in certain industries. In the following Tables some of the principal features of these statistics are briefly



summarised (a) for certain mining and metal industries and (b) for various other industries:—

(a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL INDUSTRIES.

Industry.	Workpeople included in the Returns for December, 1931.	December, 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
			Month before.	Year before.
		Days Worked per week by Mines.	Days.	Days.
Coal Mining ...	840,451	4.95	+ 0.17	- 0.33
Iron „ ...	5,215	5.59	+ 0.25	+ 0.36
Shale „ ...	1,614	5.76	+ 0.04	- 0.17
		Furnaces in Blast.	Number.	Number.
Pig Iron ...	...	70	...	-6
Tinplate and Steel Sheet	...	Mills working. 436	+13	+90
		Shifts Worked (one week). 258,189	Per cent.	Per cent.
Iron and Steel ...	49,208		+ 4.8	- 5.9

(b) OTHER INDUSTRIES.

Industry.	Number of Workpeople Employed.		Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.			
	Week ended 19th Dec., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Week ended 19th Dec., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Year before.	
Textiles:—		Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Cotton ...	74,735	+ 3.1	125,974	+ 2.2	+ 30.2	
Woollen ...	54,555	+ 0.3	107,016	- 1.4	+ 8.6*	
Worsted ...	80,295	+ 1.4	141,352	+ 1.2	+ 3.8*	
Carpet ...	10,252	+ 1.1	19,267	- 0.8	+ 15.1	
Boot and Shoe ...	58,770	- 1.2	123,355	- 0.8	- 0.3*	
Pottery ...	9,621	- 2.7	15,819	- 5.8	- 8.0*	
Brick ...	9,644	- 5.3	23,805	- 6.7	- 5.3	

UNEMPLOYMENT SUMMARY BY DISTRICTS.

The following Table shows the variations in the rates of unemployment at 21st December, 1931, among insured persons in the respective divisions into which the country is divided for the purpose of the administration of the Unemployment Insurance Acts:—

Divisions.	Estimated Numbers Insured, at July, 1931. (Totals).	Percentage Unemployed at 21st December, 1931.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Total Percentages as compared with a	
		Males.	Females.	Total.	Month before.	Year before.
London ...	2,346,610	15.4	8.4	13.1	- 0.5	+ 3.3
South-Eastern ...	973,250	15.9	9.3	14.4	+ 0.4	+ 3.3
South-Western ...	894,700	18.2	10.1	16.4	- 0.1	+ 3.2
Midlands ...	1,893,050	20.4	16.8	19.3	+ 0.2	+ 0.7
North-Eastern ...	2,073,010	28.2	15.0	25.2	- 0.9	+ 0.7
North-Western ...	2,222,930	26.7	22.2	25.2	- 1.2	- 4.1
Scotland ...	1,350,330	30.5	17.9	26.9	- 0.1	+ 3.4
Wales ...	606,120	33.4	17.5	31.7	- 2.0	+ 0.5
Northern Ireland	270,000	30.3	17.8	25.5	+ 0.3	- 7.9
Special Schemes	140,000	4.8	1.4	3.7	...	+ 0.9
Total ...	12,770,000	23.2	15.0	20.9	- 0.5	+ 0.7

UNEMPLOYMENT DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

The following Table shows, month by month from December, 1930, the percentages unemployed among insured workpeople, and the approximate number of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges, etc., in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

In order to preserve comparability, the percentages for each month in this Table have been calculated on the basis of the estimated numbers of insured persons at the end of the preceding June, and no allowance has been made for the monthly increase in the insured population:—

Percentages Unemployed among Insured Workpeople.						Numbers (Insured and Uninsured) registered at Employment Exchanges, etc.	
Date.	Males.	Females.	Males and Females.			Date.	Number.
			Wholly Unemployed and Casuals.	Temporarily stopped.	Total.		
1930.						1930	
22 December 1931.	20.7	18.8	14.9	5.3	20.2	29 Dec. 1931.	2,725,000
26 January ...	22.1	19.9	16.5	5.0	21.5	26 Jan. 1931.	2,671,000
23 February ...	22.6	19.6	16.7	5.0	21.7	23 Feb. 1931.	2,694,000
23 March ...	22.7	18.4	16.5	5.0	21.5	30 Mar. 1931.	2,655,000
27 April ...	22.0	18.0	16.3	4.6	20.9	27 Apr. 1931.	2,594,000
18 May ...	21.9	17.9	16.3	4.5	20.8	1 June 1931.	2,702,000
22 June ...	22.5	17.8	16.0	5.2	21.2	29 June 1931.	2,736,000
27 July ...	23.2	18.9	16.3	5.7	22.0	27 July 1931.	2,783,000
24 August ...	23.1	19.4	16.7	5.3	22.0	31 Aug. 1931.	2,834,000
21 September ...	23.7	19.7	17.4	5.2	22.6	28 Sept. 1931.	2,897,000
26 October ...	23.6	17.5	18.1	3.8	21.9	26 Oct. 1931.	2,792,000
23 November ...	23.6	15.9	18.0	3.4	21.4	30 Nov. 1931.	2,688,000
21 December ...	23.2	15.0	17.7	3.2	20.9	21 Dec. 1931.	2,574,000

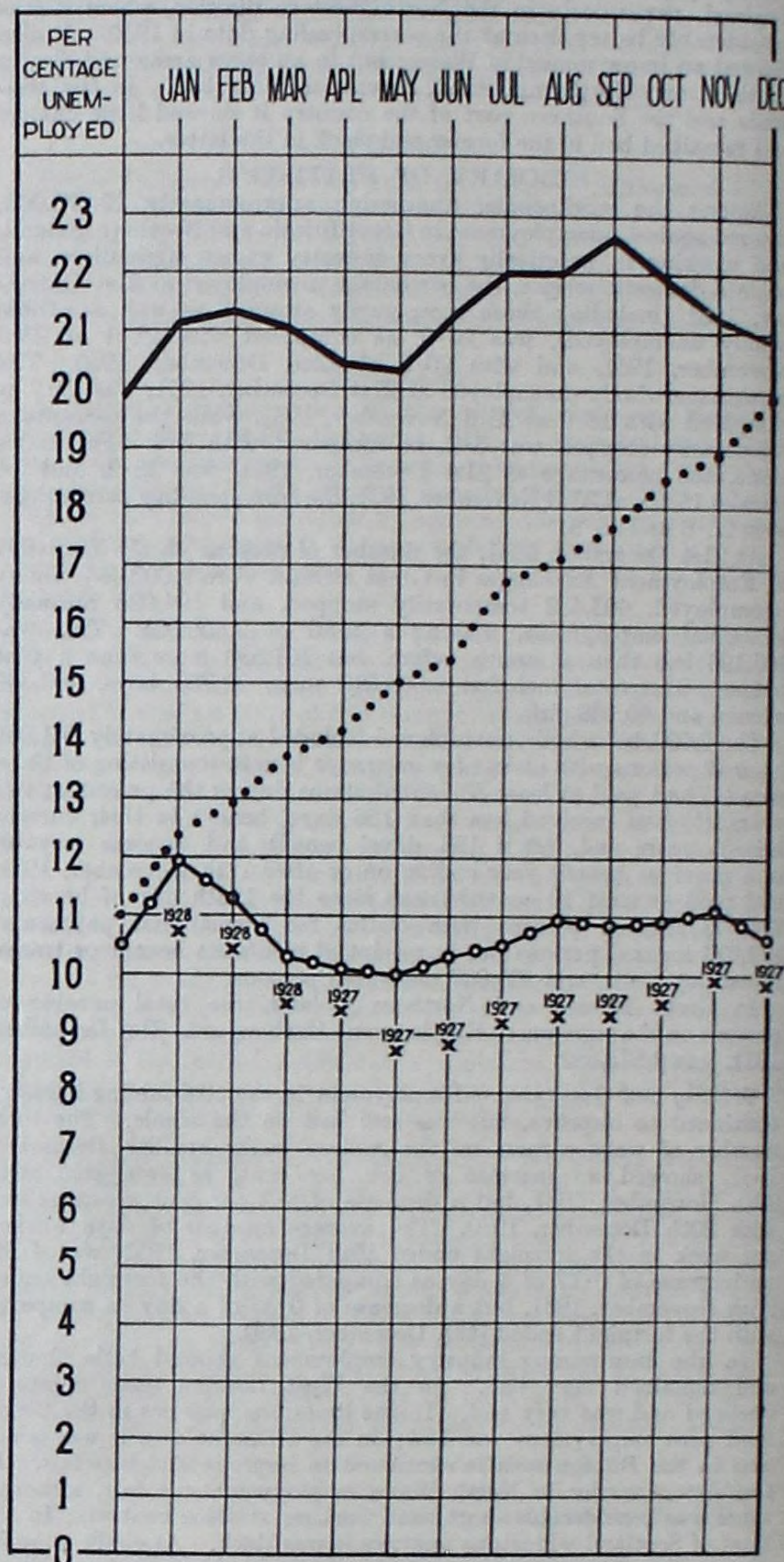
\* Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages.

UNEMPLOYMENT CHART.

PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AMONG WORKPEOPLE INSURED AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT IN GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND:—

Plain Curve : : : : : = 1931.  
Dotted Curve : : : : : = 1930.  
Chain Curve : : : : : = { Mean for 1923-25 and 1927-29.

× The crosses indicate the minimum monthly percentages unemployed during the years 1923-25 and 1927-30. The maximum percentages in February to December of those years occurred in 1930. In January the maximum percentage of 13.3 occurred in 1923.



NEW ENTRANTS INTO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

APPLICATIONS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BOOKS RECEIVED AT LOCAL OFFICES OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR IN GREAT BRITAIN DURING DECEMBER, 1931.

Area.	Men.	Boys.	Women.	Girls.	Total.	
					Num- bers.	Per- centage of numbers Insured at July, 1931.
London ...	2,986	2,690	2,111	1,851	9,638	0.41
South-Eastern ...	734	1,879	586	1,307	4,506	0.46
South-Western ...	567	1,535	528	1,251	3,881	0.43
Midlands ...	563	2,798	630	2,639	6,630	0.35
North-Eastern ...	680	3,412	869	2,537	7,498	0.36
North-Western ...	724	3,124	693	3,202	7,743	0.35
Scotland ...	731	2,108	532	1,957	5,328	0.39
Wales... ..	303	1,129	290	534	2,256	0.37
GREAT BRITAIN ...	7,288	18,675	6,239	15,278	47,480	0.38

The above figures are exclusive of cases in which, as the result of systematic search, duplication of applications has been discovered.



# DETAILED REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

NOTE.—The numbers of workpeople employed given in the following Tables represent the numbers covered by the Returns received and not the total numbers employed in the various industries. In the comparisons of numbers employed and wages paid at different dates the figures relate to the same firms at each date, and cover all the wage-earners, irrespective of age, sex, or occupation, employed by these firms. In comparing the earnings in different industries, it should be remembered that any averages calculated from these figures will be affected not only by the variations in the state of employment and in rates of wages, but also by differences in the proportions of males to females, of adults to juveniles, and of skilled to unskilled workers in the respective industries.

## COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT during December showed an improvement as compared with the previous month, but was still bad on the whole.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 24·6 at 21st December, 1931, as compared with 27·1 at 23rd November, 1931, and 19·7 at 22nd December, 1930. The percentage wholly unemployed increased by 0·1 from 18·9 to 19·0, but the percentage temporarily stopped decreased by 2·6 from 8·2 to 5·6.

The total number of wage earners on the colliery books at 19th December, 1931, showed an increase of 0·5 per cent. as compared with 28th November, 1931, but a decrease of 5·2 per cent. as compared with 20th December, 1930.

The average number of days worked per week in the fortnight ended 19th December, 1931, was 4·95, an increase of 0·17 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 28th November, 1931, but a decrease of 0·33 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 20th December, 1930.

The following Table shows, for the principal coal-mining districts, the total number of wage earners on the colliery books and the average number of days worked per week\* during the fortnight ended 19th December, 1931, as shown by returns obtained by the Mines Department. Small numbers of workpeople employed at coal mines in raising or handling minerals other than coal are included in the totals.

Districts.	Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books at		Average Number of Days worked per week* by the Mines.			
	19th Dec., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a	Fortnight ended 19th Dec., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a	Month before.	Year before.
ENGLAND AND WALES:		Percent	Percent	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland ...	41,980	+ 1·8	— 7·0	5·44	+ 0·11	— 0·03
Durham ...	110,795	+ 0·2	— 7·5	5·14	+ 0·16	— 0·20
Cumberland and Westmorland ...	8,102	+ 2·0	— 12·5	4·88	+ 0·15	— 0·68
South Yorkshire ...	107,916	— 0·0	— 6·3	4·58	+ 0·02	— 0·54
West Yorkshire ...	50,126	+ 0·4	— 1·6	4·28	+ 0·15	— 0·91
Lancs. and Cheshire ...	68,783	— 1·6	— 6·4	4·46	...	— 0·73
Derbyshire ...	53,267	+ 0·6	— 2·3	4·33	+ 0·30	— 0·72
Notts. and Leicester ...	60,848	+ 0·2	— 2·7	4·45	+ 0·39	— 0·37
Warwick ...	17,340	+ 0·3	+ 1·1	5·39	+ 0·62	— 0·27
North Staffordshire ...	21,982	+ 1·6	— 9·7	4·74	+ 0·12	— 0·04
South Staffs.† Worcs. and Salop ...	30,281	+ 0·3	+ 0·8	4·92	+ 0·42	— 0·73
Glos. and Somerset ...	9,708	— 0·3	— 0·3	4·94	+ 0·27	— 0·63
Kent ...	6,016	+ 0·3	+ 13·1	5·50	...	+ 0·33
North Wales ...	13,827	+ 0·1	— 3·3	5·15	+ 0·33	— 0·60
South Wales and Mon.	152,761	+ 1·2	— 5·5	5·35	+ 0·06	— 0·05
England and Wales	753,732	+ 0·4	— 5·0	4·87	+ 0·16	— 0·39
SCOTLAND:						
Mid. & East Lothians	12,826	+ 0·9	— 3·0	5·74	+ 0·29	+ 0·22
Fife and Clackmannan	20,548	+ 1·5	— 7·3	5·60	+ 0·13	+ 0·28
Rest of Scotland ...	53,345	+ 1·4	— 8·0	5·60	+ 0·27	+ 0·13
Scotland ...	86,719	+ 1·3	— 7·1	5·62	+ 0·24	+ 0·17
GREAT BRITAIN ...	840,451	+ 0·5	— 5·2	4·95	+ 0·17	— 0·33

The average number of coal-winding days lost in Great Britain during the fortnight ended 19th December, 1931, was 0·84 of a day per week, of which 0·81 of a day was due to want of trade and transport difficulties. The figure for the fortnight ended 28th November, 1931, was 1·01 days per week, of which 0·97 of a day was due to want of trade and transport difficulties; the corresponding figures for the fortnight ended 20th December, 1930, were 0·44 of a day per week, and 0·41 of a day per week, respectively. The average non-winding-time for the December and November, 1931, periods, was between one-fifth and one-quarter of a day per week, as compared with between one-quarter and one-third of a day per week during the December, 1930, period.

The output of coal in Great Britain for the four weeks ended 26th December, 1931, was reported to the Mines Department as 17,856,900 tons, as compared with 18,089,200 tons in the four weeks ended 28th November, 1931, and 20,270,000 tons in the four weeks ended 20th December, 1930.

The numbers and percentages unemployed among insured workpeople in the respective areas at 21st December, 1931, and the increases or decreases as compared with 23rd November, 1931, and 22nd December, 1930, are shown in the following Table:—

\* \* The figures in this and the following article show the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short time) on which coal, iron, etc., were got from the mines included in the returns. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons worked every day the mines were open. Mines not working are omitted in computing the average number of days worked.

† Including Cannock Chase.

Area.	Insured Persons Recorded as Unemployed at 21st December, 1931.					Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in Total percentages as compared with a	
	Numbers.		Percentages.			Month before.	Year before.
	Wholly Unem- ployed (incl. Casuals).	Tem- porary stop- pages.	Wholly Unem- ployed.	Tem- porary stop- pages.	Total.		
<i>Great Britain ...</i>	198,800	58,390	19·0	5·6	24·6	— 2·5	+ 4·9
<i>England and</i>							
<i>Wales ...</i>	169,955	54,979	18·4	5·9	24·3	— 2·8	+ 4·7
<i>Scotland ...</i>	28,845	3,411	23·9	2·8	26·7	— 0·5	+ 5·9
Principal Districts in England and Wales:—							
Northumber- land... ..	10,550	285	20·8	0·5	21·3	— 1·7	+ 5·6
Durham ...	40,068	954	27·0	0·6	27·6	— 0·4	+ 4·5
Cumberland and Westmor- land... ..	3,293	1,464	28·9	12·9	41·8	+ 6·5	+ 8·6
Yorkshire ...	23,893	16,370	13·3	9·2	22·5	— 4·8	+ 5·9
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	16,363	6,150	18·5	7·0	25·5	— 2·7	+ 5·8
Derbyshire ...	5,385	6,186	8·3	9·6	17·9	+ 2·0	+ 7·9
Notts. and Leicestershire	6,457	4,495	10·1	7·0	17·1	— 2·4	+ 5·9
Warwickshire	803	20	6·4	0·1	6·5	— 4·6	+ 0·7
Staffs., Wor- cester and							
Salop ...	10,290	3,041	14·8	4·4	19·2	— 0·5	+ 1·2
Glos. and							
Somerset ...	1,510	1,121	13·2	9·8	23·0	— 4·5	+ 8·1
Kent ...	256	—	4·3	—	4·3	— 0·4	— 24·9
Wales and Monmouth ...	49,557	14,854	22·6	6·8	29·4	— 6·0	+ 3·9

The exports of coal, including that shipped for the use of steamers engaged in the foreign trade and the coal equivalent of coke and manufactured fuel, amounted to 5,317,500 tons in December, 1931, as compared with 5,317,100 tons in November, 1931, and with 5,982,200 tons in December, 1930.

## IRON AND SHALE MINING.

### IRON MINING.

EMPLOYMENT showed little change during December and remained very bad. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, in the iron ore and ironstone mining industry, was 42·5 at 21st December, 1931, as compared with 42·6 at 23rd November, 1931, and 35·2 at 22nd December, 1930.

The following Table summarises the information received from employers who furnished returns for the three periods:—

Districts.	Number of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns.		Average No. of Days worked per week by the Mines.*			
	Fortnight ended 19th Dec., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a	Fortnight ended 19th Dec., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a	Month before.	Year before.
			Per cent.	Per cent.	Days.	Days.
Cleveland ...	2,050	— 0·4	— 31·3	5·39	+ 0·20	+ 0·48
Cumberland and Lancashire ...	1,812	— 0·7	— 5·6	5·94	+ 0·07	— 0·06
Other Districts ...	1,353	+ 1·3	— 9·7	5·41	+ 0·56	+ 0·53
ALL DISTRICTS	5,215	— 0·0	— 18·5	5·59	+ 0·25	+ 0·36

### SHALE MINING.

The number of workpeople employed at the West Lothian mines during the fortnight ended 19th December, 1931, by firms making returns was 1,614, showing a decrease of 4·1 per cent., as compared with November, 1931, and a decrease of 37·5 per cent., as compared with December, 1930. The average number of days worked per week\* by the mines making returns, was 5·76 in December, 1931, as compared with 5·72 in November, 1931, and 5·93 in December, 1930.

## PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during December showed a decline and continued very bad. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 42·0 at 21st December, 1931, as compared with 40·9 at 23rd November, 1931, and 35·7 at 22nd December, 1930.

\* See footnote \* in previous column.



According to information received from the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, 70 furnaces were in operation at the end of December, 1931, the same number as at the end of November, 1931, compared with 76 at the end of December, 1930.

In the case of 68 firms employing 9,673 workpeople at the end of December, 1931, the returns showed an increase of 0.2 per cent. in the numbers employed compared with November, 1931, but a decrease of 17.1 per cent. compared with December, 1930.

The following Table shows the number of furnaces in operation at the end of December, 1931, November, 1931, and December, 1930 :—

Districts.	Total Number of Furnaces.	Number of Furnaces in Blast.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a	
		Dec., 1931.	Nov., 1931.	Dec., 1930.	Month before.	Year before.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
Durham and Cleveland	87	17	18	24	— 1	— 7
Cumberland and W. Lancs. ...	36	5	5	6	...	— 1
Part of Lancs. and Yorks. (including Sheffield) and North Wales ...	25	4	4	4	...	...
Derby, Leicester, Notts. and Northants ...	43	22	23	22	— 1	...
Lincolnshire ...	23	6	6	7	...	— 1
Staffs., Shropshire, Worcester and Warwick ...	38	7	6	6	+ 1	+ 1
South Wales and Monmouthshire ...	21	4	3	2	+ 1	+ 2
England and Wales	273	65	65	71	...	— 6
SCOTLAND ...	83	5	5	5	...	...
GREAT BRITAIN ...	356	70	70	76	...	— 6

The production of pig iron in December, 1931, amounted to 330,600 tons, compared with 296,400 tons in November, 1931, and 349,800 tons in December, 1930.

### IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE.

EMPLOYMENT during December showed little change, and continued very bad. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 45.4 at 21st December, 1931, as compared with 45.5 at 23rd November, 1931, and 50.6 at 22nd December, 1930.

At certain firms, employing 49,208 workpeople, from which returns were received for the week ended 19th December, 1931, the volume of employment in that week (as indicated by the number of shifts\* during which work was carried on in each department) increased by 4.8 per cent. as compared with the week ended 28th November, 1931, but decreased by 5.9 per cent. as compared with December, 1930. The average number of shifts during which the works were open was 5.2 in the week ended 19th December, 1931, as compared with 5.2 in November, 1931, and 5.0 in December, 1930.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns for the three periods :—

DEPARTMENTS.	No. of Workpeople employed by Firms making returns.		Aggregate number of Shifts.*			
	Week ended 19th Dec., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a	Week ended 19th Dec., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) as compared with a	Month before.	Year before.
		Month before.		Month before.		
		Year before.		Year before.		
		Per cent.		Per cent.		
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces ...	4,214	+ 2.6	24,177	+ 3.6	— 6.3	
Puddling Forges ...	1,099	+ 5.0	4,793	+ 22.3	— 30.0	
Rolling Mills ...	19,583	+ 10.0	96,010	+ 12.3	+ 7.6	
Forging & Pressing	1,268	+ 1.1	5,794	+ 2.9	— 37.6	
Founding ...	5,948	— 2.2	32,795	— 2.1	— 14.4	
Other Departments	6,543	+ 0.7	37,389	+ 2.7	— 9.1	
Mechanics, Labourers ...	10,553	— 0.4	57,231	— 1.4	— 10.2	
TOTAL ...	49,208	+ 3.8	258,189	+ 4.8	— 5.9	
		Per cent.		Per cent.		
DISTRICTS.						
Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland ...	10,219	— 0.6	54,868	— 1.2	— 2.1	
Sheffield & Rotherham ...	15,049	+ 5.4	80,197	+ 7.3	— 4.8	
Leeds, Bradford, etc.	405	+ 5.7	1,833	+ 17.5	— 19.8	
Cumberland, Lancs. and Cheshire ...	3,080	— 17.5	15,853	— 20.8	— 22.9	
Staffordshire ...	4,584	+ 0.5	24,683	+ 1.3	+ 11.6	
Other Midland Counties ...	2,778	— 7.5	14,853	— 7.1	— 4.4	
Wales and Monmouth ...	5,919	+ 13.0	31,528	+ 15.3	+ 2.8	
Total, England and Wales ...	42,034	+ 1.4	223,815	+ 1.9	— 3.3	
Scotland ...	7,174	+ 21.2	34,374	+ 28.6	— 19.8	
TOTAL ...	49,208	+ 3.8	258,189	+ 4.8	— 5.9	

\* The figures relate to the number of shifts during which the works were in operation, taken in conjunction with the number of men employed. No account is taken of time lost by individuals owing to absenteeism, etc., and it is not intended to imply that the number of shifts shown were actually worked by all the men employed. Works closed are omitted in computing the average number of shifts.

The production of steel ingots and castings, as shown in returns received from the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 422,400 tons in December, 1931, as compared with 459,200 tons in November, 1931, and 337,200 tons in December, 1930.

### TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET INDUSTRIES.

In the tinplate industry employment still remained very slack. In the week ended 19th December, 1931, 348 mills were in operation at works for which information is available, as compared with 331 in the week ended 28th November, 1931, and with 282 in the week ended 20th December, 1930.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 36.5 at 21st December, 1931, as compared with 29.2 at 23rd November, 1931, and with 70.2 at 22nd December, 1930.

In steel sheet manufacture employment declined slightly and remained bad. In the week ended 19th December, 1931, 88 mills were in operation at works for which information is available, as compared with 92 in the week ended 28th November, 1931, and with 64 in the week ended 20th December, 1930.

The following Table shows the number of mills in operation at works covered by the returns :—

Works.	Number of Works Open.			Number of Mills in Operation.		
	Week ended 19th Dec., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a		Week ended 19th Dec., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.
Tinplate ...	63	+ 5	+ 8	348	+ 17*	+ 66
Steel Sheet	11	...	+ 5	88	— 4	+ 24
TOTAL ...	74	+ 5	+ 13	436	+ 13*	+ 90

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in December, 1931, amounted to 71,389 tons, or 4,010 tons more than in November, 1931, and 21,246 tons more than in December, 1930.

### SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING.

EMPLOYMENT remained very bad during December. In the two principal districts (the North-Eastern division and Scotland) the percentage of insured workpeople recorded as unemployed was still over 70. In Scotland there was a considerable increase in the numbers wholly unemployed, but the numbers temporarily stopped showed a decline. In the ship-repairing industry in South Wales employment showed an improvement, but in Northern Ireland there was a further decline.

Compared with a year ago there was a decline in all the principal districts.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, at 21st December, 1931, and the increase or decrease as compared with 23rd November, 1931, and 22nd December, 1930 :—

Divisions.	Total Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 21st Dec., 1931.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in Numbers Unemployed as compared with a		Percentage Unemployed at 21st Dec., 1931.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in Percentage Unemployed as compared with a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.
London ...	3,695	— 146	+ 276	38.9	— 1.5	+ 3.3
South-Eastern...	1,318	— 21	+ 231	19.1	— 0.3	+ 4.6
South-Western	6,064	+ 382	+ 2,209	28.8	+ 1.8	+ 10.7
Midlands ...	121	— 33	— 21	37.8	— 10.3	— 5.2
North-Eastern	41,361	+ 39	+ 7,638	72.9	...	+ 17.7
North-Western	15,311	— 514	+ 2,348	54.5	— 1.8	+ 9.5
Scotland ...	38,973	+ 146	+ 11,579	71.8	+ 0.2	+ 23.2
Wales ...	3,757	— 500	— 1,048	54.1	— 7.2	— 11.0
Northern Ireland	6,810	+ 485	+ 1,880	58.7	+ 4.2	+ 19.0
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...	117,410	— 162	+ 25,092	60.1	— 0.1	+ 15.0

### SHIPBUILDING IN THE QUARTER ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1931.

According to Lloyd's Register Quarterly Shipbuilding Returns, the gross tonnage of merchant vessels under construction in Great Britain and Ireland at the end of December, 1931, amounted to 400,505 tons, as compared with 417,385 tons at the end of September, 1931, and with 908,902 tons at the end of December, 1930. There was thus a decrease of 16,880 tons in the work in hand as compared with the figures at the end of September, 1931, and a decrease of 508,397 tons as compared with the tonnage which was being built at the end of December, 1930. The present total is the lowest recorded since September, 1887, and includes about 154,000 tons on which work has been suspended.

The tonnage commenced during the quarter amounted to 104,784 tons, showing an increase of 66,109 tons over the corresponding figures for the previous quarter. These increased figures are, however, still much below the quarterly average reached during recent years.

The tonnage launched during the quarter under review amounted to 70,707 tons, as compared with 80,340 tons in the previous three months.

\* Revised figures.



The total horse-power of marine engines either under construction at the works or being installed on board vessels in Great Britain and Ireland at the end of December, 1931, amounted to 402,728 h.p., as compared with 469,155 h.p. in the previous quarter.

The above figures are exclusive of warships and of merchant vessels of under 100 tons.

## ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT in December remained bad, though improving slightly in some sections. The improvement was most noticeable in textile engineering, but employment in that section was still slack. There was also some improvement, on the whole, in general engineering and motor vehicle manufacture, but employment continued very bad in both sections. In marine engineering it continued to decline and was extremely depressed. In constructional and electrical engineering it showed little change, and remained very bad in the former and slack in the latter.

Compared with a year ago employment was worse in all sections and in all areas, though in the North-Western Division and in Wales the net decline during the year was very small.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, at 21st December, 1931, and the increase or decrease as compared with a month before and a year before:—

Division.	Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 21st December, 1931.						Increase (+) or Decrease (—) as compared with a	
	General Engineering, Iron and Steel Founding.	Electrical Engineering.	Marine Engineering, etc.	Constructional Engineering.	Motor Vehicles, Cycles, and Aircraft.	TOTAL.	Month before.	Year before.
London ...	10,439	1,607	226	633	5,942	18,847	— 1,475	+ 6,223
South-Eastern ...	7,268	996	583	175	4,552	13,574	— 295	+ 3,839
South-Western ...	5,040	273	897	107	4,378	10,695	— 60	+ 3,690
Midlands ...	17,840	4,201	269	1,823	28,696	52,829	— 1,572	+ 11,968
North-Eastern ...	37,737	1,612	12,040	2,227	2,526	56,142	— 1,717	+ 4,631
North-Western ...	44,578	4,139	340	1,117	5,984	56,158	— 2,026	+ 110
Scotland ...	27,591	993	10,557	2,289	2,474	43,904	+ 1,811	+ 6,350
Wales... ..	1,794	77	48	242	689	2,850	— 21	+ 174
Northern Ireland	2,408	65	3,350	75	432	6,330	+ 97	+ 2,296
<b>GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND</b>	<b>154,695</b>	<b>13,963</b>	<b>28,310</b>	<b>8,688</b>	<b>55,673</b>	<b>261,329</b>	<b>— 5,258</b>	<b>+ 39,281</b>
Percentages Unemployed at 21st December, 1931.								
London ...	12.5	10.9	33.7	16.0	14.8	13.2	— 1.0	+ 4.5
South-Eastern ...	16.5	13.1	26.6	19.4	15.5	16.1	— 0.4	+ 5.0
South-Western ...	14.1	7.4	13.3	20.6	15.2	14.2	— 0.1	+ 4.8
Midlands ...	20.2	13.9	18.7	24.9	29.0	23.4	— 0.7	+ 5.3
North-Eastern ...	34.0	16.3	59.0	30.0	17.3	34.6	— 0.8	+ 3.9
North-Western ...	35.8	18.9	41.5	37.0	25.7	32.3	— 1.2	+ 0.4
Scotland ...	35.9	29.0	58.8	42.1	21.9	38.2	+ 1.6	+ 5.5
Wales... ..	31.9	18.3	34.3	29.2	28.5	30.2	— 0.2	+ 0.3
Northern Ireland	35.3	8.9	68.6	44.1	18.4	42.3	+ 0.6	+ 16.9
<b>GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND</b>	<b>26.8</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>51.2</b>	<b>29.4</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>26.0</b>	<b>— 0.5</b>	<b>+ 4.2</b>
<i>Ditto, Nov. 1931</i>	<i>27.6</i>	<i>14.9</i>	<i>50.0</i>	<i>30.0</i>	<i>22.6</i>	<i>26.5</i>	...	...
<i>Ditto, Dec. 1930</i>	<i>24.7</i>	<i>11.1</i>	<i>32.3</i>	<i>23.9</i>	<i>16.2</i>	<i>21.8</i>	...	...

On the North-East Coast employment in marine and general engineering remained very bad. In Yorkshire there was again some improvement in textile engineering, but in the other sections in that county and in Lincolnshire employment remained bad. In Lancashire and Cheshire also there was a further improvement in textile engineering, but employment generally was still very bad.

In the Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry district employment in the general and motor vehicle sections remained bad, but in electrical engineering it showed an improvement and was moderate. In the Nottingham, Derby and Leicester district employment remained slack, though showing some improvement. In London and the Southern Counties employment, on the whole, remained quiet. There was some improvement in general engineering, and in London there was also an improvement in the motor vehicle industry; but in the South-Western division employment showed a decline in that section.

In Scotland employment in general and marine engineering declined and was very bad; and it also remained very bad, with little general change, in Wales and Northern Ireland.

## COTTON INDUSTRY.

In this industry the improvement previously reported continued in all sections up to the Christmas holidays; but some signs of falling off were recorded at the end of the month, particularly in the section spinning American cotton. Employment generally was considerably better than a year ago.

The percentage of insured workpeople recorded as unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 27.4 at 21st December, 1931, as compared with 29.3 at 23rd November, 1931, and with 47.4 at 22nd December, 1930.

At Ashton-under-Lyne there was a further improvement in all sections, and employment generally was much better than a year ago. At Glossop, Hyde and Stalybridge employment was better than in November; at Stockport there was little change.

At Oldham employment in the spinning section continued bad, but was much better than a year ago; production during December

was estimated at about two-thirds of full capacity. In the manufacturing section also employment continued bad generally, but was better than a year ago; there was an improvement in employment in the velvet section.

At Bolton employment was described as bad with spinners and with weavers, and as slack with card-room workers; the proportion of operative spinners working less than half time remained at about 28 or 29 per cent. throughout the month. In the weaving section there was still considerable under-employment. At Leigh employment in the spinning section was moderate, and slightly better than in November. At Bury the position continued to improve. At Rochdale the recent improvement was maintained, but employment was still very slack.

At Preston the improvement reported last month was maintained until the latter part of December, although employment was still very slack with firms engaged in the Indian trade. At Chorley there was little change; under-employment was reported in the weaving section with those engaged on plain medium cloths.

At Blackburn there was a further improvement in the weaving mills; many mills already partially occupied were better employed, and in addition, six mills were re-opened during the month; the number of mills closed at the end of the month was 66, as compared with 70 at the end of November. At Accrington weavers were re-absorbed to a considerable extent during the month; most firms were on full time, although in some cases the full complement of looms was not in operation. At Darwen employment still remained very bad; there was, however, a slight improvement during the month; an additional 300 looms resumed work, and at some of the other mills operatives were working with a larger number of looms; irregular short time continued in the preparation departments. At Great Harwood an improvement was reported in the weaving section, but employment generally was still very bad. At Burnley the improvement reported during the last two months was maintained; at Padiham employment continued fair. At Nelson the weaving mills were busy during December; but at Colne, in spite of a slight improvement, employment was described as bad with weavers. In the Rossendale Valley employment continued bad.

In Yorkshire there was a further improvement, and employment generally was much better than a year ago; some overtime was worked in the Calder Valley.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns:—

DEPARTMENTS.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 19th Dec., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a		Week ended 19th Dec., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.
Preparing ... ..	12,828	+ 3.0	+ 29.8	20,657	+ 2.6	+ 43.4
Spinning ... ..	25,078	+ 2.8	+ 27.9	39,298	+ 1.3	+ 46.7
Weaving ... ..	28,677	+ 3.9	+ 14.8	47,537	+ 2.9	+ 20.8
Other ... ..	8,152	+ 1.5	+ 9.8	18,482	+ 1.7	+ 14.3
<b>TOTAL ... ..</b>	<b>74,735</b>	<b>+ 3.1</b>	<b>+ 20.7</b>	<b>125,974</b>	<b>+ 2.2</b>	<b>+ 30.2</b>
<b>DISTRICTS.</b>						
Ashton ... ..	6,569	+ 3.4	+ 52.9	10,566	+ 3.5	+ 76.3
Stockport, Glossop and Hyde ... ..	6,805	+ 7.4	+ 32.6	11,252	+ 5.1	+ 59.9
Oldham ... ..	10,853	+ 0.8	+ 22.4	19,031	— 0.4	+ 36.7
Bolton and Leigh ...	12,457	— 0.0	+ 11.5	19,669	— 2.4	+ 21.1
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden and Todmorden ... ..	7,298	+ 2.0	+ 28.9	12,628	+ 2.1	+ 36.4
Manchester ... ..	5,526	+ 6.1	+ 39.6	8,881	+ 6.8	+ 47.6
Preston and Chorley ...	6,095	+ 11.6	+ 1.5	9,790	+ 11.3	— 1.3
Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen ... ..	4,247	+ 0.1	+ 0.4	7,520	+ 2.5	+ 5.5
Burnley, Padiham ...	4,171	+ 3.1	+ 28.5	8,216	+ 0.4	+ 29.4
Colne and Nelson ...	2,518	+ 2.1	+ 1.9	5,498	+ 2.0	+ 6.7
Other Lancashire Towns	2,139	+ 3.1	+ 47.2	2,815	— 0.0	+ 53.2
Yorkshire Towns ...	3,086	+ 3.0	+ 14.0	5,465	+ 0.9	+ 41.7
Other Districts ... ..	2,971	+ 1.3	+ 9.8	4,643	+ 3.2	+ 15.8
<b>TOTAL ... ..</b>	<b>74,735</b>	<b>+ 3.1</b>	<b>+ 20.7</b>	<b>125,974</b>	<b>+ 2.2</b>	<b>+ 30.2</b>

Returns from firms employing about 74,000 operatives in the week ended 19th December showed that about 11 per cent. were on short time in that week, with a loss of about 14½ hours each on the average.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of 56 Employment Exchanges in the principal cotton centres in Lancashire at 21st December, 1931:—

Department.	Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Registers at 21st December, 1931.						
	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Card and Blowing Room ...	2,057	9,058	11,115	900	3,930	4,830	15,945
Spinning ...	11,451	6,280	17,731	5,873	2,638	8,511	26,242
Beaming, Winding and Warping ...	2,505	9,111	11,616	1,101	5,390	6,491	18,107
Weaving ...	10,984	32,881	43,865	1,594	3,656	5,250	49,115
Other Processes	1,603	339	1,942	174	301	475	2,417
Total ...	28,600	57,669	86,269	9,642	15,915	25,557	111,826



The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 23rd November, 1931:—

Department.	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Card and Blowing Room ...	- 136	- 1,985	- 2,121	+ 272	+ 901	+ 1,173	- 948
Spinning ...	- 347	- 1,897	- 2,244	+ 1,103	+ 281	+ 1,384	- 860
Beaming, Winding and Warping ...	- 266	- 2,038	- 2,304	- 121	+ 135	+ 14	- 2,290
Weaving ...	- 1571	- 7,655	- 9,226	- 659	- 2,046	- 2,705	- 11,931
Other Processes ...	+ 4	- 65	- 61	- 122	+ 66	- 56	- 117
Total ...	- 2316	- 13,640	- 15,956	+ 473	- 663	- 190	- 16,146

The imports (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton inters) were 196,878,100 lbs. in December, 1931, compared with 168,464,500 lbs. in November, 1931, and with 190,383,300 lbs. in December, 1930.

The exports of cotton yarn were 14,923,700 lbs. in December, 1931, compared with 11,808,900 lbs. in November, 1931, and with 11,646,500 lbs. in December, 1930.

The exports of cotton piece-goods in December, 1931, were 149,699,900 square yards, compared with 125,990,500 square yards in the previous month, and 130,154,200 square yards in December, 1930.

### WOOL TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

The improvement previously reported continued in the woollen, worsted, and carpet sections, but was much less marked than in the two previous months. Employment was much better than a year ago.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the woollen and worsted industries, including those temporarily stopped, was 16.6 at 21st December, 1931, as compared with 17.9 at 23rd November, 1931, and with 27.7 at 22nd December, 1930.

**Worsted Section.**—Employment showed a further slight improvement. At Bradford employment in the combing and spinning departments continued brisk; several mills in these sections were working extra shifts. In the manufacturing department at Bradford there was a definite shortage of experienced burlers and menders, and several firms were considering the training of plain weavers to do fancy weaving. At Huddersfield employment in the fine worsted (men's wear) section remained quiet, with much short time. At Keighley the improved position was maintained; several firms were working two shifts. At Halifax and Leeds there was a further slight improvement. In the worsted section as a whole, returns from employers for the week ended 19th December showed that 15½ per cent. were on short time,\* losing nearly 13 hours each on the average; 32 per cent. worked overtime, to the extent of 6½ hours each on the average.

With wool sorters employment continued good, and was better than a year ago. In the wool combing department the merino section was running full time, and in some cases overtime was worked; the improvement in the crossbred (carding) and preparing sections was maintained, but in these two sections there was still a considerable amount of short time. About 13 per cent. of the operatives in the sorting, combing, and preparing departments lost, on an average, nearly 15½ hours each in short time in the week ended 19th December; about 23 per cent. were on overtime to the extent of 9 hours each on the average.

In the worsted spinning department the improvement recorded last month was maintained in Yorkshire, and much overtime was again reported. In Scotland, on the other hand, some short time was worked. Taking the department as a whole, about 9 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns worked short time, to the extent of 10 hours each on an average in the week ended 19th December; while overtime was worked by 41 per cent. to the extent of 6 hours each on the average.

Employment showed a further improvement with worsted weavers. About 26 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns worked short time in the week ended 19th December, losing about 12½ hours each on the average\*; overtime was worked by 24 per cent. to the extent of 6 hours each on the average.

**Woollen Section.**—In this section also there was some further improvement. Employers' returns for the week ended 19th December showed that 20 per cent. of the workers in the spinning department and 28 per cent. of those in the weaving department\* worked short time, losing about 10 to 10½ hours each on the average. Overtime was worked by 25 per cent. of the workers in the spinning section to the extent of 8½ hours each, and by 16½ per cent. of those in the weaving section, to the extent of 5 hours each. In the woollen section as a whole, 24 per cent. of the operatives lost, on an average, about 11 hours each in short time\* in the week ended 19th December, and 20 per cent. worked overtime, to the extent of 7 hours each on the average.

At Huddersfield employment continued fairly good, and in the Colne Valley it was good; a good deal of overtime was worked, and a few firms were running night and day. In the Heavy Woollen District (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) and in the Leeds and Halifax districts, there was little general change. In the rag and shoddy

trade employment was reported as fair, and showed a slight improvement. In the rug and blanket trade employment was reported as good in Yorkshire, and better than a year ago. In the Stockport district employment with woollen workers was described as good, and better than for some time past. At Rochdale most flannel manufacturers still had part of their machinery idle.

In the West of England an improvement was reported at Trowbridge, at Frome, and at Buckfastleigh. In Wales employment showed little change. In Scotland employment on the whole showed a decline; there was much short time, and nearly all the mills were working far below their full capacity.

**Carpet Section.**—Employment showed an improvement as compared with the previous month, and was much better than a year ago. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 11.0 at 21st December, 1931, as compared with 14.1 at 23rd November, 1931, and with 20.0 at 22nd December, 1930.

At Kidderminster employment was described as fair, and as better than a year ago; in the Wilton section irregular time was reported, but full time in the other sections, with some overtime in the Axminster section. In Yorkshire employment continued fair, and was about the same as in November.

In Scotland there was on the whole some improvement, but employment was described as poor at Johnstone.

In the carpet section as a whole, 14 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the employers' returns were on short time in the week ended 19th December, losing 18 hours each on an average; 25 per cent. were on overtime, to the extent of 6½ hours each on the average.

The following Table summarises the returns received from employers:—

	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 19th Dec., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before.	Index figure. (Jan., 1926 = 100.)	Week ended 19th Dec., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before.	Index figure. (Jan., 1926 = 100.)
<b>Departments:</b>						
<b>WORSTED SECTION:</b>						
Wool Sorting and Combing ...	11,779	- 0.3	92.8	26,881	- 1.3	83.4
Spinning ...	38,060	+ 1.8	92.1	55,974	+ 0.9	86.4
Weaving ...	19,046	+ 2.3	90.5	33,888	+ 3.3	77.8
Other Depts. ...	9,634	+ 1.1	94.9	21,433	+ 1.7	79.4
Not specified ...	1,776	- 2.4	99.6	3,176	+ 0.4	71.1
<b>Total—Worsted</b>	<b>80,295</b>	<b>+ 1.4</b>	<b>91.9</b>	<b>141,352</b>	<b>+ 1.2</b>	<b>82.5</b>
<b>WOOLLEN SECTION:</b>						
Wool Sorting ...	915	...	72.6	1,934	- 4.6	71.1
Spinning ...	12,828	+ 0.5	88.1	26,819	- 0.5	93.8
Weaving ...	22,226	+ 0.5	93.7	38,391	- 2.3	92.3
Other Depts. ...	16,106	- 0.2	90.7	34,813	- 0.9	89.7
Not specified ...	2,480	+ 0.2	84.8	5,059	- 1.5	90.2
<b>Total—Woollen</b>	<b>54,555</b>	<b>+ 0.3</b>	<b>90.7</b>	<b>107,016</b>	<b>- 1.4</b>	<b>91.1</b>
<b>CARPET SECTION ...</b>	<b>10,252</b>	<b>+ 1.1</b>	<b>107.5</b>	<b>19,267</b>	<b>- 0.8</b>	<b>108.2</b>
<b>Total—Wool Textile Industry</b>	<b>145,102</b>	<b>+ 1.0</b>	<b>92.2</b>	<b>267,635</b>	<b>- 0.0</b>	<b>87.4</b>
<b>Districts†:</b>						
<b>WORSTED SECTION:</b>						
Bradford ...	35,318	+ 1.1	89.3	65,855	- 0.3	78.1
Huddersfield ...	8,729	+ 3.9	97.0	15,043	+ 4.2	77.6
Halifax ...	8,702	+ 1.6	88.2	14,047	+ 2.9	78.3
Leeds ...	8,507	+ 1.9	97.0	14,082	+ 3.0	90.3
Keighley ...	8,109	+ 1.0	93.5	13,952	+ 2.1	93.0
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	3,595	+ 1.6	103.9	5,459	+ 0.8	105.1
<b>Total, West Riding</b>	<b>72,960</b>	<b>+ 1.6</b>	<b>91.7</b>	<b>128,438</b>	<b>+ 1.2</b>	<b>81.3</b>
West of England and Midlands ...	4,832	+ 0.1	89.1	8,699	+ 0.9	83.2
Lancashire ...	396	+ 1.5	135.8	771	+ 8.9	134.7
Scotland ...	2,107	- 0.0	101.0	3,444	- 2.5	133.8
<b>Total—Worsted</b>	<b>80,295</b>	<b>+ 1.4</b>	<b>91.9</b>	<b>141,352</b>	<b>+ 1.2</b>	<b>82.5</b>
<b>WOOLLEN SECTION:</b>						
Huddersfield ...	12,366	+ 1.8	89.2	27,796	- 1.0	88.0
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	10,712	- 0.5	89.9	21,307	- 0.9	99.8
Leeds ...	7,065	+ 0.8	96.8	14,580	+ 0.4	98.7
Halifax and Calder Vale ...	2,407	+ 0.2	88.3	5,057	- 2.1	80.4
Bradford ...	1,278	+ 0.5	100.2	2,342	- 2.9	77.2
<b>Total, West Riding</b>	<b>33,828</b>	<b>+ 0.7</b>	<b>92.4</b>	<b>71,082</b>	<b>- 0.8</b>	<b>94.7</b>
Lancashire ...	4,836	- 0.1	89.5	9,376	+ 2.3	89.7
West of England and Midlands ...	3,819	+ 1.6	93.4	6,519	+ 0.6	97.8
Scotland ...	11,903	- 1.1	85.6	19,816	- 5.7	78.9
Wales ...	169	- 2.3	132.1	223	- 0.9	125.6
<b>Total—Woollen</b>	<b>54,555</b>	<b>+ 0.3</b>	<b>90.7</b>	<b>107,016</b>	<b>- 1.4</b>	<b>91.1</b>
<b>CARPET SECTION ...</b>	<b>10,252</b>	<b>+ 1.1</b>	<b>107.5</b>	<b>19,267</b>	<b>- 0.8</b>	<b>108.2</b>
<b>Total—Wool Textile Industry</b>	<b>145,102</b>	<b>+ 1.0</b>	<b>92.2</b>	<b>267,635</b>	<b>- 0.0</b>	<b>87.4</b>

\* Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages which have been made by certain firms at various dates since February, 1929.  
† Most of the districts are indicated by the names of their principal towns, but neighbouring towns and areas are included in each case.

\* The figures given in this article as to short time do not take into account other forms of under-employment, such as "playing for warps," and tending one instead of two looms.



The following Tables show, by districts and by departments, the percentage increases and decreases in the numbers employed in the week ended 19th December, 1931, by those firms who supplied returns for the purpose of the foregoing Table (excluding the carpet section), as compared with the week ended 28th November, 1931 :—

	Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in numbers employed as compared with previous month. (—without a figure, signifies "few or no workpeople returned.")				
	Wool Sorting and Combing.	Spinning.	Weaving.	Other Depts.	All Depts. (including not specified).
<b>WORSTED SECTION :</b>					
Bradford ...	— 0.3	+ 1.8	+ 1.5	+ 0.7	+ 1.1
Huddersfield ...	— 0.7	+ 1.8	+ 6.5	+ 6.9	+ 3.9
Halifax ...	— 0.5	+ 1.7	+ 1.3	+ 0.3	+ 1.6
Leeds ...	—	+ 3.0	+ 1.6	— 0.8	+ 1.9
Keighley ...	— 2.5	+ 2.0	+ 0.9	— 2.0	+ 1.0
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	—	+ 1.6	—	+ 1.5	+ 1.6
Total, West Riding	— 0.4	+ 2.0	+ 2.5	+ 1.7	+ 1.6
West of England and Midlands ...	+ 1.2	+ 0.8	+ 0.1	— 1.0	+ 0.1
Lancashire ...	—	+ 1.4	—	—	+ 1.5
Scotland ...	+ 4.0	— 0.3	—	— 0.8	— 0.0
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>— 0.3</b>	<b>+ 1.8</b>	<b>+ 2.3</b>	<b>+ 1.1</b>	<b>+ 1.4</b>

	Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in numbers employed as compared with previous month. (... signifies "no change.")			
	Spinning.	Weaving.	Other Depts.	All Depts. (including not specified).
<b>WOOLLEN SECTION :</b>				
Huddersfield ...	+ 1.2	+ 2.9	+ 0.7	+ 1.8
Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ...	+ 1.7	— 2.4	— 0.2	— 0.5
Leeds ...	+ 1.3	+ 0.5	+ 1.2	+ 0.8
Halifax and Calder Vale ...	+ 1.0	+ 0.1	— 0.2	+ 0.2
Bradford ...	+ 3.6	— 1.2	+ 0.2	+ 0.5
Total, West Riding ...	+ 1.4	+ 0.5	+ 0.4	+ 0.7
Lancashire ...	— 0.1	+ 2.1	— 3.1	— 0.1
West of England and Midlands ...	+ 1.3	+ 3.6	+ 1.1	+ 1.6
Scotland ...	— 2.7	— 0.8	— 0.9	— 1.1
Wales ...	—	— 2.9	— 3.6	— 2.3
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>+ 0.5</b>	<b>+ 0.5</b>	<b>— 0.2</b>	<b>+ 0.3</b>

The following Table shows the numbers of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of 17 Employment Exchanges in the principal wool textile trade centres at 21st December, 1931 :—

Department.	Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Registers at 21st December, 1931.						
	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Wool Sorting ...	173	3	176	182	5	187	363
Wool Washing and Preparing...	677	576	1,253	308	196	504	1,757
Wool Combing ...	406	271	677	377	253	630	1,307
Wool Carding ...	580	143	723	389	70	459	1,182
Woollen Spinning ...	449	139	588	280	152	432	1,020
Worsted Drawing and Spinning ...	693	1,260	1,953	241	629	870	2,823
Wool Winding and Warping ...	126	34	160	251	42	293	453
Worsted Winding and Warping ...	152	190	342	287	195	482	824
Woollen Weaving ...	207	795	1,002	307	2,177	2,484	3,486
Worsted Weaving ...	229	473	702	106	1,845	1,951	2,653
Other Processes ...	1,361	119	1,480	866	95	961	2,441
TOTAL ...	5,053	4,003	9,056	3,594	5,659	9,253	18,309

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 23rd November, 1931 :—

Department.	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Wool Sorting ...	— 13	— 1	— 14	+ 18	+ 1	+ 19	+ 5
Wool Washing and Preparing ...	— 2	— 98	— 100	+ 31	— 28	+ 3	— 97
Wool Combing ...	— 36	+ 75	+ 39	— 9	+ 83	+ 74	+ 113
Wool Carding ...	— 26	— 27	— 53	+ 51	+ 10	+ 61	+ 8
Woollen Spinning ...	+ 49	— 40	+ 9	+ 28	+ 23	+ 51	+ 60
Worsted Drawing and Spinning ...	— 53	— 814	— 867	+ 57	— 161	— 104	— 971
Wool Winding and Warping ...	— 6	— 5	— 11	— 50	+ 20	— 30	— 41
Worsted Winding and Warping ...	— 37	— 129	— 166	+ 13	— 69	— 56	— 222
Woollen Weaving ...	— 9	— 322	— 331	— 57	+ 623	+ 566	+ 235
Worsted Weaving ...	— 17	— 420	— 437	— 94	+ 119	+ 25	— 412
Other Processes ...	— 169	— 23	— 192	— 76	— 7	— 83	— 275
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>— 319</b>	<b>— 1,804</b>	<b>— 2,123</b>	<b>— 88</b>	<b>+ 614</b>	<b>+ 526</b>	<b>— 1,597</b>

The imports (less re-exports) of raw wool (sheep's or lambs') were 75,975,200 lbs. in December, 1931, compared with 42,604,100 lbs. in the previous month and 57,552,200 lbs. in December, 1930.

The exports of woollen and worsted yarns in December, 1931, were 3,040,300 lbs., compared with 3,417,900 lbs. in November, 1931, and with 2,825,100 lbs. in December, 1930.

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues in December, 1931, were 7,502,800 square yards, compared with 6,350,400 square yards in the previous month, and with 7,525,200 square yards in December, 1930.

The exports of blankets were 22,297 pairs, 24,436 pairs, and 38,056 pairs in December, 1931, November, 1931, and December, 1930, respectively.

## BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in most districts showed a further decline, and was slack generally, with short-time working fairly general. The holiday stoppage was extended by many firms.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 19.5 at 21st December, 1931, as compared with 16.7 at 23rd November, 1931, and with 25.6 at 22nd December, 1930.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns for the three periods :—

—	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 19th Dec., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) on a		Week ended 19th Dec., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) on a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
England and Wales :—						
London ... ..	1,805	− 0.1	+ 7.9	3,757	− 0.3	+ 3.5
Leicester ... ..	10,195	− 3.3	+ 3.2	21,862	− 6.4	− 3.4
Leicester Country District... ..	4,111	− 0.6	+ 5.2	9,214	− 1.2	+ 5.4
Northampton... ..	5,736	− 2.4	− 8.2	12,188	− 0.3	− 14.3
Higham, Rushden and District ... ..	5,052	− 1.1	+ 2.2	11,278	− 2.9	+ 7.2
Kettering and District ... ..	5,389	− 0.2	+ 0.9	12,252	− 2.4	− 5.5
Rest of Northants ... ..	1,424	− 1.9	− 0.5	3,223	− 1.0	− 2.4
Stafford and District ... ..	2,303	− 3.6	− 8.0	4,045	+ 21.5	− 12.3
Norwich and District ... ..	5,760	+ 1.0	+ 3.9	10,711	+ 5.3	− 1.3
Bristol, Kingswood and District ... ..	1,857	− 2.8	− 1.3	3,086	− 10.2	− 8.0
Leeds and District ... ..	1,721	− 0.2	− 2.0	3,909	− 2.4	+ 1.5
Lancashire (mainly Rossendale Valley) ... ..	6,355	+ 0.7	+ 13.7	12,428	+ 2.4	+ 22.4
Birmingham and District... ..	1,100	− 2.4	+ 7.9	2,033	+ 0.1	+ 4.7
Other parts of England and Wales ... ..	3,967	+ 0.5	+ 2.7	9,086	+ 2.9	+ 10.5
England and Wales ... ..	56,775	− 1.2	+ 2.1	119,072	− 0.8	+ 0.1
Scotland... ..	1,995	− 1.2	− 3.8	4,283	− 0.3	− 8.7
Great Britain ... ..	58,770	− 1.2	+ 1.9	123,355	− 0.8	− 0.3

Returns received from firms employing nearly 58,000 workpeople in the week ended 19th December indicated that about 40 per cent. of these operatives were on short time in that week, losing about 11 hours each on the average; on the other hand, about 9 per cent. were on overtime, to the extent of about 4 hours each on the average.

Employment in London continued moderate, and showed a further slight decline. At Leicester the decline which set in at the end of November continued, and employment was bad; in the week ended 19th December nearly 60 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the employers' returns worked short time, losing about 11 hours each on the average. There was also a slight decline in the Leicester country district. At Northampton employment remained very slack, and was considerably worse than in December, 1930; in the week ended 19th December over 60 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns were on short time, losing about 13 hours each on the average. In the Higham and Rushden district many firms were working short time; on the other hand, in a few instances overtime was worked. At Wellingborough employment was fair during the greater part of the month, but the holiday stoppage was extended by several firms. At Kettering the decline which started in November continued, and employment was moderate; the decline was partly seasonal. At Stafford employment was very slack, but showed some improvement; more than three-quarters of the workpeople covered by the employers' returns for the week ended 19th December were on short time, losing 11 hours each on the average. At Norwich the general slackness continued; a large number of operatives were unemployed, others on short time; and the holiday stoppage was extended by many firms.

In the Bristol and Kingswood district employment was slack; short time was very prevalent. At Leeds most of the factories worked short time.

The slipper trade in Lancashire maintained its improved condition, and full-time working was general, while in some instances overtime was worked.

In Scotland employment showed a slight decline, which was, however, partly seasonal. Employment was described as moderate at Glasgow and at Maybole; at Kilmarnock it showed little change as compared with November, but was much better than in December, 1930.

\* Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages.



The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of 53 Employment Exchanges in the principal centres of the boot and shoe industry at 21st December, 1931 :—

Department.	Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Registers at 21st December, 1931.						Total.
	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Boot and Shoe Manu- facture:							
Preparing Depart- ment ... ..	204	43	247	157	42	199	446
Rough Stuff Depart- ment ... ..	375	25	400	307	27	334	734
Clicking Department ... ..	901	16	917	1,617	24	1,641	2,558
Closing Department ... ..	26	898	924	18	2,117	2,135	3,059
Making Department ... ..	2,450	42	2,492	2,569	98	2,667	5,159
Finishing Depart- ment ... ..	1,696	410	2,106	1,476	465	1,941	4,047
Slipper Making ... ..	368	136	504	482	362	844	1,348
Clog Making ... ..	15	3	18	1	1	2	20
Repairing and Hand Sewn Work ... ..	649	9	658	51	...	51	709
TOTAL ... ..	6,684	1,582	8,266	6,678	3,136	9,814	18,080

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 23rd November, 1931 :—

Department.	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Boot and Shoe Manufacture:							
Preparing Department ...	- 46	+ 3	- 43	+ 44	+ 9	+ 53	+ 10
Rough Stuff Department ...	- 52	- 5	- 57	+ 71	...	+ 71	+ 14
Clicking Department ...	- 17	- 7	- 24	+ 184	- 23	+ 161	+ 137
Closing Department ...	- 2	- 183	- 185	+ 3	+ 676	+ 679	+ 494
Making Department ...	- 144	+ 9	- 135	+ 888	+ 30	+ 918	+ 783
Finishing Department ...	- 43	- 100	- 143	+ 565	+ 142	+ 707	+ 564
Slipper Making ...	- 1	+ 12	+ 11	+ 161	+ 136	+ 297	+ 308
Clog Making ...	- 1	...	- 1	...	+ 1	+ 1	...
Repairing and Hand Sewn Work ...	- 63	+ 4	- 59	+ 11	...	+ 11	- 48
<b>TOTAL</b> ...	<b>- 369</b>	<b>- 267</b>	<b>- 636</b>	<b>+ 1,927</b>	<b>+ 971</b>	<b>+ 2,898</b>	<b>+ 2,262</b>

The exports of boots and shoes in December, 1931, amounted to 65,614 dozen pairs, or 6,880 dozen pairs less than in November, 1931, and 3,946 dozen pairs less than in December, 1930.

### BRICK INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during December showed a further slight decline, and continued slack on the whole.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 20.1 at 21st December, 1931, as compared with 19.9 at 23rd November, 1931, and 18.3 at 22nd December, 1930.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns for the three periods under review :—

Districts.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 19th Dec., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 19th Dec., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire ...	1,726	- 0.5	+ 3.9	3,950	- 4.7	+ 3.3
Midlands and Eastern Counties ...	5,842	- 7.8	- 7.1	15,161	- 9.0	- 7.9
South and South-West Counties and Wales ...	1,906	- 2.0	+ 0.1	4,296	- 0.6	- 2.8
Scotland ...	170	- 0.6	- 6.1	398	+ 1.0	- 10.2
<b>TOTAL</b> ...	<b>9,644</b>	<b>- 5.3</b>	<b>- 3.9</b>	<b>23,805</b>	<b>- 6.7</b>	<b>- 5.3</b>

Returns from employers relative to short-time working, exclusive of time lost on account of bad weather, showed that, of 8,950 workpeople employed by firms furnishing information, nearly 16 per cent. were working on an average about 9 hours less than full time in the week ended 19th December, 1931; the amount of overtime worked was very small.

### BUILDING.

THERE was a slight decline during December and employment was generally very slack or bad, although it was reported as fair or fairly good at a few centres, including Lancaster, Burton-on-Trent, Reading, Plymouth and Edinburgh. Adverse weather conditions curtailed outside operations, with consequent short-time working, in a number of districts. As compared with December, 1930, employment showed little change in the North-Eastern Counties of England, was slightly worse in Scotland, and considerably worse in each of the other administrative divisions.

As regards individual occupations, employment declined and was very slack to bad with bricklayers, masons and tradesmen's labourers; it also declined with carpenters, plasterers, and plumbers, and was bad with these classes. Employment showed a further marked decline with painters and was very bad; it improved a little, but was still generally bad, with slaters. As compared with December, 1930, employment was much worse with each class of operative.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts who were recorded as unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, at 21st December, 1931, together with the increase or decrease as compared with the previous month and with December, 1930 :—

OCCUPATIONS.	Estimated Numbers of Insured Workpeople at July, 1931.	Total Numbers Unemployed at 21st Dec., 1931.	Numbers included in Previous Column who were Temporarily Stopped.	Percentage Unemployed.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage as compared with a	
					Month before.	Year before.
Carpenters ...	131,060	33,362	1,260	25.5	+ 1.8	+ 6.8
Bricklayers ...	79,010	17,936	1,115	22.7	+ 3.2	+ 5.8
Masons ...	21,620	4,654	484	21.5	+ 1.3	+ 5.7
Slaters ...	6,370	1,504	126	23.6	- 0.7	+ 3.1
Plasterers ...	26,500	7,194	552	27.1	+ 2.1	+ 5.7
Painters ...	111,220	50,227	2,524	45.2	+ 4.4	+ 7.1
Plumbers ...	35,500	8,312	452	23.4	+ 1.3	+ 6.6
Labourers to above ...	245,110	64,896	2,299	26.5	+ 1.2	+ 5.1
All other occupations ...	201,780	57,588	1,727	28.5	...	+ 6.0
<b>TOTAL</b> ...	<b>858,170</b>	<b>245,673</b>	<b>10,539</b>	<b>28.6</b>	<b>+ 1.6</b>	<b>+ 5.9</b>
<b>DIVISIONS.</b>						
London ...	182,790	51,731	99	28.3	- 0.1	+ 9.9
South-Eastern ...	137,690	30,732	386	22.3	+ 2.0	+ 7.3
South-Western ...	105,180	25,654	452	24.4	+ 1.9	+ 7.2
Midlands ...	104,260	26,994	2,312	25.9	+ 2.7	+ 5.8
North-Eastern ...	101,780	32,595	3,169	32.0	+ 2.6	+ 0.4
North-Western ...	103,410	35,639	2,478	34.5	+ 2.1	+ 3.1
Scotland ...	78,430	23,022	1,289	29.4	+ 1.0	+ 2.1
Wales ...	26,780	12,111	340	45.2	+ 1.4	+ 5.2
Northern Ireland ...	17,850	7,195	14	40.3	+ 4.0	+ 13.5
<b>Great Britain and Northern Ireland</b> ...	<b>858,170</b>	<b>245,673</b>	<b>10,539</b>	<b>28.6</b>	<b>+ 1.6</b>	<b>+ 5.9</b>

### BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

Returns from Local Authorities in 142 of the principal urban areas in Great Britain (except the London County Council area) with a total population of 17,080,000 show that in December, 1931, plans were passed for buildings of an estimated cost of £4,264,500, as compared with £4,012,600 in November, 1931, and £5,009,400 in December, 1930. Of the total for December, 1931, dwelling-houses accounted for £2,346,100; factories and workshops for £356,000; shops, offices, warehouses and other business premises for £348,000; and other buildings, and additions and alterations to existing buildings, for £1,214,400. For figures for the quarter ended December, 1931, in comparison with the corresponding quarter of 1930, see page 36.

### POTTERY INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in North Staffordshire showed a decline, and continued bad on the whole, with much short-time working. At Worcester employment continued fair, but some short-time working was reported. At Derby and at Bristol employment was slack. In the stoneware section in Scotland employment was bad.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 39.7 at 21st December, 1931, as compared with 29.8 at 23rd November, 1931, and 41.9 at 22nd December, 1930.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns for the three periods :—

BRANCHES.	Number of Workpeople.			Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 19th Dec., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 19th Dec., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.*
China Manufacture ...	1,560	- 2.1	- 13.4	2,853	- 7.1	- 16.7
Earthenware Manufacture ...	6,393	- 3.4	- 0.3	9,925	- 9.0	- 3.9
Other Branches (including unspecified) ...	1,668	- 0.2	- 5.9	3,041	+ 8.1	- 11.7
<b>TOTAL</b> ...	<b>9,621</b>	<b>- 2.7</b>	<b>- 3.7</b>	<b>15,819</b>	<b>- 5.8</b>	<b>- 8.0</b>
<b>DISTRICTS.</b>						
North Staffordshire ...	7,385	- 3.5	- 2.6	11,106	- 6.4	- 7.9
Other Districts ...	2,236	+ 0.0	- 7.0	4,713	- 4.3	- 8.2
<b>TOTAL</b> ...	<b>9,621</b>	<b>- 2.7</b>	<b>- 3.7</b>	<b>15,819</b>	<b>- 5.8</b>	<b>- 8.0</b>

Returns from employers relative to short-time working showed that, of 9,050 workpeople employed by firms making returns, 3,960, or nearly 44 per cent., were working on an average about 14 hours less than full time in the week ended 19th December, 1931; the amount of overtime worked was very small.

\* Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages.



## PAPER MANUFACTURE, PRINTING, AND BOOKBINDING.

EMPLOYMENT during December in the paper-making industry continued fair generally. The improvement previously noted was maintained in most centres, full time being reported as operative in an increasing number of mills.

In the letterpress printing industry employment continued moderate, though there was generally a decline compared with November. Reports received from Leeds, Liverpool and Edinburgh described employment as slack; whilst in London and at Birmingham, Bristol and Glasgow, employment was reported as bad. Employment was again reported as fair in many of the smaller centres. With electrotypers and stereotypers employment was generally fair.

Employment in the lithographic printing industry continued slack on the whole. In London and at Birmingham and Glasgow employment was reported as bad, but at Bristol and some of the smaller towns it remained fair. Employment with lithographic artists was described as bad at Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds, and slack to moderate in most other centres from which reports were received.

In the bookbinding industry employment was slack on the whole, but showed a marked improvement compared with the previous month.

The percentage unemployed among insured workpeople in the paper and paper-board industries was 10.0 at 21st December, 1931, compared with 11.2 at 23rd November, 1931, and 13.8 at 22nd December, 1930. In the printing and bookbinding industries the percentage was 10.8 at 21st December, 1931, compared with 11.1 at 23rd November, 1931, and 8.2 at 22nd December, 1930. In the cardboard box, paper bag and stationery industries the percentage was 9.4 at 21st December, 1931, compared with 9.5 at 23rd November, 1931, and 9.1 at 22nd December, 1930.

The following Table summarises the returns received from certain trade unions which furnished information as to the extent of unemployment among members:—

	No. of Members of Unions at end of December, 1931.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (—) on a	
		Dec., 1931.	Nov., 1931.	Dec., 1930.	Month before.	Year before.
Letterpress Printing:						
London ... ..	33,312	9.6	9.0	6.2	+0.6	+ 3.4
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire	13,985	8.5	7.7	6.8	+0.8	+ 1.7
Midlands and Eastern Counties ... ..	7,616	7.1	7.1	4.4	...	+ 2.7
Scotland ... ..	5,338	12.1	11.7	5.8	+0.4	+ 6.3
Other Districts ...	8,842	8.6	7.5	4.2	+1.1	+ 4.4
Total ... ..	69,093	9.2	8.5	5.9	+0.7	+ 3.3
Lithographic Printing	11,597	11.1	11.2	6.8	-0.1	+ 4.3
Bookbinding ... ..	8,438	11.6	13.6	6.2	-2.0	+ 5.4
Printing and Bookbinding (branches not distinguished) ...	25,464	5.6	5.1	3.0	+0.5	+ 2.6

## DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT during December was slack, but was slightly better on the average than in November. Among insured workpeople in the dock, harbour, river and canal service, 35.4 per cent. were unemployed at 21st December, 1931, as compared with 37.3 per cent. at 23rd November, 1931, and with 35.2 per cent. at 22nd December, 1930.

London.—Employment again showed an improvement. The following Table shows the average daily number of dock labourers employed at docks and wharves in respect of which returns were received:—

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.				
	In Docks.			At Wharves making Returns.	Total, Docks and Principal Wharves.
	By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, etc.	Total.		
Week ended—					
5th Dec., 1931 ...	4,798	1,746	6,544	8,070	14,614
12th " " " ...	4,764	2,127	6,891	8,277	15,168
19th " " " ...	4,507	1,766	6,273	8,067	14,340
26th " " " ...	4,038	1,904	5,942	8,068	14,010
Average for 4 weeks ended 26th Dec., 1931 ... ..	4,571	1,884	6,455	8,125	14,580
Average for Nov., 1931	4,535	1,554	6,089	8,193	14,282
Average for Dec., 1930	4,878	1,738	6,616	8,141	14,757

Tilbury.—The average daily number of dock labourers employed during December was 1,043, compared with 864 in November, 1931, and with 997 in December, 1930.

East Coast.—Employment remained slack on the whole at the North-East Coast ports. It continued moderate at Hull, and fair at Yarmouth, Lowestoft, King's Lynn and Ipswich; but at Goole there was some improvement, mainly due to considerable importations of potatoes.

Liverpool.—Employment during December was moderate. The average weekly numbers of dock labourers registered at the clearing houses under the Liverpool Docks Scheme as employed in the five weeks ended 1st January, 1932, was 11,802, compared with 12,155 in November, 1931, and with 13,124 in December, 1930. The average weekly amount of wages paid to these men through the clearing houses was £26,138 in the five weeks ended 1st January, 1932, compared with £28,514 in November, 1931, and with £28,516 in December, 1930.

Other Ports in England and Wales.—Employment was fair at Manchester, but not so good as in the previous month. It continued slack in general at the South Wales ports. Conditions remained fair at Bristol but were slack at Avonmouth, as well as at Plymouth and other South-Western ports. At Southampton some improvement was reported.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—Employment was fair at Dundee, Leith and Grangemouth, but at Glasgow it declined and was bad. It remained fair at Belfast.

## SEAMEN.

EMPLOYMENT during December was very slack on the whole. The aggregate number of seamen engaged was higher than the exceptionally low number engaged in November, 1931, but the demand was on a very low level and a surplus of ratings was reported at all ports.

Among insured workpeople in the shipping service, the percentage unemployed at 21st December, 1931, was 34.7, compared with 35.0 at 23rd November, 1931, and 33.0 at 22nd December, 1930.

The demand for men on the Thames was moderate early in the month but then became quieter until after the Christmas holiday, when more activity was noted. On the Tyne it improved during the first three weeks but became slacker towards the end of December; on the Tees the demand was slack generally; at the Hartlepoons, apart from some activity early in the month, the demand was dull. On the Wear it improved up to Christmas but declined thereafter. At Hull the demand was slack, except for a short period of increased activity in the middle of the month. At Southampton the demand improved during the first half of December but became slack thereafter. At Bristol the demand was quiet to moderate; at Avonmouth it fluctuated somewhat and at the end of the month was slack. At Newport it was quiet in the first half of the month but improved thereafter; at Cardiff, except for some slackness early in the month, the demand was moderate; at Swansea it improved during the first two weeks and, following a slack spell before Christmas, became brisker at the end of the month. On the Mersey the demand declined somewhat, but showed some improvement after the holiday. At Manchester, apart from some slackness in the week before Christmas, the demand was moderate to fair. On the Clyde it was very slack until late in the month when it became more active; at Leith it was dull, with slackness more marked in the last week. At Belfast the demand declined, and at the end of December was poor.

The following Table shows the number of seamen shipped in British registered foreign-going vessels at the undermentioned ports of Great Britain and Northern Ireland during December:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in				
	Dec., 1931.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) on a		Twelve Months ended	
		Month before.	Year before.	Dec., 1931.	Dec., 1930.
ENGLAND AND WALES:					
Liverpool† ... ..	9,104	+ 1,560	+ 532	109,762	138,727
Manchester ... ..	700	+ 62	+ 107	7,697	7,840
London ... ..	7,493	+ 196	+ 1,485	96,240	115,729
Southampton ... ..	6,109	+ 948	+ 224	95,321	111,439
Tyne Ports ... ..	2,479	+ 229	+ 439	25,763	26,008
Sunderland ... ..	262	+ 18	+ 34	2,967	2,939
Middlesbrough ... ..	244	+ 69	+ 5	2,694	13,861
Hull ... ..	877	+ 190	+ 213	10,382	12,280
Bristol‡ ... ..	813	+ 246	+ 124	11,374	10,822
Newport, Mon. ... ..	434	+ 125	+ 29	4,721	6,559
Cardiff§ ... ..	2,329	+ 363	+ 297	23,422	25,208
Swansea ... ..	432	+ 231	+ 143	6,292	8,762
SCOTLAND:					
Leith ... ..	146	+ 25	+ 70	2,803	3,155
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth ... ..	341	+ 66	+ 166	4,407	4,763
Glasgow ... ..	1,879	+ 278	+ 1,051	30,092	40,224
NORTHERN IRELAND:					
Belfast ... ..	369	+ 141	+ 91	2,393	2,857
TOTAL for above Ports	34,011	+ 4,747	+ 1,488	436,330	521,173

\* It will be understood that the numbers given are the numbers of separate engagements, and not of separate individuals.

† Including Birkenhead and Garston.

‡ Including Avonmouth and Portishead.

§ Including Barry and Penarth.



## UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

THE statistics here presented show, industry by industry, the estimated number of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, the number and percentage of such persons who were unemployed on 21st December, 1931, and the increase or decrease at that date in the total percentages unemployed compared with a month earlier, a year before, and two years before, respectively.

The Unemployment Insurance Acts provide, subject to certain exceptions, for the compulsory insurance against unemployment of substantially all employed persons. The principal classes of persons who are excepted from such compulsory insurance are juveniles under 16 years of age and (since 2nd January, 1928) persons aged 65 and over, persons employed otherwise than by way of manual labour at a rate of remuneration exceeding in value £250 per annum, persons employed in agriculture and private domestic service, and outworkers. Persons employed by local public authorities, railways and certain other public utility undertakings, members of the police forces, and persons with rights under a statutory superannuation scheme may, in certain circumstances, also be excepted.

An unemployment book, on which is recorded, *inter alia*, the industry in which he is employed, is issued to every insured person, and this book must be lodged at an Employment Exchange whenever the insured person to whom it relates makes a claim for unemployment benefit, or, without claiming benefit, ceases to be employed in an insured trade. The book must be removed and deposited with the employer for stamping as soon as employment in an insured trade is resumed.

The files of "lodged" books at the Employment Exchanges thus furnish for each industrial group a record of the unemployment of insured persons. In arriving at this figure the books of those persons who are known to be working in an uninsured trade, or to be sick or deceased, or who are known to have emigrated or gone abroad, are of course excluded. In cases where information on these points is lacking the books remain in the "lodged" files, and

are included in the statistics of unemployment, for a period of two months from the date on which the insured person was last in touch with the Employment Exchange.

The numbers unemployed given in the following Table relate only to persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts. They include insured persons who are maintaining registration at Employment Exchanges, together with those whose unemployment books remain lodged in the "two months" file referred to above. The figures given on page 26 relating to persons registered at Employment Exchanges include uninsured as well as insured persons who are maintaining registration for employment, but not insured persons whose books are in the two months file.

A Table showing the composition of the two series of figures is given on page 26.

Insured persons who are disqualified for the receipt of unemployment benefit under the trade dispute disqualification are not included in the numbers unemployed, unless they are definitely maintaining registration for other employment.

Under the provisions of the Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act, 1925, all persons aged 65 and over ceased to be insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts as from 2nd January, 1928. Such persons do not now appear in the statistics showing the estimated numbers of insured persons or the number of insured persons recorded as unemployed, and the figures for dates subsequent to 2nd January, 1928, are therefore not comparable with those for earlier dates. For all practical purposes, however, the percentages unemployed can be regarded as comparable with the corresponding figures published each month since July, 1923.

An article dealing with the effect on the unemployment figures of recent changes in the scheme of unemployment insurance appeared on page 457 of the issue for December, 1931. These changes have not yet affected the statistics of unemployment among insured persons on which the following Tables are based.

## NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS RECORDED AS UNEMPLOYED AT 21st DECEMBER, 1931.

INDUSTRY.	GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.									GREAT BRITAIN ONLY.		
	WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals).			TEMPORARY STOPPAGES.			TOTAL.			WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED, TEMPORARY STOPPAGES, AND CASUALS.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fishing ... ..	7,292	236	7,528	188	260	448	7,480	496	7,976	7,406	495	7,901
Mining :—												
Coal Mining ... ..	197,776	1,066	198,842	58,214	177	58,391	255,990	1,243	257,233	255,947	1,243	257,190
Iron Ore and Ironstone Mining, etc.	4,679	1	4,680	787	1	788	5,466	2	5,468	5,436	2	5,438
Lead, Tin and Copper Mining ...	3,193	12	3,205	75	...	75	3,268	12	3,280	3,267	12	3,279
Stone Quarrying and Mining ...	7,733	19	7,752	2,879	3	2,882	10,612	22	10,634	9,955	21	9,976
Slate Quarrying and Mining...	1,204	3	1,207	1,770	1	1,771	2,974	4	2,978	2,973	4	2,977
Mining and Quarrying not separately specified ... ..	2,940	220	3,160	483	4	487	3,423	224	3,647	3,305	224	3,529
Clay, Sand, Gravel and Chalk Pits	3,638	32	3,670	634	...	634	4,272	32	4,304	4,194	32	4,226
Non-Metalliferous Mining Products :—												
Coke Ovens and By-Product Works	3,253	29	3,282	434	4	438	3,687	33	3,720	3,687	33	3,720
Artificial Stone and Concrete ...	3,913	172	4,085	860	9	869	4,773	181	4,954	4,731	181	4,912
Cement, Limekilns and Whiting ...	3,127	146	3,273	577	17	594	3,704	163	3,867	3,630	162	3,792
Brick, Tile, Pipe, etc., Making ...	13,032	1,577	14,609	2,644	322	2,966	15,676	1,899	17,575	15,333	1,899	17,232
Pottery, Earthenware, etc. ... ..	5,591	7,735	13,326	6,337	11,600	17,937	11,928	19,335	31,263	11,921	19,332	31,253
Glass Trades :—												
Glass (excluding Bottles and Scientific Glass) ... ..	3,809	908	4,717	856	85	941	4,665	993	5,658	4,650	993	5,643
Glass Bottles ... ..	3,116	335	3,451	817	18	835	3,933	353	4,286	3,933	353	4,286
Chemicals, etc. :—												
Chemicals ... ..	14,904	1,979	16,883	1,035	173	1,208	15,939	2,152	18,091	15,836	2,150	17,986
Explosives ... ..	1,283	687	1,970	277	39	316	1,560	726	2,286	1,560	726	2,286
Paint, Varnish, Red and White Leads ... ..	1,593	490	2,083	137	28	165	1,730	518	2,248	1,727	518	2,245
Oil, Glue, Soap, Ink, Matches, etc. ... ..	6,667	1,986	8,653	806	157	963	7,473	2,143	9,616	7,426	2,121	9,547
Metal Manufacture :—												
Pig Iron (Blast Furnaces) ... ..	6,994	32	7,026	1,155	4	1,159	8,149	36	8,185	8,145	36	8,181
Steel Melting and Iron Puddling, Iron and Steel Rolling and Forging ... ..	41,254	505	41,759	34,937	173	35,110	76,191	678	76,869	76,176	678	76,854
Brass, Copper, Zinc, Tin, Lead, etc.	6,994	489	7,483	1,906	29	1,935	8,900	518	9,418	8,848	516	9,364
Tin Plates ... ..	4,435	409	4,844	5,839	412	6,251	10,274	821	11,095	10,274	821	11,095
Iron and Steel Tubes... ..	5,988	201	6,189	5,996	33	6,029	11,984	234	12,218	11,982	234	12,216
Wire, Wire Netting, Wire Ropes ...	2,740	576	3,316	2,309	94	2,403	5,049	670	5,719	5,049	669	5,718
Engineering, etc. :—												
General Engineering; Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding ... ..	115,035	4,914	119,949	33,846	900	34,746	148,881	5,814	154,695	146,486	5,801	152,287
Electrical Engineering ... ..	9,442	1,998	11,440	2,258	265	2,523	11,700	2,263	13,963	11,636	2,262	13,898
Marine Engineering, etc. ... ..	24,456	149	24,605	3,637	68	3,705	28,093	217	28,310	24,743	217	24,960
Constructional Engineering ... ..	6,740	131	6,871	1,790	27	1,817	8,530	158	8,688	8,455	158	8,613
Construction and Repair of Vehicles :—												
Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft Carriages, Carts, etc. ... ..	39,373	3,053	42,426	12,490	757	13,247	51,863	3,810	55,673	51,443	3,798	55,241
Railway Carriages, Wagons and Tramcars ... ..	3,074	284	3,358	407	36	443	3,481	320	3,801	3,413	320	3,733
	9,767	141	9,908	1,894	29	1,923	11,661	170	11,831	11,649	170	11,819



INDUSTRY.	GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.									GREAT BRITAIN ONLY.		
	WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals).			TEMPORARY STOPPAGES.			TOTAL.			WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED, TEMPORARY STOPPAGES, AND CASUALS.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing ...	112,227	611	112,838	4,462	110	4,572	116,689	721	117,410	109,926	674	110,600
<b>Metal Trades :—</b>												
Stove, Grate, Pipe, etc., and General												
Iron Founding ...	15,355	1,328	16,683	5,445	414	5,859	20,800	1,742	22,542	20,703	1,742	22,445
Electrical Wiring and Contracting ...	3,112	60	3,172	215	1	216	3,327	61	3,388	3,281	60	3,341
Electrical Cables, Wire and Lamps...	7,887	4,051	11,938	1,067	343	1,410	8,954	4,404	13,358	8,920	4,403	13,323
Hand Tools, Cutlery, Saws, Files ...	5,219	2,154	7,373	2,743	508	3,251	7,962	2,662	10,624	7,945	2,661	10,606
Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Rivets, Nails, etc.	2,551	2,620	5,171	1,367	336	1,703	3,918	2,956	6,874	3,917	2,956	6,873
Brass and Allied Metal Wares ...	3,020	1,739	4,759	780	254	1,034	3,800	1,993	5,793	3,786	1,993	5,779
Heating and Ventilating Apparatus	1,198	28	1,226	164	3	167	1,362	31	1,393	1,354	31	1,385
Watches, Clocks, Plate, Jewellery, etc.	3,073	2,611	5,684	1,328	858	2,186	4,401	3,469	7,870	4,384	3,469	7,853
Metal Industries not separately specified ...	20,836	11,726	32,562	5,950	2,139	8,089	26,786	13,865	40,651	26,585	13,859	40,444
<b>Textile Trades :—</b>												
Cotton ...	38,254	78,907	117,161	13,205	20,191	33,396	51,459	99,098	150,557	51,452	99,069	150,521
Woollen and Worsted...	10,206	12,496	22,702	7,433	9,505	16,938	17,639	22,001	39,640	17,488	21,882	39,370
Silk Manufacture and Artificial Silk Weaving ...	3,242	3,435	6,677	857	2,657	3,514	4,099	6,092	10,191	4,096	6,089	10,185
Artificial Silk Yarn ...	2,981	1,900	4,881	490	660	1,150	3,471	2,560	6,031	3,449	2,555	6,004
Linen ...	5,232	8,138	13,370	799	1,285	2,084	6,031	9,423	15,454	991	2,728	3,719
Jute ...	4,033	9,180	13,213	409	1,089	1,498	4,442	10,269	14,711	4,442	10,269	14,711
Hemp, Rope, Cord, Twine, etc. ...	1,334	2,353	3,687	228	680	908	1,562	3,033	4,595	1,366	2,704	4,070
Hosiery ...	1,482	5,816	7,298	1,184	3,479	4,663	2,666	9,295	11,961	2,644	9,229	11,873
Lace ...	652	843	1,495	459	514	973	1,111	1,357	2,468	1,109	1,357	2,466
Carpets ...	661	1,298	1,959	402	532	934	1,063	1,830	2,893	1,063	1,830	2,893
Textiles not separately specified ...	1,837	4,265	6,102	696	1,425	2,121	2,533	5,690	8,223	2,306	5,044	7,350
Textile Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc.	12,786	5,724	18,510	10,653	3,502	14,155	23,449	9,226	32,675	22,248	7,788	30,036
<b>Leather and Leather Goods :—</b>												
Tanning, Currying and Dressing ...	4,070	1,374	5,444	896	218	1,114	4,966	1,592	6,558	4,958	1,592	6,550
Leather Goods ...	1,944	1,452	3,396	358	451	809	2,302	1,903	4,205	2,282	1,887	4,169
<b>Clothing Trades :—</b>												
Tailoring ...	12,008	12,959	24,967	2,123	10,197	12,320	14,131	23,156	37,287	13,400	22,601	36,001
Dress Making and Millinery...	1,285	8,947	10,232	98	3,025	3,123	1,383	11,972	13,355	1,349	11,609	12,958
Hats and Caps (including Straw Plait)	1,797	2,933	4,730	975	1,713	2,688	2,772	4,646	7,418	2,771	4,644	7,415
Shirts, Collars, Underclothing, etc.	946	7,344	8,290	89	3,452	3,541	1,035	10,796	11,831	842	6,211	7,053
Dress Industries not separately specified ...	1,113	1,088	2,201	155	349	504	1,268	1,437	2,705	1,262	1,436	2,698
Boots, Shoes, Slippers and Clogs ...	10,352	3,935	14,287	8,443	4,139	12,582	18,795	8,074	26,869	18,593	8,066	26,659
<b>Food, Drink and Tobacco :—</b>												
Bread, Biscuits, Cakes, etc. ...	12,584	6,189	18,773	566	397	963	13,150	6,586	19,736	12,597	6,476	19,073
Grain Milling ...	2,449	246	2,695	205	32	237	2,654	278	2,932	2,572	274	2,846
Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery ...	3,437	5,381	8,818	593	1,965	2,558	4,030	7,346	11,376	3,991	7,334	11,325
Food Industries not separately specified ...	9,405	11,237	20,642	687	1,147	1,834	10,092	12,384	22,476	9,963	12,298	22,261
Drink Industries ...	10,427	4,295	14,722	450	350	800	10,877	4,645	15,522	10,490	4,600	15,090
Tobacco, Cigars, Cigarettes and Snuff	1,325	3,350	4,675	72	672	744	1,397	4,022	5,419	1,314	3,854	5,168
<b>Sawmilling, Furniture and Woodwork :—</b>												
Sawmilling and Machined Woodwork	10,295	239	10,534	916	23	939	11,211	262	11,473	10,915	258	11,173
Wood Boxes and Packing Cases ...	2,366	278	2,644	460	36	496	2,826	314	3,140	2,787	314	3,101
Furniture Making, Upholstering, etc.	18,011	2,434	20,445	1,463	365	1,828	19,474	2,799	22,273	19,222	2,752	21,974
Woodworking not separately Specified ...	3,323	750	4,073	515	216	731	3,838	966	4,804	3,708	946	4,654
<b>Printing and Paper Trades :—</b>												
Paper and Paper Board ...	3,045	1,152	4,197	954	562	1,516	3,999	1,714	5,713	3,977	1,709	5,686
Cardboard Boxes, Paper Bags and Stationery ...	1,918	3,172	5,090	133	611	744	2,051	3,783	5,834	1,993	3,689	5,682
Wall Paper Making ...	395	193	588	39	7	46	434	200	634	434	200	634
Stationery and Typewriting Requisites (not paper) ...	350	296	646	16	33	49	366	329	695	366	329	695
Printing, Publishing and Bookbinding	18,987	9,071	28,058	995	1,064	2,059	19,982	10,135	30,117	19,608	9,910	29,518
<b>Building and Public Works Contracting :—</b>												
Building ...	234,628	506	235,134	10,519	20	10,539	245,147	526	245,673	237,961	517	238,478
Public Works Contracting, etc. ...	94,508	60	94,568	1,891	4	1,895	96,399	64	96,463	93,845	64	93,909
<b>Other Manufacturing Industries :—</b>												
Rubber ...	6,802	4,543	11,345	1,428	1,316	2,744	8,230	5,859	14,089	8,217	5,855	14,072
Oilcloth, Linoleum, etc. ...	1,687	343	2,030	578	47	625	2,265	390	2,655	2,265	390	2,655
Brushes and Brooms ...	1,290	534	1,824	243	144	387	1,533	678	2,211	1,500	676	2,176
Scientific and Photographic Instruments and Apparatus ...	1,587	584	2,171	487	50	537	2,074	634	2,708	2,062	632	2,694
Musical Instruments ...	3,460	580	4,040	342	14	356	3,802	594	4,396	3,795	594	4,389
Toys, Games and Sports Requisites	1,056	662	1,718	227	104	331	1,283	766	2,049	1,282	766	2,048
<b>Gas, Water and Electricity Supply Industries ...</b>	16,298	309	16,607	618	26	644	16,916	335	17,251	16,647	333	16,980
<b>Transport and Communication :—</b>												
Railway Service ...	17,396	613	18,009	965	17	982	18,361	630	18,991	18,163	623	18,786
Tramway and Omnibus Service ...	9,673	770	10,443	380	26	406	10,053	796	10,849	9,749	791	10,540
Road Transport not separately specified ...	40,305	750	41,055	1,887	11	1,898	42,192	761	42,953	41,287	753	42,040
Shipping Service ...	54,355	1,090	55,445	466	79	545	54,821	1,169	55,990	53,883	1,157	55,040
Dock, Harbour, River and Canal Service ...	60,014	219	60,233	998	37	1,035	61,012	256	61,268	59,784	255	60,039
Transport, Communication and Storage not separately specified ...	2,992	185	3,177	79	9	88	3,071	194	3,265	3,033	194	3,227
<b>Distributive Trades ...</b>	154,487	63,106	217,593	5,669	4,074	9,743	160,156	67,180	227,336	154,952	65,713	220,665
<b>Commerce, Banking, Insurance and Finance ...</b>	11,812	2,473	14,285	197	28	225	12,009	2,501	14,510	11,839	2,480	14,319
<b>Miscellaneous Trades and Services :—</b>												
National Government ...	11,873	1,501	13,374	280	79	359	12,153	1,580	13,733	11,748	1,505	13,253
Local Government ...	55,811	1,269	57,080	1,770	60	1,830	57,581	1,329	58,910	55,510	1,317	56,827
Professional Services ...	5,727	2,299	8,026	188	79	267	5,915	2,378	8,293	5,764	2,348	8,112
Entertainments and Sports ...	14,678	5,660	20,338	305	169	474	14,983	5,829	20,812	14,502	5,750	20,252
Hotel, Public House, Restaurant, Boarding House, Club, &c., Service	29,406	49,788	79,194	336	893	1,229	29,742	50,681	80,423	29,035	49,980	79,015
Laundries, Dyeing and Dry Cleaning	3,381	10,397	13,778	260	1,903	2,163	3,641	12,300	15,941	3,536	12,046	15,582
Industries and Services not separately specified ...	44,063	3,002	47,065	1,075	685	1,760	45,138	3,687	48,825	43,623	3,644	47,267
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	1,831,334	431,366	2,262,700	301,009	107,108	408,117	2,132,343	538,474	2,670,817*	2,082,047	519,945	2,601,992

\* Including 106,410 Casuals (Males, 104,893; Females, 1,517).



GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.																
INDUSTRY.	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1931.			PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 21ST DECEMBER, 1931.									INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH			GREAT BRITAIN ONLY. TOTAL PERCENTAGES AT 21ST DEC., 1931.
				WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals).			TEMPORARY STOPPAGES.			TOTAL.						
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Fe-males.	Total.	Males.	Fe-males.	Total.	Males.	Fe-males.	Total.	23RD NOV., 1931.	22ND DEC., 1930.	16TH DEC., 1929.	
Fishing ... ..	29,800	950	30,750	24.5	24.8	24.5	0.6	27.4	1.4	25.1	52.2	25.9	+ 5.6	+ 3.6	+ 9.3	25.9
Mining :—																
Coal Mining ... ..	1,041,120	5,750	1,046,870	19.0	18.5	19.0	5.6	3.1	5.6	24.6	21.6	24.6	- 2.5	+ 4.9	+10.0	24.6
Iron Ore and Ironstone Mining, etc.	12,860	20	12,880	36.4	5.0	36.3	6.1	5.0	6.2	42.5	10.0	42.5	- 0.1	+ 7.3	+34.6	42.4
Lead, Tin and Copper Mining ...	4,830	40	4,870	66.1	30.0	65.8	1.6	—	1.6	67.7	30.0	67.4	- 3.9	+ 4.2	+44.0	67.5
Stone Quarrying and Mining ...	46,020	410	46,430	16.8	4.6	16.7	6.3	0.8	6.2	23.1	5.4	22.9	+ 1.3	+ 5.3	+10.5	22.4
Slate Quarrying and Mining...	10,340	10	10,350	11.6	30.0	11.7	17.2	10.0	17.1	28.8	40.0	28.8	+16.6	+ 3.6	+16.3	28.8
Mining and Quarrying not separately specified ... ..	14,220	1,650	15,870	20.7	13.3	19.9	3.4	0.3	3.1	24.1	13.6	23.0	...	+ 6.5	+11.3	22.9
Clay, Sand, Gravel and Chalk Pits	16,770	250	17,020	21.7	12.8	21.6	3.8	—	3.7	25.5	12.8	25.3	+ 1.7	+ 8.3	+16.7	25.1
Non-Metalliferous Mining Products :—																
Coke Ovens and By-Product Works	11,410	120	11,530	28.5	24.2	28.5	3.8	3.3	3.8	32.3	27.5	32.3	- 1.1	+ 2.8	+22.3	32.3
Artificial Stone and Concrete ...	18,070	1,560	19,630	21.7	11.0	20.8	4.7	0.6	4.4	26.4	11.6	25.2	+ 1.1	+ 2.7	+10.4	25.2
Cement, Limekilns and Whiting ...	17,050	870	17,920	18.3	16.8	18.3	3.4	1.9	3.3	21.7	18.7	21.6	- 0.2	+ 3.0	+10.6	21.7
Brick, Tile, Pipe, etc., Making ...	80,220	7,400	87,620	16.2	21.3	16.7	3.3	4.4	3.4	19.5	25.7	20.1	+ 0.2	+ 1.8	+ 8.0	19.9
Pottery, Earthenware, etc. ... ..	35,310	43,400	78,710	15.8	17.8	16.9	18.0	26.7	22.8	33.8	44.5	39.7	+ 9.9	- 2.2	+22.5	39.8
Glass Trades :—																
Glass (excluding Bottles and Scientific Glass) ... ..	21,000	6,470	27,470	18.1	14.0	17.2	4.1	1.3	3.4	22.2	15.3	20.6	- 1.5	+ 4.1	+11.5	20.6
Glass Bottles ... ..	16,680	2,260	18,940	18.7	14.8	18.2	4.9	0.8	4.4	23.6	15.6	22.6	- 5.5	- 1.2	+ 8.4	22.6
Chemicals, etc. :—																
Chemicals ... ..	73,510	25,430	98,940	20.3	7.8	17.1	1.4	0.7	1.2	21.7	8.5	18.3	- 0.1	+ 0.4	+11.4	18.3
Explosives ... ..	11,320	5,430	16,750	11.3	12.7	11.8	2.5	0.7	1.8	13.8	13.4	13.6	- 2.0	+ 0.5	+ 8.6	13.7
Paint, Varnish, Red and White Leads	15,310	5,200	20,510	10.4	9.4	10.2	0.9	0.6	0.8	11.3	10.0	11.0	- 0.3	+ 2.3	+ 6.5	11.0
Oil, Glue, Soap, Ink, Matches, etc. ...	54,760	22,910	77,670	12.2	8.7	11.1	1.4	0.7	1.3	13.6	9.4	12.4	- 0.3	+ 2.6	+ 6.1	12.4
Metal Manufacture :—																
Pig Iron (Blast Furnaces) ... ..	19,330	150	19,480	36.2	21.3	36.1	6.0	2.7	5.9	42.2	24.0	42.0	+ 1.1	+ 6.3	+29.8	42.0
Steel Melting and Iron Puddling, Iron and Steel Rolling and Forging ... ..	165,080	4,270	169,350	25.0	11.8	24.7	21.2	4.1	20.7	46.2	15.9	45.4	- 0.1	- 5.2	+23.4	45.4
Brass, Copper, Zinc, Tin, Lead, etc.	34,720	3,470	38,190	20.1	14.1	19.6	5.5	0.8	5.1	25.6	14.9	24.7	- 3.3	+ 2.2	+16.7	24.7
Tin Plates ... ..	26,950	3,440	30,390	16.5	11.9	15.9	21.6	12.0	20.6	38.1	23.9	36.5	+ 7.3	-33.7	+13.3	36.5
Iron and Steel Tubes...	28,050	1,770	29,820	21.3	11.4	20.8	21.4	1.8	20.2	42.7	13.2	41.0	- 1.9	+ 4.7	+29.0	41.0
Wire, Wire Netting, Wire Ropes ...	18,710	4,060	22,770	14.6	14.2	14.6	12.4	2.3	10.5	27.0	16.5	25.1	+ 0.2	- 3.9	+13.2	25.1
Engineering, etc. :—																
General Engineering; Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding ... ..	528,910	47,470	576,380	21.7	10.4	20.8	6.4	1.8	6.0	28.1	12.2	26.8	- 0.8	+ 2.1	+16.5	26.7
Electrical Engineering ... ..	71,960	20,510	92,470	13.1	9.7	12.4	3.2	1.3	2.7	16.3	11.0	15.1	+ 0.2	+ 4.0	+10.9	15.1
Marine Engineering, etc. ... ..	54,180	1,060	55,240	45.1	14.1	44.5	6.8	6.4	6.7	51.9	20.5	51.2	+ 1.2	+18.9	+41.0	49.6
Constructional Engineering ... ..	28,310	1,270	29,580	23.8	10.3	23.2	6.3	2.1	6.2	30.1	12.4	29.4	- 0.6	+ 5.5	+17.6	29.3
Construction and Repair of Vehicles :—																
Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft Carriages, Carts, etc. ... ..	225,710	25,610	251,320	17.4	11.9	16.9	5.6	3.0	5.3	23.0	14.9	22.2	- 0.4	+ 6.0	+14.9	22.2
Railway Carriages, Wagons and Tramcars ... ..	15,850	2,480	18,330	19.4	11.5	18.3	2.6	1.4	2.4	22.0	12.9	20.7	- 0.8	+ 4.6	+10.7	20.8
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing ...	49,990	1,560	51,550	19.5	9.0	19.2	3.8	1.9	3.8	23.3	10.9	23.0	- 1.2	+ 3.1	+13.8	23.0
Metal Trades :—																
Stove, Grate, Pipe, etc., and General Iron Founding ... ..	192,400	2,990	195,390	58.3	20.4	57.8	2.3	3.7	2.3	60.6	24.1	60.1	- 0.1	+15.0	+36.8	60.2
Electrical Wiring and Contracting ...	83,200	9,240	92,440	18.5	14.4	18.0	6.5	4.5	6.4	25.0	18.9	24.4	+ 1.4	+ 2.5	+15.5	24.3
Electrical Cables, Wire and Lamps...	20,780	1,680	22,460	15.0	3.6	14.1	1.0	0.0	1.0	16.0	3.6	15.1	- 0.4	+ 2.6	+ 9.4	15.1
Hand Tools, Cutlery, Saws, Files ...	64,910	43,430	108,340	12.1	9.4	11.0	1.7	0.7	1.3	13.8	10.1	12.3	- 0.6	+ 1.8	+ 7.8	12.3
Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Rivets, Nails, etc.	23,500	11,080	34,580	22.2	19.4	21.3	11.7	4.6	9.4	33.9	24.0	30.7	- 3.5	- 2.6	+16.0	30.7
Brass and Allied Metal Wares ... ..	14,420	11,830	26,250	17.7	22.1	19.7	9.5	2.9	6.5	27.2	25.0	26.2	- 3.1	- 7.9	+16.9	26.2
Heating and Ventilating Apparatus	16,930	10,670	27,600	17.8	16.3	17.2	4.6	2.4	3.8							



## GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.																	GREAT BRITAIN ONLY. TOTAL PER- CENTAGES AT 21ST DEC., 1931.
INDUSTRY.	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1931.			PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED AT 21ST DECEMBER, 1931.									INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENT- AGES AS COMPARED WITH				
				WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals).			TEMPORARY STOPPAGES.			TOTAL.							
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males	Fe- males.	Total.	Males	Fe- males.	Total.	Males	Fe- males.	Total.	23RD NOV., 1931.	22ND DEC., 1930.	16TH DEC., 1929.		
<b>Sawmilling, etc. (cont.)</b>																	
Furniture Making, Upholstering, etc.	108,530	23,490	132,020	16.6	10.4	15.5	1.3	1.5	1.4	17.9	11.9	16.9	...	+ 3.6	+11.6	16.8	
Woodworking not separately specified	18,270	5,790	24,060	18.2	13.0	16.9	2.8	3.7	3.1	21.0	16.7	20.0	...	+ 2.0	+11.0	19.7	
<b>Printing and Paper Trades :—</b>																	
Paper and Paper Board ...	41,380	15,710	57,090	7.4	7.3	7.4	2.3	3.6	2.6	9.7	10.9	10.0	- 1.2	- 3.8	+ 5.7	10.0	
Cardboard Boxes, Paper Bags and Stationery ...	20,870	40,960	61,830	9.2	7.7	8.2	0.6	1.5	1.2	9.8	9.2	9.4	- 0.1	+ 0.3	+ 5.9	9.3	
Wall Paper Making ...	4,370	2,130	6,500	9.0	9.1	9.0	0.9	0.3	0.8	9.9	9.4	9.8	- 0.7	+ 3.8	+ 4.9	9.8	
Stationery and Typewriting Requisites (not paper) ...	2,740	3,710	6,450	12.8	8.0	10.0	0.6	0.9	0.8	13.4	8.9	10.8	- 0.1	+ 1.8	+ 7.8	10.8	
Printing, Publishing and Bookbinding	181,440	97,530	278,970	10.5	9.3	10.1	0.5	1.1	0.7	11.0	10.4	10.8	- 0.3	+ 2.6	+ 6.4	10.7	
<b>Building and Public Works Contract- ing :—</b>																	
Building ...	848,250	9,920	858,170	27.7	5.1	27.4	1.2	0.2	1.2	28.9	5.3	28.6	+ 1.6	+ 5.9	+11.7	28.4	
Public Works Contracting, etc. ...	269,330	1,300	270,630	35.1	4.6	34.9	0.7	0.3	0.7	35.8	4.9	35.6	- 0.1	+ 4.3	+10.3	35.6	
<b>Other Manufacturing Industries :—</b>																	
Rubber ...	39,190	28,140	67,330	17.4	16.1	16.8	3.6	4.7	4.1	21.0	20.8	20.9	+ 0.2	+ 2.0	+10.7	20.9	
Oilcloth, Linoleum, etc. ...	11,580	2,170	13,750	14.6	15.8	14.8	5.0	2.2	4.5	19.6	18.0	19.3	+ 1.0	+ 1.5	+13.6	19.4	
Brushes and Brooms ...	6,470	4,990	11,460	19.9	10.7	15.9	3.8	2.9	3.4	23.7	13.6	19.3	+ 1.1	...	+ 7.6	19.2	
Scientific and Photographic Instru- ments and Apparatus ...	16,600	9,430	26,030	9.6	6.2	8.3	2.9	0.5	2.1	12.5	6.7	10.4	- 2.2	+ 3.6	+ 7.4	10.4	
Musical Instruments ...	17,500	7,240	24,740	19.8	8.0	16.3	1.9	0.2	1.5	21.7	8.2	17.8	- 1.8	+ 4.7	+13.9	17.8	
Toys, Games and Sports Requisites	7,070	6,990	14,060	14.9	9.5	12.2	3.2	1.5	2.4	18.1	11.0	14.6	- 0.2	+ 0.8	+ 8.8	14.6	
<b>Gas, Water and Electricity Supply Industries ...</b>	166,290	7,580	173,870	9.8	4.1	9.6	0.4	0.3	0.3	10.2	4.4	9.9	- 0.2	+ 1.3	+ 3.4	9.9	
<b>Transport and Communication :—</b>																	
Railway Service ...	132,560	7,460	140,020	13.1	8.2	12.9	0.8	0.2	0.7	13.9	8.4	13.6	- 0.4	+ 1.9	+ 7.3	13.5	
Tramway and Omnibus Service ...	166,370	7,490	173,860	5.8	10.3	6.0	0.2	0.3	0.2	6.0	10.6	6.2	- 0.3	+ 1.0	+ 2.5	6.2	
Road Transport not separately specified ...	195,960	9,430	205,390	20.6	8.0	20.0	0.9	0.1	0.9	21.5	8.1	20.9	- 0.5	+ 2.5	+ 7.9	20.8	
Shipping Service ...	154,860	6,570	161,430	35.1	16.6	34.3	0.3	1.2	0.4	35.4	17.8	34.7	- 0.3	+ 1.7	+14.2	34.8	
Dock, Harbour, River and Canal Service ...	170,740	2,350	173,090	35.1	9.3	34.8	0.6	1.6	0.6	35.7	10.9	35.4	- 1.9	+ 0.2	+ 5.9	35.5	
Transport, Communication and Storage not separately specified ...	16,290	2,040	18,330	18.4	9.1	17.3	0.5	0.4	0.5	18.9	9.5	17.8	- 1.4	+ 1.1	+ 5.7	17.8	
<b>Distributive Trades ...</b>	1,136,530	738,250	1,874,780	13.6	8.5	11.6	0.5	0.6	0.5	14.1	9.1	12.1	- 0.7	+ 2.3	+ 5.7	12.0	
<b>Commerce, Banking, Insurance and Finance ...</b>	160,480	75,170	235,650	7.4	3.3	6.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	7.5	3.3	6.2	- 0.1	+ 1.8	+ 3.4	6.1	
<b>Miscellaneous Trades and Services :—</b>																	
National Government ...	99,200	22,200	121,400	12.0	6.8	11.0	0.3	0.3	0.3	12.3	7.1	11.3	- 0.7	+ 1.9	+ 3.7	11.2	
Local Government ...	310,410	21,510	331,920	18.0	5.9	17.2	0.5	0.3	0.5	18.5	6.2	17.7	...	+ 4.3	+ 6.6	17.5	
Professional Services ...	76,180	56,970	133,150	7.5	4.0	6.0	0.3	0.2	0.2	7.8	4.2	6.2	- 0.5	+ 1.3	+ 2.8	6.2	
Entertainments and Sports ...	60,950	31,660	92,610	24.1	17.9	22.0	0.5	0.5	0.5	24.6	18.4	22.5	- 1.3	+ 1.8	+ 9.0	22.3	
Hotel, Public House, Restaurant, Boarding House, Club, &c., Service	135,810	248,480	384,290	21.7	20.0	20.6	0.2	0.4	0.3	21.9	20.4	20.9	- 1.3	+ 2.7	+ 9.0	20.9	
Laundries, Dyeing and Dry Cleaning	31,310	117,670	148,980	10.8	8.8	9.2	0.8	1.7	1.5	11.6	10.5	10.7	- 0.4	+ 1.4	+ 5.5	10.6	
Industries and Services not separately specified ...	106,240	36,790	143,030	41.5	8.2	32.9	1.0	1.8	1.2	42.5	10.0	34.1	- 1.2	+ 5.0	+12.5	33.7	
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	9,187,000	3,583,000	12,770,000	19.9	12.0	17.7	3.3	3.0	3.2	23.2	15.0	20.9	- 0.5	+ 0.7	+ 9.8	20.8	

## NUMBERS OF INSURED WORKPEOPLE UNEMPLOYED.

## PROPORTIONS IN VARIOUS INDUSTRY GROUPS.

In the following Table the numbers of insured workpeople recorded as unemployed in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 21st December, 1931, are analysed so as to show the proportion of the total unemployed classified as belonging to various industry groups :—

Industry Group.	Males.				Females.			
	Number Wholly Unemployed.	Percentage of Total.	Number Temporarily Stopped.	Percentage of Total.	Number Wholly Unemployed.	Percentage of Total.	Number Temporarily Stopped.	Percentage of Total.
Fishing ...	7,292	0.4	188	0.1	236	0.1	260	0.2
Mining ...	221,163	12.1	64,842	21.6	1,353	0.3	186	0.2
<b>Non-Metalliferous</b>								
Mining Products	10,293	0.6	1,871	0.6	347	0.1	30	0.0
Brick, Tile, etc. ...	13,032	0.7	2,644	0.9	1,577	0.4	322	0.3
Pottery ...	5,591	0.3	6,337	2.1	7,735	1.8	11,600	10.8
Glass Trades ...	6,925	0.4	1,673	0.6	1,243	0.3	103	0.1
Chemicals, etc. ...	24,447	1.3	2,255	0.7	5,142	1.2	397	0.4
Metal Manufacture	68,405	3.7	52,142	17.3	2,212	0.5	745	0.7
Engineering ...	155,673	8.5	41,531	13.8	7,192	1.7	1,260	1.2
Vehicles ...	52,214	2.9	14,791	4.9	3,478	0.8	822	0.8
<b>Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing</b>	112,227	6.1	4,462	1.5	611	0.1	110	0.1
Metal Trades ...	62,251	3.4	19,059	6.3	26,327	6.1	4,856	4.5
Textile Trades ...	82,700	4.5	36,825	12.2	134,355	31.1	45,519	42.5
Leather ...	6,014	0.3	1,254	0.4	2,826	0.7	669	0.6
Boots, Shoes, Slippers and Clogs	10,352	0.6	8,443	2.8	3,935	0.9	4,139	3.9
Clothing Trades ...	17,149	0.9	3,440	1.1	33,271	7.7	18,736	17.5
Food, Drink and Tobacco	39,627	2.2	2,573	0.9	30,698	7.1	4,563	4.3
<b>Sawmilling, Furniture and Woodwork ...</b>	33,995	1.9	3,354	1.1	3,701	0.9	640	0.6
Printing and Paper	24,695	1.3	2,137	0.7	13,884	3.2	2,277	2.1
<b>Building and Public Works Contracting ...</b>	329,136	18.0	12,410	4.1	566	0.1	24	0.0
<b>Other Manufacturing Industries ...</b>	15,882	0.9	3,305	1.1	7,246	1.7	1,675	1.6
<b>Gas, Water and Electricity Supply Industries ...</b>	16,298	0.9	618	0.2	309	0.1	26	0.0
<b>Transport and Communication</b>	184,735	10.1	4,775	1.6	3,627	0.8	179	0.2
<b>Distributive Trades</b>	154,487	8.4	5,669	1.9	63,106	14.6	4,074	3.8
<b>Commerce, Banking, etc. ...</b>	11,812	0.6	197	0.1	2,473	0.6	28	0.0
<b>Miscellaneous ...</b>	164,939	9.0	4,214	1.4	73,916	17.1	3,868	3.6
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	1,831,334	100.0	301,009	100.0	431,366	100.0	107,108	100.0

## PRINCIPAL VARIATIONS IN NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED.

The following Table indicates for Great Britain and Northern Ireland the industries in which the numbers of insured persons recorded as unemployed at 21st December, 1931, differed from the figures for 23rd November, 1931, to the extent of 1,000 or more :—

Industry.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers recorded as Unemployed at 21st Dec., 1931, as compared with 23rd Nov., 1931.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Coal Mining ...	- 26,669	- 100	- 26,769
Distributive Trades ...	- 3,864	- 8,973	- 12,837
Cotton ...	- 1,553	- 8,968	- 10,521
Hotel, Public House, Restaurant, Boarding House, Club, etc., Service ...	- 1,230	- 3,646	- 4,876
General Engineering, Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding ...	- 4,116	- 535	- 4,651
Textile Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc. ...	- 3,325	- 696	- 4,021
Dock, Harbour, River and Canal Service ...	- 3,241	- 28	- 3,269
Woolen and Worsted ...	- 1,036	- 2,143	- 3,179
Tailoring ...	+ 78	- 2,513	- 2,435
Linen ...	- 350	- 1,706	- 2,056
Metal Industries not separately specified ...	- 790	- 763	- 1,553
Brass, Copper, Zinc, Tin, Lead, etc. ...	- 1,256	- 32	- 1,288
Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft	- 1,148	- 87	- 1,235
Hand Tools, Cutlery, Saws, Files ...	- 1,158	- 57	- 1,215
Entertainments and Sports ...	- 360	- 854	- 1,214
Bread, Biscuits, Cakes, etc. ...	- 616	- 494	- 1,110
Road Transport not separately specified ...	- 1,060	+ 21	- 1,039
Glass Bottles ...	- 478	- 551	- 1,029
<b>Stove, Grate, Pipe, etc., and General Iron Founding ...</b>	+ 1,175	+ 136	+ 1,311
<b>Food Industries not separately specified ...</b>	+ 853	+ 470	+ 1,323
Slate Quarrying and Mining ...	+ 1,713	+ 1	+ 1,714
Fishing ...	+ 1,307	+ 412	+ 1,719
Tin Plates ...	+ 2,193	+ 17	+ 2,210
Boots, Shoes, Slippers and Clogs ...	+ 2,622	+ 1,260	+ 3,882
Pottery, Earthenware, etc. ...	+ 2,254	+ 5,524	+ 7,778
Building ...	+ 14,054	- 38	+ 14,016
<b>Net Variation for above Industries</b>	- 26,001	- 24,343	- 50,344
<b>Total Net Variation for all Insured Industries ...</b>	- 34,524	- 29,513	- 64,037



## COMPOSITION OF UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

ON page 22 an explanation is given of the unemployment statistics published in the Press, and monthly in this GAZETTE. The following Table gives an analysis relating to the 21st December, 1931, of the composition of these statistics. Lines 1 to 4 make up the number of persons on the register; while, by omitting the uninsured persons (line 4) and including lines 5 and 6, the number of books lodged, or, in other words, the number of insured persons recorded as unemployed, is obtained:—

	Men.	Boys.	Women.	Girls.	Total.
1. Claims admitted ...	1,790,863	21,315	284,659	9,980	2,106,817
2. Claims under consideration ...	47,339	1,646	11,961	1,183	62,129
3. Insured persons not entitled to benefit or transitional payments ...	135,258	13,075	79,031	7,742	235,088
4. Uninsured persons on Register ...	32,350	23,747	27,689	22,101	105,887
5. Two months' file ...	63,466	4,497	120,518	4,292	192,773
6. Unemployed—Special Schemes ...	4,565	23	572	25	5,185
Persons on Register (lines 1-4) ...	2,005,810	59,783	403,340	40,988	2,509,921
Books Lodged (lines 1-3, 5 and 6) ...	2,041,491	40,556	496,741	23,204	2,601,992

## NUMBERS ON THE REGISTERS OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.\*

Date.	Great Britain.					Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
	Men.	Boys.	Women.	Girls.	Total.	
30th Nov. 1931 ...	2,065,002	65,448	445,227	46,350	2,622,027	2,687,833
7th Dec. 1931 ...	2,081,633	64,650	436,249	44,792	2,627,324	2,693,171
14th " " ...	2,045,636	61,784	422,321	42,861	2,572,602	2,636,737
21st " " ...	2,005,810	59,783	403,340	40,988	2,509,921	2,573,552
Average (3 weeks)...	2,044,360	62,072	420,637	42,880	2,569,949	2,634,487

### Analysis of figures for 21st December, 1931.

—	21st December, 1931.				30th Nov., 1931.
	Persons normally in Regular Employment.		Persons normally in Casual Employment.	Total.	Total.
	Wholly Unemployed.	Temporarily Stopped.			
Great Britain.					
Men ...	1,611,749	291,723	102,338	2,005,810	2,065,002
Boys ...	52,206	7,407	170	59,783	65,448
Women ...	302,919	98,913	1,508	403,340	445,227
Girls ...	35,590	5,389	9	40,988	46,350
Total ...	2,002,464	403,432	104,025	2,509,921	2,622,027
Great Britain and Northern Ireland.					
Men ...	1,653,933	293,744	104,674	2,052,351	2,112,987
Boys ...	53,249	7,427	172	60,848	66,555
Women ...	315,604	101,695	1,511	418,810	461,399
Girls ...	36,058	5,476	9	41,543	46,892
Total ...	2,058,844	408,342	106,366	2,573,552	2,687,833

## VACANCIES NOTIFIED AND FILLED. (Great Britain and Northern Ireland.)

	Period 30th December, 1930, to 7th December, 1931.			Period 27th October, 1931, to 7th December, 1931.		
	Applications from Employers.	Vacancies Filled.†		Applications from Employers.	Vacancies Filled.†	Per cent. of Vacancies notified.
		Number.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a year before.		Number.	
Men ...	1,202,814	1,157,328	+ 171,009	138,899	137,580	99.1
Boys ...	170,800	149,017	- 4,926	21,028	18,596	88.4
Women ...	499,412	419,435	+ 40,920	52,836	45,357	85.8
Girls ...	167,929	144,386	+ 4,378	21,902	19,126	87.3
TOTAL	2,040,955	1,870,166	+ 211,381	234,665	220,659	94.0

\* The term "Employment Exchange" as used in this connection includes Ministry of Labour Employment Exchanges and Branch Employment Offices and also Juvenile Employment Bureaux under the control of Local Education Authorities, which are exercising powers under Sec. 107 of the Education Act, 1921, and Sec. 6 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1923.  
† "Vacancies Filled" include certain types of cases (described as Class B placings) in which the work of the Exchanges was limited; for instance, obtaining for an employer former employees or placing the same men in relief work in alternate weeks. During the five weeks ended 7th December, 1931, the average number of such placings of men and women was 6,038 per week.

## NUMBERS ON THE REGISTERS IN THE PRINCIPAL TOWNS.

THE following Table shows for each of the Employment Exchange administrative areas in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and for the principal towns therein, the number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges on 21st December, 1931. In certain cases (e.g., Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield, Liverpool, Glasgow, etc.) the figures cover more than one Exchange area.

Area.	Number of Persons on Register at 21st December, 1931.				Inc. (+) Dec. (-) in total as compared with	
	Men.	Women.	Juven-iles.	Total.	30th Nov., 1931.	22nd Dec., 1930.
London Division ...	228,794	46,034	8,936	283,764	- 15,361	+ 70,700
South-Eastern Division ...	114,523	16,840	6,211	137,574	+ 177	+ 34,513
Brighton ...	4,002	864	254	5,120	- 740	+ 1,397
Chatham ...	5,300	663	625	6,588	- 494	+ 1,964
Ipswich ...	3,660	310	212	4,182	- 46	+ 971
Norwich ...	5,519	1,353	216	7,088	+ 439	+ 40
Rest of Division ...	96,042	13,650	4,904	114,596	+ 1,018	+ 30,141
South-Western Division ...	123,052	16,508	6,112	145,672	- 3,086	+ 30,252
Bristol ...	19,507	3,922	1,252	24,681	+ 752	+ 1,922
Plymouth ...	7,683	1,420	403	9,506	- 659	+ 1,497
Portsmouth ...	8,305	926	746	9,977	- 1,223	+ 2,048
Reading ...	2,657	405	271	3,333	- 134	+ 1,148
Southampton ...	11,595	959	591	13,145	- 781	+ 3,874
Swindon ...	2,405	291	135	2,831	- 149	+ 1,710
Rest of Division ...	70,900	8,585	2,714	82,199	- 892	+ 18,053
Midlands Division ...	262,208	66,520	10,370	339,098	- 9,060	+ 217
Birmingham ...	44,731	11,680	1,259	57,670	- 3,584	+ 5,489
Coventry ...	9,835	1,938	326	12,099	+ 729	+ 1,260
Cradley Heath ...	6,641	1,201	193	8,035	- 609	- 291
Derby ...	6,721	1,026	356	8,103	- 357	+ 2,022
Leicester ...	8,250	2,567	73	10,890	+ 624	+ 3,916
Northampton ...	5,763	1,792	369	7,924	+ 876	+ 120
Nottingham ...	12,534	1,890	375	14,799	- 1,531	+ 1,597
Smethwick ...	4,979	1,175	96	6,250	+ 23	+ 1,686
Stoke-on-Trent ...	21,134	15,733	1,505	38,372	+ 3,499	- 605
Walsall ...	6,753	1,472	311	8,536	- 647	- 598
West Bromwich ...	4,105	789	160	5,054	- 391	+ 267
Wolverhampton ...	10,953	1,713	300	12,966	- 1,147	+ 507
Rest of Division ...	119,809	23,544	5,047	148,400	- 6,545	+ 3,289
North-Eastern Division ...	439,380	53,391	21,714	514,485	- 24,179	+ 14,737
Barnsley ...	8,079	676	194	8,949	- 625	+ 1,292
Bradford ...	15,019	3,808	345	19,172	- 2,551	+ 10,269
Darlington ...	5,507	344	413	6,264	- 112	+ 1,596
Dewsbury ...	2,343	1,064	262	3,669	- 195	+ 1,888
Doncaster ...	5,451	524	506	6,481	- 3,482	- 1,777
Gateshead ...	10,927	1,482	777	13,186	- 127	+ 1,123
Grimsby ...	4,589	589	298	5,476	- 150	+ 553
Halifax ...	4,577	1,311	85	5,973	- 249	+ 2,727
Hartlepool ...	10,498	522	584	11,604	- 388	+ 52
Huddersfield ...	5,436	2,117	306	7,859	- 1,179	+ 3,858
Hull ...	16,081	1,517	566	18,164	+ 75	+ 2,794
Leeds ...	25,136	6,882	745	32,763	- 3,217	+ 1,912
Lincoln ...	4,756	480	333	5,569	+ 69	+ 960
Middlesbrough ...	18,415	1,053	1,077	20,545	+ 56	+ 660
Newcastle-on-Tyne ...	24,157	3,247	1,525	28,929	- 674	+ 5,541
Rotherham ...	8,035	573	466	9,074	+ 476	- 1,018
Sheffield ...	43,545	6,130	2,059	51,734	- 2,620	+ 2,498
South Shields ...	12,241	591	814	13,646	- 558	+ 1,776
Stockton-on-Tees ...	11,606	638	682	12,926	+ 81	+ 2,230
Sunderland ...	21,953	1,781	995	24,729	- 293	+ 3,372
Wakefield ...	3,948	678	136	4,762	- 681	+ 555
York ...	3,998	368	193	4,559	- 236	+ 299
Rest of Division ...	173,083	17,016	8,353	198,452	- 7,599	+ 13,995
North-Western Division ...	376,574	137,836	21,349	535,759	- 35,642	- 105,507
Accrington ...	6,305	4,159	390	10,854	- 682	+ 3,327
Ashton-under-Lyne ...	5,414	2,641	292	8,347	- 1,019	+ 5,316
Barrow ...	6,367	595	526	7,488	+ 465	+ 1,026
Birkenhead ...	9,888	1,050	818	11,756	- 368	+ 931
Blackburn ...	10,364	12,850	594	23,808	- 1,617	+ 5,014
Blackpool ...	5,012	2,236	301	7,549	- 663	+ 570
Bolton ...	11,698	5,472	479	17,649	- 1,046	+ 8,124
Burnley ...	5,876	6,271	358	12,505	- 787	+ 7,771
Bury ...	3,155	2,580	128	5,863	- 827	+ 1,554
Chorley ...	3,537	1,485	181	5,203	- 955	+ 2,714
Liverpool ...	77,547	11,642	4,637	93,826	- 2,580	+ 9,226
Manchester ...	44,630	14,473	1,941	61,044	- 4,397	+ 4,090
Nelson ...	2,714	2,373	131	5,218	- 285	+ 5,818
Oldham ...	15,465	7,112	500	23,077	- 1,148	+ 23,846
Preston ...	7,321	4,048	280	11,649	- 1,178	+ 2,654
Rochdale ...	6,233	3,832	265	10,330	+ 137	+ 6,204
St. Helens ...	8,254	690	428	9,372	- 878	+ 2,174
Salford ...	16,323	5,047	841	22,211	- 1,847	+ 2,627
Stockport ...	5,397	2,139	290	7,826	- 804	+ 4,850
Warrington ...	4,382	1,042	440	5,864	- 527	+ 1,430
Wigan ...	9,652	2,162	456	12,270	- 1,676	+ 561
Rest of Division ...	111,040	43,937	7,073	162,050	- 12,960	+ 33,634
Scotland Division ...	284,955	56,436	17,758	359,149	- 10,157	+ 49,234
Aberdeen ...	8,175	1,309	624	10,108	- 131	+ 2,344
Clydebank ...	10,137	1,001	664	11,802	+ 1,732	+ 2,211
Dundee ...	11,980	9,221	760	21,961	- 1,243	+ 679
Edinburgh ...	17,569	3,291	825	21,685	- 1,567	+ 1,460
Glasgow ...	96,793	17,531	6,124	120,448	- 4,606	+ 16,140
Greenock ...	13,249	1,968	1,026	16,243	- 438	+ 5,052
Motherwell ...	8,208	603	513	9,324	- 174	+ 2,700
Paisley ...	6,115	1,117	497	7,729	- 279	+ 1,782
Rest of Division ...	112,729	20,395	6,725	139,849	- 3,451	+ 18,224
Wales Division ...	176,324	9,775	8,321	194,420	- 14,798	+ 7,504
Cardiff ...	14,604	2,185	1,019	17,808	- 596	+ 1,687
Llanelli ...	4,529	232	176	4,937	+ 390	+ 4,650
Newport ...	8,838	550	480	9,868	- 836	+ 145
Swansea ...	11,167	878	834	12,879	- 568	+ 1,813
Rest of Division ...	137,186	5,930	5,812	148,928	- 13,188	+ 8,509
Northern Ireland ...	46,541	15,470	1,620	63,631	- 2,175	+ 22,840
Belfast ...	28,704	7,822	1,047	37,573	- 2,215	+ 11,760
Londonderry ...	2,309	909	69	3,287	- 222	+ 672
Lurgan ...	936	1,339	49	2,324	+ 93	+ 1,096
Lisburn ...	1,200	364	46	1,610	- 75	+ 1,292
Newry ...	1,204	159	20	1,383	- 42	+ 1,453
Rest of Northern Ireland ...	12,188	4,877	389	17,454	+ 286	+ 6,567
Great Britain and Northern Ireland ...	2,052,351	418,810	102,391	2,573,552	- 114,281	+ 78,710

[Percentage rates of unemployment for each of 700 towns in Great Britain are given in the monthly "Local Unemployment Index."]



## JUVENILE UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS.

NUMBERS OF JUVENILES AGED 14 AND UNDER 18 ON THE REGISTERS OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES AND JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX AT 21ST DECEMBER, 1931.

Division.	Boys.			Girls.		
	Insured 16 and under 18.	Uninsured 14 and under 18.	Total.	Insured 16 and under 18.	Uninsured 14 and under 18.	Total.
London ...	3,353	2,043	5,396	1,835	1,705	3,540
South-Eastern ...	2,057	1,372	3,429	1,266	1,516	2,782
South-Western ...	1,999	1,471	3,470	1,221	1,421	2,642
Midlands ...	4,306	1,657	5,963	2,846	1,561	4,407
North-Eastern ...	7,909	5,282	13,191	3,303	5,220	8,523
North-Western ...	7,096	5,493	12,589	4,247	4,513	8,760
Scotland ...	6,362	4,239	10,601	3,414	3,743	7,157
Wales ...	2,954	2,190	5,144	755	2,422	3,177
Great Britain ...	36,036	23,747	59,783	18,887	22,101	40,988

JUVENILES PLACED IN EMPLOYMENT. FIVE WEEKS ENDED 7TH DECEMBER, 1931.

Division.	Number of Vacancies Filled.			Juveniles placed in first situation since leaving School.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
South-Eastern ...	5,911	5,435	11,346	1,040	921	1,961
South-Western ...	1,031	1,037	2,118	252	263	515
Midlands ...	1,992	1,775	3,767	537	476	1,013
North-Eastern ...	2,100	2,254	4,354	632	714	1,346
North-Western ...	2,681	3,240	5,921	1,022	1,124	2,146
Scotland ...	969	1,283	2,252	234	319	553
Wales ...	445	379	824	129	158	287
Great Britain ...	15,179	15,403	30,582	3,846	3,975	7,821

PERCENTAGE RATES OF UNEMPLOYMENT\* AMONG INSURED JUVENILES AGED 16 AND 17.

Division.	Estimated number insured at July, 1931.		Percentage Unemployed at 21st December, 1931.					
			Boys.			Girls.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Wholly unemployed.	Temporarily stopped.	Total.	Wholly unemployed.	Temporarily stopped.	Total.
London ...	110,260	98,150	3.9	0.0	3.9	2.6	0.1	2.7
South-Eastern ...	48,790	32,960	4.7	0.2	4.9	4.1	0.8	4.9
South-Western ...	43,060	29,640	4.9	0.4	5.3	4.5	0.9	5.4
Midlands ...	88,610	73,940	3.2	2.0	5.2	1.9	2.4	4.3
North-Eastern ...	99,650	60,060	7.0	1.7	8.7	5.3	1.6	6.9
North-Western ...	87,870	78,960	7.2	1.9	9.1	4.5	1.7	6.2
Scotland ...	64,260	51,570	9.6	1.4	11.0	6.7	1.2	7.9
Wales ...	32,500	9,720	6.4	3.5	9.9	8.9	1.1	10.0
Special Schemes...	4,000	3,000	0.6	—	0.6	0.8	—	0.8
Great Britain ...	579,000	438,000	5.7	1.3	7.0	4.1	1.2	5.3

JUVENILES IN ATTENDANCE AT APPROVED COURSES OF INSTRUCTION.

Division.	Average daily attendance, week ended 16th December, 1931.								Total No. of separate Individuals who have attended since 1st April, 1931.		
	Junior Instruction Centres and Classes.						Existing Educa- tional Institu- tions (claim- ants).†				
	Claimants.		Non- claimants.		Total.						
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.			Boys.	Girls.	J.I. Centres and Classes.
London ...	600	176	1	...	601	176	...	...	10,023	...	
S. Eastern	438	162	16	10	454	172	459	204	3,369	1,579	
S. Western	374	149	40	22	414	171	172	88	3,501	1,462	
Midlands	992	309	56	10	1,048	319	647	276	10,547	977	
N. Eastern	2,728	451	1,110	44	3,838	495	284	255	23,251	1,104	
N. Western	2,335	1,095	309	233	2,644	1,328	267	139	30,443	749	
Scotland	2,048	841	659	145	2,707	986	454	243	18,742	1,470	
Wales ...	1,050	79	1,114	231	2,164	310	152	114	10,153	326	
Great Britain	10,565	3,262	3,305	695	13,870	3,957	2,435	1,319	110,029	7,667	

There were 76 Junior Instruction Centres for boys, 26 for girls and 30 mixed Centres open in Great Britain during the week. In addition there were 19 Junior Instruction Classes for boys, 8 for girls and 4 mixed Classes. The number of other Institutions to which unemployed juveniles were admitted was 142 for boys, 112 for girls, 301 mixed. The attendances at these institutions are mainly in the evening.

\* Based on the numbers of Juvenile Unemployment Books lodged at Local Offices, which exceed the numbers of insured juveniles on the Register.  
† The figures relate to the period of three weeks ended 16th December, 1931.

## DETERMINATION OF CLAIMS TO UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT IN GREAT BRITAIN.

10TH NOVEMBER TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1931.

THE following Table gives, for the period from 10th November to 31st December, 1931, inclusive, the number of claims to benefit made at local offices in Great Britain, the average number of claims current during that period, an analysis of the decisions of Courts of Referees and of the Umpire, the number of cases disallowed by Insurance Officers under the trade dispute disqualification, and of the appeals against such disallowances dealt with by Courts of Referees.

### A.—Number of Claims.

	Men.	Women.	Juveniles.	Total.
Fresh and renewal claims made ...	882,709	206,342	37,309	1,126,360
Average number of claims current	1,967,342	368,378	41,115	2,376,835

### B.—Decisions of Courts of Referees.

Ground on which referred.	Benefit Allowed.	Benefit Disallowed.	Total.
First Statutory Condition (applies to juveniles only) ...	36	1,119	1,155
Less than 8 contributions paid in past 2 years and less than 30 contributions paid at any time (Sec. 14 (2), U.I. Act, 1927) ...	145	449	594
Men ...	46	155	201
Women ...	...	...	...
Total ...	191	604	795
Not normally insurable and/or will not normally seek to obtain livelihood by means of insurable employment ...	10,044	24,456	34,500
Men ...	3,347	9,494	12,841
Women ...	...	...	...
Total ...	13,391	33,950	47,341
Anomalies Regulations*			
Class (b). Seasonal workers ...	2,273	5,316	7,589
Men ...	2,185	7,759	9,944
Women ...	73	125	198
NOTE:—There were no cases under Class (a).			
Total ...	4,531	13,200	17,731
Class (c). Persons normally employed for not more than two days in the week ...	279	832	1,111
Men ...	186	638	824
Women ...	8	27	35
Juveniles ...	...	...	...
Total ...	473	1,497	1,970
Class (d) Married Women ...	14,291	61,688	75,979
Employment left voluntarily without just cause ...	2,585	4,195	6,780
Men ...	1,925	4,205	6,130
Women ...	348	927	1,275
Juveniles ...	...	...	...
Total ...	4,858	9,327	14,185
Employment lost through misconduct ...	2,574	4,025	6,599
Men ...	1,130	1,642	2,772
Women ...	337	919	1,256
Juveniles ...	...	...	...
Total ...	4,041	6,586	10,627
Failure or refusal to apply for or accept suitable employment, or failure to carry out written directions... ...	374	1,087	1,461
Men ...	764	3,515	4,279
Women ...	96	549	645
Juveniles ...	...	...	...
Total ...	1,234	5,151	6,385
Not unemployed ...	829	4,153	4,982
Men ...	173	1,193	1,366
Women ...	20	248	268
Juveniles ...	...	...	...
Total ...	1,022	5,594	6,616
Not capable of work, or not available for work ...	318	846	1,164
Men ...	382	1,633	2,015
Women ...	19	113	132
Juveniles ...	...	...	...
Total ...	719	2,592	3,311
Other grounds ...	633	4,018	4,651
Men ...	190	1,110	1,300
Women ...	188	1,298	1,486
Juveniles ...	...	...	...
Total ...	1,011	6,426	7,437
Total ...	20,054	49,377	69,431
Men ...	24,619	93,032	117,651
Women ...	1,125	5,325	6,450
Juveniles ...	...	...	...
Grand Total ...	45,798	147,734	193,532

\* Class (a). Persons who habitually work for less than a full week, and by the practice of the trade in which they are employed nevertheless receive earnings or similar payments of an amount greater than the normal earnings for a full week of persons following the same occupation in the same district;

Class (b). Persons whose normal employment is employment for portions of the year only in occupations which are of a seasonal nature;

Class (c). Persons whose normal employment is employment in an occupation in which their services are not normally required for more than two days in the week or who owing to personal circumstances are not normally employed for more than two days in the week;

Class (d). Married women who, since marriage or in any prescribed period subsequent to marriage, have had less than the prescribed number of contributions paid in respect of them. This class does not include married women whose husbands are incapacitated from work or are unemployed and not in receipt of benefit.



## C.—Trade Dispute\* Cases.

	Benefit Allowed.	Benefit Dis-allowed.	Total.
Cases dealt with by Insurance Officers ...	177	262	439
Appeals against disallowances by Insurance Officers dealt with by Courts of Referees ...	Men ... 57 Women ... 4 Juveniles ...	81 24 2	138 28 2
Total Appeals ...	61	107	168

## D.—Decisions by Umpire.\*

	Benefit Allowed.	Benefit Dis-allowed.	Total.
Appeals by Insurance Officers ...	Men ... 167 Women ... 200 Juveniles ... 4	346 365 7	513 565 11
Total ...	371	718	1,089
Appeals by Associations ...	Men ... 106 Women ... 18 Juveniles ...	286 119 3	392 137 3
Total ...	124	408	532
Appeals by Claimants ...	Men ... 129 Women ... 91 Juveniles ... 3	596 353 9	725 444 12
Total ...	223	958	1,181
Total ...	Men ... 402 Women ... 309 Juveniles ... 7	1,228 837 19	1,630 1,146 26
Grand Total ...	718	2,084	2,802

## UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.

The following Table shows approximately the receipts and payments and the liabilities of the Fund:—

	Four weeks ended 26th December, 1931.	Four weeks ended 28th November, 1931.	Four weeks ended 27th December, 1930.
<b>I. Insurance Account.</b>	£	£	£
Contributions received from:—			
Employers ...	1,405,000	1,615,000	1,095,000
Employed persons ...	1,370,000	1,580,000	940,000
Exchequer ("Equal thirds") ...	1,395,000	1,590,000	1,020,000
Total Receipts ...	4,170,000	4,785,000	3,055,000
Insurance Benefit ...	4,615,000	5,655,000	6,060,000
Cost of Administration ...	390,000	415,000	420,000
Interest accrued on Treasury Advances ...	400,000	395,000	215,000
Other Items ...	5,000	...	5,000
Total Expenditure ...	5,410,000	6,465,000	6,700,000
Treasury Advances outstanding ...	110,320,000	109,470,000	59,990,000
Other Liabilities (net), including accrued interest and deposits ...	1,330,000	940,000	780,000
<b>II. Transitional Payments Account.</b>			
Transitional Payments and Cost of Administration thereof† ...	3,175,000	2,715,000	1,720,000

A detailed account of the Fund is presented to Parliament annually. (See House of Commons Paper No. 25 of 1931 for the period ended 31st March, 1930.)

## INSURED UNEMPLOYED.

## POSITION UNDER PROVISIONS AS TO INSURANCE BENEFIT AND TRANSITIONAL PAYMENTS.

The following Table gives an analysis of the numbers of insured persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain at 21st December, 1931, relative to their position with regard to their title to Insurance Benefit and the provisions of the Unemployment Insurance (National Economy) (No. 2) Order, 1931, which deals with Transitional Payments.

The First Statutory Condition requires the payment of not less than 30 contributions in the preceding two years. In cases where

\* The decisions on trade dispute disallowances refer largely to test cases. The total number of individuals affected by such decisions may be considerably in excess of the figures shown in the Table.  
† The cost of transitional payments (including their administration) is repaid in full to the Fund by the Exchequer. The figure given in this line for the corresponding period of last year relates to transitional benefit (including administration).

this condition is satisfied, insured persons may receive insurance benefit, subject to the fulfilment of the statutory conditions, for not more than 156 days in a benefit year; but in cases where 156 days' benefit have been drawn in a benefit year ending on or after the 12th November, 1931, insurance benefit does not become payable until 10 contributions have been paid after the 156th day of benefit. In cases where 156 days of benefit have been received in a benefit year, or where the 10 contributions rule is not satisfied, and in all cases in which the First Statutory Condition is not fulfilled, adults, but not boys and girls, may make application for Transitional Payments, and if the special transitional conditions are fulfilled, all such applications are referred to Public Assistance Committees for determination of the amount of payment to be made having regard to the needs of the applicant.

In item 4 the term "insured non-claimants" includes all those adults on the register whose claims had been disallowed on the ground that they were not normally insurable and would not normally seek to obtain a livelihood by means of insurable employment, together with those who had not made claims for insurance benefit or transitional payments.

The Table shows that of the 1,579,399 wholly unemployed insured men on the Register at 21st December, 1931, there were 792,744 with claims to insurance benefit, and 689,059 with applications for transitional payments, while 97,596 were either not entitled to benefit or payments or had claims under consideration.

The corresponding figures for the 291,723 men temporarily stopped were 249,614, 26,211 and 15,898 respectively. Among the 275,230 wholly unemployed insured women, 127,273 had claims for insurance benefit, 88,586 were applicants for transitional payments and 59,371 were either not entitled to benefit or payments or had claims under consideration. The corresponding figures for the 98,913 women temporarily stopped were 84,767, 8,960 and 5,186 respectively.

## ADULTS.

	Section of Register.	Men.	Women.
1. Claims for Insurance Benefit	Wholly Unemployed Temporarily Stopped Casuals ...	792,744 249,614 74,348	127,273 84,767 1,216
Total ...		1,116,706	213,256
2. Applications for Transitional Payments.	Wholly Unemployed Temporarily Stopped Casuals ...	689,059 26,211 26,952	88,586 8,960 276
Total ...		742,222	97,822
3. Total applications for Transitional Payments:—			
(a) Authorised for payment ...		683,442	78,831
(b) Needs of applicants held by Local Authorities not to justify payment ...		58,780	18,991
Total ...		742,222	97,822
4. Insured Non-claimants ...	Wholly Unemployed	67,193	52,612
5. Position under First Statutory Condition not determined.	Wholly Unemployed Temporarily Stopped Casuals ...	30,403 15,898 1,038	6,759 5,186 16
Total ...		47,339	11,961
6. Total Insured Adults on Register.	Wholly Unemployed Temporarily Stopped Casuals ...	1,579,399 291,723 102,338	275,230 98,913 1,508
Total ...		1,973,460	375,651

## JUVENILES.

	Section of Register.	Boys.	Girls.
1. Claims for Insurance Benefit	Wholly Unemployed Temporarily Stopped Casuals ...	15,384 6,589 163	5,658 4,621 7
Total ...		22,136	10,286
2. Not entitled to Insurance Benefit:—			
(a) First Statutory Condition not satisfied ...		10,782	7,058
(b) First Statutory Condition satisfied ...		1,472	360
Total ...		12,254	7,418
3. Position under First Statutory Condition not determined.	Wholly Unemployed Temporarily Stopped Casuals ...	880 766 ...	432 749 2
Total ...		1,646	1,183
4. Total Insured Juveniles on Register.	Wholly Unemployed Temporarily Stopped Casuals ...	28,459 7,407 170	13,489 5,389 9
Total ...		36,036	18,887



## EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—The following paragraphs include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment abroad, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in the various countries are, however, not the same as those of the statistics relating to this country: and therefore the figures quoted below cannot properly be used with those on pp. 13-14 to compare the actual level of employment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland with that of other countries.]

## GERMANY.\*

Unemployment continued to increase during November, largely owing to seasonal causes.

The total number of persons reported by the Employment Exchanges as available for and seeking work, at the end of November, 1931, was 5,153,837 as compared with 4,722,801 at the end of October, 1931 and 3,763,408 at the end of November, 1930. At 31st December, 1931, the total was 5,745,726 (provisional figure).

The total number of persons reported by the Employment Exchanges as unemployed was 5,059,773 at the end of November, 1931, 4,623,480 at the end of October, 1931, and 3,698,946 at the end of November, 1930. At 31st December, 1931, the provisional total was 5,665,669.

On the last day of November, 1931, 1,365,532 persons were in receipt of standard unemployment benefit, and 1,406,453 in receipt of emergency benefit, giving a total of 2,771,985 as compared with 2,534,952 at the end of October, 1931, and 2,353,980 at the end of November, 1930. The number in receipt of standard and emergency benefit at 31st December, 1931, was 3,147,612 (provisional figure).

Among members of trade unions for which statistics are available 38.9 per cent. were unemployed at 28th November, 1931, as compared with 36.6 at 31st October, 1931, and 26.0 at 29th November, 1930. In addition 21.8 per cent. were working short time, as compared with 22.0 per cent. at the end of October, 1931, and 16.1 per cent. at the end of November, 1930. The following Table gives particulars for various groups of trade unions included:—

Groups of Trade Unions.	Membership reported on at end of November, 1931.	Percentage Wholly Unemployed and on Short Time at end of month.			
		Wholly Unemployed.		On Short Time.	
		Nov., 1931.	Oct., 1931.	Nov., 1931.	Oct., 1931.
Mining ... ..	154,300	15.7	15.0	29.9	27.4
Quarrying, stone, brick, pottery, etc.:—					
Workers subject to seasonal influences ...	120,800	70.0	62.9	6.9	8.3
Other workers ... ..	83,000	40.0	38.8	17.0	18.5
Engineering and metal ...	904,700	37.3	35.2	30.7	30.3
Chemical ... ..	104,700	29.1	27.1	33.7	35.4
Textile ... ..	313,700	25.6	24.4	38.3	41.5
Paper ... ..	108,100	27.5	27.2	28.7	33.3
Leather ... ..	53,500	37.6	36.3	21.2	21.3
Wood ... ..	278,600	53.4	51.9	11.4	11.0
Food, tobacco, etc. ...	268,900	24.9	23.9	31.5	32.2
Clothing, boots and shoes	144,300	37.4	34.5	29.4	34.1
Building ... ..	590,800	80.2	73.1	1.3	0.5
Printing ... ..	150,400	31.7	32.0	18.1	18.9
Hairdressing ... ..	3,400	23.5	21.3	23.3	24.7
Miscellaneous ... ..	768,700	18.3	17.5	18.4	17.7
All Unions making Returns	4,047,900	38.9	36.6	21.8	22.0

## FRANCE.†

Unemployment showed a considerable increase during December. The total number of persons on the registers of the Employment Exchanges at the end of the last week of December was 186,450 (146,966 men and 39,484 women). At the end of November the corresponding total was 122,824 and at the end of December, 1930, 26,514.

At the beginning of December, the number of persons employed in mining, industrial, transport and commercial undertakings covered by the special official monthly investigation‡ showed a decline of 12.56 per cent. as compared with December, 1930; and the percentage of workpeople in these undertakings on short time to such an extent as to bring their weekly hours below 48 was 45.49, as compared with 6.39 at the beginning of December, 1930. At the later date 21.67 per cent. were working more than 40 and less than 48 hours and 23.82 per cent. 40 hours or less a week.

## BELGIUM.§

Unemployment showed an increase during October. Provisional returns received by the Ministry of Industry, Labour and Social Welfare from 185 unemployment insurance societies, with a total membership of 730,343, show that 11.3 per cent. of these were totally unemployed at the end of the month; in the preceding month the percentage was 10.2 and in October, 1930, 4.3. In addition, 16.8 per cent. of the membership were employed intermittently during the month. In October, 1931, 15.0 per cent. of the aggregate possible working days were lost through unemployment; in the preceding month the percentage was 13.5 and in October, 1930, 6.37.

\* Reichsarbeitsblatt, 25th December, 1931, and Reichsarbeitsmarkt-Anzeiger, 7th January, 1932. Berlin.

† Bulletin du Marché du Travail, 8th January, 1932. Paris.

‡ See the March, 1931, issue of this GAZETTE, page 111.

§ Revue du Travail, November, 1931. Brussels.

## AUSTRIA.\*

Unemployment showed a further increase during November. The total number of persons in receipt of benefit at the end of the month was 273,658 (96,898 in Vienna), as compared with 228,101 (85,388 in Vienna) at the end of October, 1931, and 237,745 (88,441 in Vienna) at the end of November, 1930.

## HOLLAND.†

Unemployment showed an increase during October. According to figures compiled by the State Department of Unemployment Insurance and Employment Exchanges, out of 466,279 members of subsidised unemployment funds making returns for the week ended 31st October, 1931, 13.5 per cent. were unemployed during the whole week and 4.9 per cent. for less than six days. In the corresponding week of the preceding month the percentages were 11.2 and 4.2, and in the last week of October, 1930, 7.4 and 2.5 respectively. At the end of October, 1931, 177,100 applicants for employment were registered at public employment exchanges, of whom 153,100 were actually unemployed.

## ITALY.‡

There was a further increase in the number unemployed during November. According to statistics furnished by the National Social Insurance Fund, 878,267 workpeople were recorded as unemployed at the end of the month, as compared with 799,744 at the end of October, 1931, and 534,356 at the end of November, 1930. In addition, 30,967 persons were partially unemployed at that date, as compared with 32,828 at the end of October and 22,125 at the end of November, 1930.

## SWITZERLAND.§

Unemployment increased during November, partly owing to seasonal causes. At the end of the month 36,920 applications for employment (28.1 per thousand of the employed population according to the census of 1920) were registered at Employment Exchanges, as compared with 27,783 at the end of October, and 18,354 at the end of November, 1930. Offers of situations at the dates mentioned above numbered 1,329, 1,407, and 1,627 respectively.

## SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES.

*Denmark.*||—Returns supplied to the Danish Statistical Department by the Central Employment Exchange and by Unemployment Insurance Funds show that 30.4 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns were unemployed at the end of December, 1931, as compared with 22.1 per cent. at the end of November and 25.1 per cent. at the end of December, 1930.

*Sweden.*¶—The percentage of members of trade unions making returns who were unemployed at 30th November, 1931, was 19.3, as compared with 16.4 at the end of October and 15.3 at the end of November, 1930.

## CZECHOSLOVAKIA.\*\*

Unemployment increased considerably during December. The total number of persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges at the end of the month was 480,000, as compared with 337,000 at the end of November and with 240,000 at the end of December, 1930.

## POLAND.††

Unemployment increased during December. According to the official journal of the Central Statistical Office of Poland, the number of unemployed registered at Employment Exchanges at 26th December, 1931, was 280,600 as compared with 259,600 at the end of November, and 287,300 at the end of December, 1930. At these dates the number of unemployed persons entitled to benefit was 125,100, 91,900 and 105,900 respectively.

## UNITED STATES.‡‡

According to returns received by the Federal Bureau of Labour Statistics, covering 50,200 establishments in 15 principal industrial groups, these establishments employed 4,551,410 workpeople in November, 1931, showing a decrease of 2.4 per cent. as compared with the total employed in the preceding month. During the same period the aggregate earnings in these establishments decreased by 3.7 per cent. If the monthly average index number of employment in manufacturing industries alone in 1926 be taken as 100, the corresponding figure for November, 1931, is 65.4, as compared with 67.3 for October, and 76.5 for November, 1930.

## CANADA.§§

Employment declined during November, largely owing to seasonal causes. Returns were received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from 7,813 firms with an aggregate of 901,854 workpeople on their payrolls at 1st December, 1931, as compared with 937,494 at 1st November. If the average employment of the reporting firms in the year 1926 be represented by 100, the index number of employment for December, 1931, is 99.1, as compared with 103.0 at the beginning of the preceding month and 108.5 at the beginning of December, 1930.

\* Statistische Nachrichten, 27th December, 1931. Vienna.

† Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek. 30th November, 1931. The Hague.

‡ Bollettino Mensile di Statistica, December, 1931. Rome.

§ La Vie Economique, December, 1931. Berne.

|| Statistiske Efterretninger, 6th January, 1932. Copenhagen.

¶ Information supplied by the Department of Social Affairs. Stockholm.

\*\* Prager Tagblatt, 9th January, 1932. Prague.

†† Wiadomości Statystyczne, 5th January, 1932. Warsaw.

‡‡ Trend of Employment and Labour Turnover, November, 1931. Washington.

§§ The December Employment Situation, 1931. Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa.



## TRADE DISPUTES IN DECEMBER.\*

*Number, Magnitude and Duration.*—The number of disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in December in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 16, as compared with 33 in the previous month and 30 in December, 1930. In these new disputes about 3,900 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly (i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes). In addition, about 2,200 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 10 disputes which began before December and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 26, involving about 6,100 workpeople, and resulting in a loss, during December, of about 52,000 working days.

In the following Table is given an analysis of the disputes in progress in December in Great Britain and Northern Ireland:—

Industry Group.	Number of Disputes in progress in Month.			Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in Month.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in Month.
	Started before beginning of Month.	Started in Month.	Total.		
Mining and Quarrying ...	3	1	4	2,100	18,000
Textile ... ..	...	6	6	3,200	26,000
Other ... ..	7	9	16	800	8,000
Total, Dec., 1931 ...	10	16	26	6,100	52,000
Total, Nov., 1931 ...	3	33	36	9,200	42,000
Total, Dec., 1930 ...	20	30	50	99,400	547,000

*Causes.*—Of the 16 disputes beginning in December, 10, directly involving 3,200 workpeople, arose out of wage questions; 4, directly involving 400 workpeople, on questions respecting working hours; and 2, directly involving 300 workpeople, on other questions respecting working arrangements.

*Results.*—Settlements were effected in the case of 10 new disputes, directly involving 900 workpeople, and 6 old disputes, directly involving 1,900 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 5, directly involving 500 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 5, directly involving 1,400 workpeople, were settled in favour of the employers; and 6, directly involving 900 workpeople, were compromised.

### PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING DECEMBER, 1931.

A dispute began on 7th December involving hosiery workers in a Leicestershire factory, and arising out of the proposed introduction of the Bedaux system of work measurement. The stoppage of work extended on 21st December to other hosiery factories in the county belonging to the same employers, a total of 2,400 workpeople being involved. At the time of going to press no settlement of this dispute had been reported.

There were no other disputes involving large numbers of workpeople in December.

### SUMMARY FOR 1931.

An annual review of statistics of disputes in 1931, with comparative statistics for 1930, is given on pages 6 and 7 of this issue.

## ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

THE following statistics relate to assisted passages from Great Britain and Northern Ireland in connection with agreed schemes under the Empire Settlement Act. The figures include both applicants and dependants of applicants to whom assisted passages have been granted. Approvals subsequently cancelled have been excluded. The figures are provisional and subject to revision.

Destination.	1922 to 1930.	1931.					
		Jan. to Aug.†	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total, 1931.
Applications Approved.							
Australia ...	172,620	184	1	38	...	32	255
Canada ...	131,357	1,879	12	11	7	15	1,924
New Zealand ...	45,246	358	3	38	21	...	420
Africa and other parts of Empire	1,159	29	5	4	3	14	55
Total ...	350,382	2,450	21	91	31	61	2,654
Departures.							
Australia ...	171,938	142	14	34	14	11	215
Canada ...	126,426	1,274	2	14	7	...	1,297
New Zealand ...	44,198	348	10	28	27	15	428
Africa and other parts of Empire	978	38	3	5	5	8	59
Total ...	343,540	1,802	29	81	53	34	1,999

\* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration (i.e., number of workpeople multiplied by number of working days, allowing for workpeople replaced by others, etc.) exceeded 100 days.

† Figures for each month separately were given in the issues of this GAZETTE for February to September, 1931. The figures relating to departures in January—August, 1931, have been revised.

## FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

THE number of workpeople, other than seamen, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, reported during December, 1931, as killed in the course of their employment was 149, as compared with 191 in the previous month and with 223\* in December, 1930. Fatal accidents to seamen reported in December, 1931, numbered 33, as compared with 40 in the previous month and with 30 in December, 1930.

RAILWAY SERVICE.		FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS (continued).	
Brakesmen and Goods	2	Locomotives, Railway and Tramway Carriages,	...
Guards ... ..	1	Motors, Aircraft ... ..	4
Engine Drivers and Motor-men ... ..	1	Other Metal Trades ... ..	1
Firemen ... ..	1	Shipbuilding ... ..	1
Guards (Passenger)...	...	Wood ... ..	4
Permanent Way Men ...	4	Gas ... ..	...
Porters ... ..	1	Electric Generating Stations	3
Shunters ... ..	1	Clay, Stone, Glass, etc. ...	6
Mechanics ... ..	1	Chemicals, etc. ... ..	3
Labourers ... ..	...	Food and Drink ... ..	2
Other Grades ... ..	3	Paper, Printing, etc. ...	2
Contractors' Servants ...	...	Tanning, Currying, etc. ...	2
TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE	14	Rubber Trades ... ..	...
MINES.		Other Non-Textile Industries	...
Underground ... ..	59	PLACES UNDER SS. 104-106, FACTORY ACT, 1901.	
Surface ... ..	4	Docks, Wharves, etc. ...	10
TOTAL, MINES ... ..	63	Buildings ... ..	7
QUARRIES over 20 feet deep	4	Warehouses and Railway Sidings ... ..	...
FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.		TOTAL, FACTORY ACTS ...	67
Cotton ... ..	3	USE OR WORKING of Canal...	1
Wool, Worsted and Shoddy	3	Total (excluding Seamen) 149	
Textile Bleaching and Dyeing ... ..	1	SEAMEN.	
Metal Extracting and Refining ... ..	2	Trading Vessels, Sailing ...	1
Metal Conversion, including Rolling Mills and Tube Making ... ..	4	" " Steam ... ..	17
Metal Founding ... ..	...	Fishing Vessels, Steam ...	15
Engineering and Machine Making ... ..	2	TOTAL, SEAMEN ... ..	33
Boiler Making and Constructional Engineering ...	1	Total (including Seamen) 182	

## INDUSTRIAL DISEASES.

The total number of cases† of poisoning, anthrax, and epitheliomatous and chrome ulceration in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported during December, 1931, under the Factory and Workshop Act, or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, was 50; the total number of deaths† reported was 11.

I. Cases.	I. Cases (continued).
(a) LEAD POISONING.	(b) OTHER POISONING.
Among Operatives engaged in—	Aniline ... .. 1
Smelting of Metals ... ..	Toxic Jaundice ... .. 6
Plumbing and Soldering ... ..	TOTAL, OTHER POISONING ... .. 7
Shipbreaking ... .. 1	(c) ANTHRAX ... ..
Printing ... ..	(d) EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCER-
Tinning of Metals ... ..	ATION (SKIN CANCER).
Other Contact with Molten	Pitch ... .. 4
Lead ... ..	Tar ... .. 4
White and Red Lead	Oil ... .. 16
Works ... ..	TOTAL, EPITHELIOMATOUS
Pottery† ... .. 1	ULCERATION ... .. 24
Vitreous Enamelling ... ..	(e) CHROME ULCERATION.
Electric Accumulator	Chromium Plating ... .. 5
Works ... .. 1	
Paint and Colour Works 1	II. Deaths.
Indiarubber Works ... ..	OTHER POISONING.
Coach and Car Painting ... ..	Toxic Jaundice ... .. 2
Shipbuilding ... ..	EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERA-
Paint used in Other	TION (SKIN CANCER).
Industries ... ..	Tar ... .. 2
Other Industries ... ..	Oil ... .. 7
Painting of Buildings ... 10	TOTAL, EPITHELIOMATOUS
TOTAL, LEAD POISONING ... 14	ULCERATION ... .. 9

\* The figures previously published for December, 1930, have been revised. † Cases include all attacks reported during the month, and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding 12 months. Deaths include all fatal cases reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not.

† The person affected in the pottery industry was a male.



## CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN DECEMBER.

## Rates of Wages.

IN the industries covered by the Department's statistics\* the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in December in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate decrease of about £4,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 53,000 workpeople and in an increase of £2,375 in those of 34,500 workpeople. The groups of industries principally affected were as shown below:—

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Estimated Amount of Change in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Mining and Quarrying	12,250	100	£ 375	£ 10
Metal ... ..	18,750	20,750	1,600	990
Clothing ... ..	...	12,000	...	825
Other ... ..	3,500	20,150	400	2,175
Total ... ..	34,500	53,000	2,375	4,000

The principal change in the mining and quarrying group was an increase in the wages of coal miners in Warwickshire, where the percentage addition to basis rates was increased at the majority of the collieries by an amount equivalent to nearly  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on current rates.

The increases in the metal group were mainly due to the operation of cost-of-living sliding scales; among those affected were workpeople employed in chain making, whose wages were advanced by 5 per cent. on list prices, and electrical cable makers, among whom men on time rates received an increase of 1s. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. or 2s. per week, and women an increase of 1s. per week. The decreases in this group mainly affected iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen in the Midlands, whose wages were reduced by the equivalent of nearly 2 per cent. on current rates.

The reductions in the clothing group principally affected workpeople employed in the dyeing and dry cleaning industry, whose wages were reduced, under a cost-of-living sliding scale, by 2s. or 2s. 6d. per week for men and 6d. per week for women, youths and girls under 21 years of age sustaining reductions varying according to age and sex from 6d. to 1s. 6d. per week.

In the other industrial groups workpeople whose wages were reduced included men and boys employed in the paint, colour, and varnish industry in England and Wales, drift net menders (for whom the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts were reduced), and various classes of workpeople employed in the road-vehicle building and wheelwright trades in Scotland. There was an increase in the wages of hosiery workers at Hawick, which took effect under a cost-of-living sliding scale.

Of the total decrease of £4,000 per week, nearly £1,350 took effect under arrangements made by Joint Industrial Councils or other joint standing bodies of employers and workpeople; nearly £1,000 took effect under sliding scales based on selling prices (iron or steel); £825 took effect under cost-of-living sliding scales; £200 was the result of mediation; and the remaining sum was the result of direct negotiation between employers and workpeople, or of independent action by employers.

Of the total increase of £2,375 per week, about £2,000 took effect under cost-of-living sliding scales, including nearly £1,400 under scales arranged by joint standing bodies of employers and workpeople; while the remainder was mainly due to other action by such joint bodies.

## Hours of Labour.

The only important changes in hours of labour reported as taking effect in December were increases in the hours in respect of which the minimum rates fixed under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act, 1924, apply in Norfolk and Wiltshire.

## Changes in Wages and Hours in 1931.

A special article dealing with these changes appears on pages 4 and 5 of this issue of the GAZETTE.

## PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING DECEMBER, 1931.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
Agriculture	Derbyshire ... ..	26 Dec.	Male workers ... ..	Decreases in the minimum rates fixed under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act, 1924, of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour for those 18 years of age and over, the rates for those under 18 remaining unchanged, leaving minimum rates for a week of 54 hours as follows:— 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour at 14, increasing each year to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. at 21 and over.
	Anglesey and Caernarvon.	27 Dec.	Male workers ... ..	Decrease in the minimum rates fixed under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act, 1924, of 1s. per week for those under 21 years of age, the rates for those 21 and over remaining unchanged, leaving minimum rates as follows:—horsemen, cowmen, shepherds, or hwsmyrn (bailiffs) (for a week of 60 hours)—20s. at 15, increasing each year to 35s. at 21 and over; other workers (for a week of 50 hours)—16s. 6d. at under 17, increasing each year to 31s. at 21 and over.
Coal Mining	Warwickshire ... ..	1 Dec.	Workpeople employed in or about coal mines, other than those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries.	Increase of 2 per cent. on basis rates of 1911 at the majority of the collieries, making wages 48 per cent. above basis rates†; also subsistence wage paid to adult able-bodied surface workers increased by $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per day (to 7s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. at the majority of the collieries)‡.
Sandstone Quarrying.	Rossendale and Whithworth Valley.	28 Oct.	Sandstone quarryworkers ... ..	Decrease of 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for quarrymen and masons, and of 1d. per hour for barers and navvies. Rates after change: quarrymen and masons, 1s. 5d. per hour, less 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; barers and navvies, 1s. 1d.
Paint, Colour and Varnish Manufacture.	England and Wales§	1st pay day in Dec.	Male workers ... ..	Decrease of 2s. 6d. per week for those 21 and over, and of from 7d. to 2s. 1d. per week for those under 21. Minimum rate after change for those 21 and over, 49s. 6d.
Chemical, etc., Manufacture.	Bristol (certain firms)	1st week in Dec.	Workpeople employed in the manufacture of glue and chemical manures.	Increase   of 3d. per week for men, and of proportionate amounts for women and youths. Minimum rates after change for men, 39s. 6d.
Glass Cutting, etc.	Birmingham and District.	1 Dec.	Workpeople employed in the glass cutting, bevelling, embossing, etc., and leaded light making industry.	New uniform lists of piece prices adopted for glaziers, bevellers and polishers resulting in most cases in an average reduction of about 5 per cent. on the previous rates; new and reduced standard hourly rates adopted for dayworkers as follows: bevellers (unless on machines), 1s. 5d.; other skilled men (cutters, glaziers, embossers, silverers, surface polishers, etc.), 1s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; machine bevellers, 1s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; cementers, painters, etc., 1s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; packers, 1s. 2d.; labourers, 1s.
Iron and Steel Manufacture.	Midlands and part of South Yorkshire and South Lancashire.	7 Dec.	Workpeople employed at iron puddling furnaces and iron and steel rolling mills and forges.	Percentage payable on basis rates reduced¶ from 32 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 30 for workpeople on base rates up to and including 5s. 10d. per shift, and from 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 25 for workpeople on base rates over 5s. 10d. per shift.**

\* The particulars of numbers affected and amount of change in weekly wages exclude changes affecting Government employees, agricultural labourers, shop assistants and clerks, for which classes the information available is not sufficient to form a basis for statistics. Where information is available, however, details of changes in the current rate of wages of these classes are included in the list of principal changes recorded. The statistics are based on normal conditions of employment, and do not take into account the effect of short-time working, etc.

† At three collieries where a lower percentage is payable, the percentage was increased by 2 per cent. to 43 per cent. at one colliery, and remained unaltered at 40 and 42 per cent. at the other two collieries respectively. It has now been agreed to stabilise the percentage of 48 payable at the majority of the collieries to 31st March, 1932.

‡ The subsistence wage for adult able-bodied underground workers at the majority of the collieries remained unchanged at 8s. 3d. per day.

§ The decreases shown took effect under an agreement made by the Conciliation Committee of the National Joint Industrial Council for the Paint, Colour and Varnish Industry.

|| Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.

¶ Under selling-price sliding-scale arrangements.

\*\* In addition to the above percentages on base rates, bonuses are paid to production men on basis rates up to 6s. 10d. per shift and to other men on basis rates up to 6s. 3d. per shift. The bonuses, which vary inversely in amount with the base rates, range from  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. per shift in the case of the higher-paid men to 1s. 5d. per shift for production men on a base rate of 3s. 10d., and 1s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. or 1s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for other men on the same rates.



PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING DECEMBER, 1931 (*continued*).

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
Shuttle Manufacture.	Lancashire (except Garston and Blackburn). Lancashire ... Yorkshire ...	Pay preceding 1st pay day in Jan. 1932.	Journeymen shuttlemakers ... Apprentices to shuttlemakers ... Journeymen shuttlemakers ...	Increase* of 3 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 28 per cent. above base. Minimum daywork rate after change: 1s. per hour, plus 28 per cent. (1s. 3-36d. per hour.) Increase* of 3 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 10½ per cent. above such rates. Rates after change: 9s. per week at 14 years, increasing by annual increments to 21s. at 20 years, plus, in each case, 10½ per cent. Increase* of 3 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 31 per cent. above base. Minimum daywork rate after change: 11d. per hour, plus 31 per cent. (1s. 2-41d. per hour.)
Chain Manufacture.	Great Britain ... Cradley Heath and District, Chester, Stoke and Pontypridd.	1 Dec. 1st full pay day in Dec.	Workpeople employed in making hand-hammered chain from iron up to and including ½ in. diameter. Workpeople employed in making dollied and tommed chain from iron No. 6 I.S.W.G., up to and including ½ in. diameter, and hand-hammered chain from iron ½ in. up to and including ½ in. diameter. Commercial end-welded dollied and tommed chain makers (except those whose wages are regulated by the Chain Trade Board) and cable shackle makers. Admiralty end-welded chain makers Side-welded chain makers ... Anchor and grapnel makers ...	Increase* of 5 per cent. on the general minimum time rates as fixed under the Trade Boards Acts at 1st November, 1923, and on piecework rates as fixed, varied and extended under Trade Boards Acts at 5th November, 1923. General minimum time rate after change for adult workers, 5½d. per hour. Increase* of 5 per cent. on general minimum time rates as varied under Trade Boards Acts at 1st February, 1924, and on piecework rates as fixed, varied or extended under Trade Boards Acts at 16th August, 1926. General minimum time rate after change for lowest-paid adult workers, 1s. 1½d. per hour. Increase* of 5 per cent. on list prices, leaving prices 15 per cent. below the lists of 1922. Increase* of 5 per cent. on list prices, leaving prices 10 per cent. below the lists of 1922. Increase* of amounts varying according to size from 2d. to 4½d. per cwt. Increase* of 3d. per cwt.
Electrical Cable Manufacture.	Middlesex, Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Essex, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire. Great Britain, other than the above counties.	Pay preceding 3rd pay day in Dec.	Workpeople employed in the electrical cable-making industry (except plumber-jointers, etc.).	Increase* of 1s. 11½d. per week for men 21 years of age and over, of 1s. 5½d. per week for youths 18 to 20 years, of 6d. per week for youths 14, 16, and 17 years, of 5½d. per week for youths 15 years, of 1s. per week for women 18 years and over, and of 6d. per week for girls; pieceworkers' wages to be correspondingly increased. Rates after change: men 21 years of age and over, 50s. 11d. to 56s. 9½d.; youths 18 to 20 years, 35s. 3d. to 43s. 1d.; boys 14 to 17 years, 13s. 8½d. to 23s. 6d.; women 18 years and over, 26s. 6d. to 30s. 6d.; girls, 14 to 17 years, 13s. to 17s. 6d. (excluding any service bonuses). Increase* of 2s. per week for men 21 years of age and over, of 1s. 6d. per week for youths 18 to 20 years, of 1s. per week for women 18 years and over, and of 6d. per week for boys and girls 14 to 17 years; pieceworkers' wages to be correspondingly increased. Rates after change: men 21 years of age and over, 45s. 6d. to 51s. 6d.; youths 18 to 20 years, 33s. to 39s. 6d.; boys 14 to 17 years, 13s. to 22s.; women 18 years and over, 26s. 6d. to 30s. 6d.; girls 14 to 17 years, 13s. to 17s. 6d. (excluding any service bonuses).
Lock, Latch and Key Manufacture.	Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Willenhall Districts.	1 Dec.	Bobbers ...	Decrease of 5 per cent. in wages.
Hosiery Manufacture.	Hawick ...	1st full pay day in Dec.	Men and women ... Apprentices ...	Flat-rate bonuses of 3s. 3d. per week for men and 2s. 6d. per week for women increased* to 6s. 6d. and 5s. per week respectively, the bonus of 20 per cent. on base rates remaining unchanged. Flat-rate bonus of 1s. 1½d. per week increased* to 2s. 3d. per week, the bonus of 15 per cent. on base rates remaining unchanged.
Drift Nets Mending.	Great Britain ...	28 Dec.	Female workers:— Timeworkers ... Pieceworkers ...	Decreases in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of from 8d. to 2s. 10d. per week. Minimum rates after change: 3s. 8d. during 1st six months of employment, increasing each six months to 22s. after two years' employment. Decreases in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of from 5d. to 9d. per net.
Dyeing and Dry Cleaning.	Various districts in England and Scotland.	1st pay day in Dec.	Workpeople employed in the dyeing and dry cleaning trades.	Decreases* of 2s. or 2s. 6d. per week for men, of 6d. or 1s. 6d. per week for boys and youths, and of 6d. or 1s. per week for girls and women. Rates after change: men—skilled dyers, 61s. or 65s.; dyers (one-colour), 56s.; wet or dry cleaners, finishers, glazers, and other skilled workers, 51s. 6d.; labourers, 47s.; boys and youths—9s. 6d. at 14, increasing each year to 38s. 6d. at 20; girls and women—9s. 6d. at 14, increasing each year to 20s. 6d. at 18 and to 27s. at 21.
Road-Vehicle Building, etc.	Various districts in Scotland (excluding Dumfries)†.	1 Dec.	Workpeople employed in the road-vehicle building and wheelwright trades.	Decreases for timeworkers of ½d. per hour for skilled men (the rates for vicemen not qualified to do fitting, brush hands, hammermen and labourers remaining unchanged) and of proportionate amounts for apprentices and for pieceworkers. National minimum rates after change: bodymakers, cartwrights, finishers, carriage makers, wheelers, woodcutting machinists, smiths, painters, and trimmers, 1s. 5d.; coach fitters and vicemen, 1s. 4d.; vicemen (not qualified to do fitting), 1s. 2½d.; brush hands and hammermen, 1s. 1½d.; labourers, 1s. 0½d. Special district standard rates: West of Scotland district and Edinburgh district—woodworking branches and smiths, 1s. 6½d.; painters and trimmers, 1s. 6d.; coach fitters, 1s. 4½d.; these classes employed on passenger-carrying vehicles, ½d. per hour more. Dundee district—½d. per hour above national minimum rates (except labourers).†
Stationery, etc. Manufacture.	Various districts in England and Scotland.‡	1 Sept.	Workpeople employed in the envelope making and manufacturing stationery trades.	Decrease of 5 per cent. on current rates.‡ Minimum rates after change in London area—head warehousemen, cutters and export packers, 67s. 6d.; ordinary or assistant packers, assistant warehousemen, 64s.; porters, 57s. 6d.; women, 34s. 3d.
Waterworks Undertakings.	Certain towns in Yorkshire.§	1st full pay in Dec. (or later dates)§	Workpeople employed by waterworks undertakings.	Decrease of ½d. per hour.§
Tramway Undertakings.	West Ham ...	26 Nov.	Fitters and permanent way labourers.	Decrease of 5 per cent. Rates after change: fitters, 1s. 7½d.; permanent way labourers, 1s. 5½d.

\* Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.

† The change took effect under an agreement made between the Scottish National Vehicle Builders' Association, the National Union of Vehicle Builders and the Amalgamated Society of Woodcutting Machinists. At Dumfries, which was not affected, wages are regulated by agreements of the Joint Wages Board which covers England. The West of Scotland district comprises Lanarkshire, Dumbartonshire, Stirlingshire, Renfrewshire and Ayrshire; the Edinburgh district includes the counties of Linlithgow, Midlothian, East Lothian and Fife south of a line drawn from Kinross to Leven; and the Dundee district comprises Angus and Perthshire.

‡ The reduction took effect under arrangements made between firms who are members of the Employers' Federation of Envelope Makers and Manufacturing Stationers and their employees. No trade union was a party to the arrangement.

§ The reduction described followed the terms of a recommendation made by the National Joint Industrial Council for the Waterworks Undertakings Industry and was imposed by the Undertakings concerned after the Yorkshire Joint Industrial Council had failed to come to an agreement. The Undertakings at present known to have made the reduction include Brighouse, Doncaster (from 17 December), Halifax (from 7 January, 1932), Leeds, and Todmorden.



PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING DECEMBER, 1931 (*continued*).

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
Omnibus Undertakings.	Various districts in Scotland.*	1 Dec.	Drivers, conductors and conductresses.	New scales of hourly rates adopted as follows: drivers, 1s. 0½d. on appointment, increasing by ½d. every six months to 1s. 2½d. after 24 months; conductresses, 6½d. on appointment, 6½d. after 6 months, and 7d. after 12 months; junior male conductors, 6½d. at 18 years, 7d. at 18½, 7½d. at 19 and 8d. at 20 years of age.*
Road Transport	Leeds ... ..	1st pay day after 7 Dec.	Road transport workers (21 years of age and over):— Horse drivers ... .. Motor drivers, etc. ... ..	<i>Decrease of 3s. per week. Rates after change: one-horse drivers, 49s.; two-horse, 54s.</i> <i>Schedule of uniform weekly rates adopted as follows: drivers, up to 30 cwt., 50s.; 30 cwt. to 50 cwt., 54s.; 50 cwt. and over, 59s.; mates and trailersmen, 50s.; drivers of 6-wheeled vehicles of a carrying capacity of 10 tons or over, 65s.; mates, 53s.; steam wagon drivers, 61s.; steam wagon steerers, 51s.</i>
Local Government (Non-Trading Services).	Shoreditch ... ..	Week ending 9 Oct.	General yard labourers ... ..	<i>Decrease of 4s. 3½d. per week (64s. 7½d. to 60s. 4d.).</i>
	Buxton ... ..	4 Nov.	Manual workers ... ..	<i>Decreases usually of ½d. per hour (½d. in certain cases) for men on hourly rates and of 2s. 6d. per week for men on daily rates. Rates after change include: general labourers, 11d. to 1s. per hour; scavengers, 11½d.; ash freighter labourers, 9s. 1d. per day.</i>
	Aldershot ... ..	4 Dec.	Manual workers ... ..	<i>Decrease of 2½ per cent. Rates after change include: general yard and road labourers, road sweepers and refuse collectors, 1s. per hour; road paviors and masons, 1s. 2d. per hour, less 2½ per cent. in each case.</i>
	Certain Authorities in Middlesex.†	Day following 1st pay day after 13 Oct.	Adult male workers ... ..	Scheduled minimum rates increased by varying amounts (usually from 2s. to 3s. per week). Minimum rates after change include: Grade A workpeople (bath and lavatory attendants, scavengers, etc.), 53s. 6d.; Grade B (yardmen, dust collectors, labourers, etc.), 56s. 6d.†
	Angus ... ..	15 Nov.	Road labourers employed by County Council.	<i>Decrease of 2½ per cent. Rates after change: Arbroath, Brechin and Forfar districts, 41s.; Dundee district, 44s.</i>
	Renfrewshire ... ..	16 Nov.	Road labourers employed by County Council.	<i>Decreases of 2½ per cent. in respect of the first £100 per annum and 5 per cent. on next £100. Rates after change, 50s. to 55s. per week less the above decreases.</i>
National Government.	Great Britain ... ..	Pay week in which 1 Dec. falls.	Workpeople employed in War Department and Air Ministry Establishments who are paid on an engineering trade basis; also, in case of War Department, those in Naval Dockyard Stations who are in receipt of Admiralty war advances.	Piecework prices to be fixed so as to enable a worker of average ability to earn at least 25 per cent. over time rates, excluding "war" advances, and existing prices fixed on a basis of 33½ per cent. reduced accordingly (i.e., by 6½ per cent.); also payment for nightshifts to be at rate of time and a sixth in lieu of time and a third, except at certain establishments where corresponding reduction has been made in cases where the previous payment was at rates other than time and a third.‡
Skip and Basket Making.	Lancashire and Cheshire.	7 Dec.	Skip and basket makers ... ..	Increase§ of 1 per cent. on Lancashire price list, leaving wages 73½ per cent. and 63½ per cent. above the list for timeworkers and pieceworkers respectively.

## CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED DURING DECEMBER, 1931.

Agriculture	Norfolk ... ..	27 Dec.	Male workers ... ..	Hours in respect of which the minimum weekly rates fixed under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act, 1924, are payable fixed at 53 in summer and 48 in winter, instead of 50 in summer and 48 in winter as previously.
	Wiltshire ... ..	20 Dec.	Male workers ... ..	Hours in respect of which the minimum weekly rates fixed under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act, 1924, are payable, fixed at 50 in winter (until 5th March, 1932) instead of 48 as previously.

\* The new rates are embodied in an agreement made between the Scottish General Transport Co., Ltd., and the Transport and General Workers' Union. It was agreed that the introduction of these rates should not result in a reduction for drivers, etc., already employed.

† The increases in minimum rates described were the result of an agreement made by the Middlesex Joint Industrial Council whereby a new Zone 1A was created, with rates 2s. in excess of the previous highest rated Zone 1. The Authorities allocated to the new Zone (with their previous Zones) are as follows:—Acton (1), Brentford and Chiswick (1), Edmonton (1), Enfield (2), Hayes and Harlington (2), Southgate (1), Tottenham (1), Uxbridge (2), Willesden (1), Wood Green (1).

‡ Amendments were also made in the rates of pay for overtime for dayshift and nightshift working.

§ Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangement.

## PRICES AND WAGES IN THE IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRIES.

The following Table shows the results of recent ascertainties upon which are based variations in district rates of wages:—

Product and District.	Price according to last Audit.*		Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) of last Audit* on	
	Period covered by last Audit.	Average selling price per ton.	Previous Audit.	A year ago.
Pig Iron:	1931.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Cumberland (Hematite mixed numbers.)	Sept.–Oct.	62 5½	— 0 9½	— 8 5½
Lincolnshire	July–Sept.	61 0	— 0 7½	— 2 4½
West of Scotland...	July–Sept.	70 8	— 1 0	— 6 6
Manufactured Iron:	Sept.–Oct.	178 7½	— 3 1½	— 4 2½
North of England (Bars.)	Sept.–Oct.	207 0½	+ 1 3½	— 2 5½
West of Scotland... (Rounds, flats, squares, angles, hoops, tees and rods.)	Sept.–Oct.	207 0½	+ 1 3½	— 2 5½
Steel:	July–Sept.	89 7	— 4 10½	— 29 1½
South-West Wales (Steel tin bars.)	July–Sept.	89 7	— 4 10½	— 29 1½

\* Stated to the nearest farthing.

The variation from the previous audit in the price of Cumberland pig iron resulted in a decrease in November of 1 per cent. on the standard rates of blastfurnacemen in West Cumberland and North Lancashire, but this was only applied to the higher-paid workpeople, those with average earnings below 6s. 4d. per shift having their wages increased by a special agreement. In Lincolnshire the ascertainment resulted in a decrease in November of 1 per cent. on the standard rates of blastfurnacemen. This reduction was also applied to the wages of ironstone miners and quarrymen in that area. The reduction in the price of pig-iron in the West of Scotland resulted in a decrease in November of 1 per cent. on the standard rates of blastfurnacemen in that area; the reduction, however, was not applied to lower-paid day-wage men, whose wages have remained at 21 per cent. above the standard since August, 1925.

As regards manufactured iron, the ascertainties for the North of England and the West of Scotland did not warrant a change in the wages of iron puddlers and millmen in those areas.

The ascertainment of the price of steel tin bars in South-West Wales for the quarter July–September, 1931, was again below the standard price of the scale which regulates the wages of Siemens steel workers in that area, and there was in consequence no change in the wages of these workpeople.

Further details of the changes referred to will be found on page 484 of the December GAZETTE.



## CHANGES IN COST OF LIVING: STATISTICS FOR 1st JANUARY.

## Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included	...	...	47%
Food only	...	...	31%

## FOOD.

At 1st January the average level of the retail prices of the principal articles of food showed a slight decline as compared with 1st December. This was mainly due to seasonal reductions in the prices of eggs, the effect of which, however, was partly counterbalanced by increases in the prices of potatoes.

As a net result of all the changes recorded the average increase over the level of July, 1914, in the retail prices (in Great Britain and Northern Ireland) of the articles of food included in these statistics was 31 per cent. at 1st January, 1932, as compared with 32 per cent. at 1st December, 1931, and 38 per cent. at 1st January, 1931.

In the following Table is given a comparison of retail prices of these articles of food in July, 1914, and at 1st December, 1931, and 1st January, 1932:—

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated— to the nearest ¼d.)			Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) at 1st Jan., 1932, as compared with		
	July, 1914.	1st Dec., 1931.	1st Jan., 1932.	July, 1914.	1st Dec., 1931.	1st Jan., 1932.
Beef, British—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Ribs	0 10	1 3½	1 3½	+0 5½	...	...
Thin Flank	0 6½	0 8½	0 8½	+0 1½	...	...
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—						
Ribs	0 7½	0 9½	0 9½	+0 2½	...	...
Thin Flank	0 4½	0 5	0 5	+0 0½	...	...
Mutton, British—						
Legs	0 10½	1 4½	1 4½	+0 5½	...	...
Breast	0 6½	0 8½	0 8½	+0 2	...	...
Mutton, Frozen—						
Legs	0 6½	0 10	0 9½	+0 3	-0 0½	...
Breast	0 4	0 4½	0 4½	+0 0½	...	...
Bacon (streaky)*	0 11½	0 10½	0 10	-0 1½	-0 0½	...
Flour ... per 7 lb.	0 10½	0 11½	0 11½	+0 1	+0 0½	...
Bread ... per 4 lb.	0 5½	0 7	0 7	+0 1½	...	...
Tea ...	1 6½	1 8½	1 8½	+0 2½	-0 0½	...
Sugar (granulated) ...	0 2	0 2½	0 2½	+0 0½	...	...
Milk ... per quart	0 3½	0 6½	0 6½	+0 2½	...	...
Butter—						
Fresh	1 2½	1 5½	1 5½	+0 3	+0 0½	...
Salt	1 2½	1 3½	1 3½	+0 1½	...	...
Cheese†	0 8½	0 11	0 11	+0 2½	...	...
Margarine	0 7	0 7	0 7	...	...	...
Eggs (fresh) ... each	0 1½	0 2½	0 2	+0 0½	-0 0½	...
Potatoes per 7 lb.	0 4½	0 8½	0 9	+0 4½	+0 0½	...

The following Table gives a percentage comparison of the level of retail prices at the same dates:—

Article.	Average Percentage Increase at 1st Jan., 1932, as compared with July, 1914.			Corre- sponding General Average, for 1st Dec., 1931.
	Large Towns (Popula- tions over 50,000).	Small Towns and Villages.	General Average.	
Beef, British—	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Ribs	52	53	53	53
Thin Flank	21	25	23	24
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—				
Ribs	28	31	30	29
Thin Flank	-2	6	2	3
Mutton, British—				
Legs	51	58	54	55
Breast	29	32	30	31
Mutton, Frozen—				
Legs	45	42	43	44
Breast	1	7	4	5
Bacon (streaky)*	-13	-10	-11	-8
Fish	118	95	106	99
Flour	9	11	10	8
Bread	23	21	22	21
Tea	4	20	12	13
Sugar (granulated)	24	18	21	21
Milk	80	82	81	76
Butter—				
Fresh	15	25	20	19
Salt	8	10	9	9
Cheese†	29	27	28	28
Margarine	1	-4	-2	-2
Eggs (fresh)	76	67	71	107
Potatoes	101	72	87	71
All above articles of Food (Weighted Percentage Increase) ...	32	31	31	32

\* If this kind is seldom dealt with in a locality, the returns quote the prices of another kind locally representative.  
† The description of cheese specified for quotation is Canadian or American, but where such cheese is seldom sold in a locality the returns quote the prices of another kind locally representative.

## RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT.

As regards *rents*, inquiries which have been made into the changes which have taken effect under the Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Acts indicate that the average increase in the controlled rents (including rates) of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 1st January, was approximately 49 per cent. When decontrolled rents are also included, the combined average increase in working-class rents since July, 1914, is approximately 54 per cent. This latter figure has been utilised in calculating the final percentage increase for all the items included in these statistics.

As regards *clothing*, owing to the wide range of quotations, both now and before the war, to changes in qualities and in stocks held by retailers, and to variations in the extent to which different articles and qualities have been affected by price changes, it is impossible to make an *exact* calculation of the increase in prices; but information as to the movements of prices of men's suits and overcoats, woollen and cotton materials, underclothing and hosiery, and boots, received from retailers in the principal towns, indicates that at 1st January the level of retail prices of articles in this group, taking goods of the kinds purchased by the working classes and so far as possible the same qualities of goods at each date, averaged about 90 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

In the *fuel and light* group the prices of coal at 1st January averaged approximately 85 per cent. above the level of July, 1914. The average price of gas remained between 45 and 50 per cent. above the pre-war level. For the fuel and light group as a whole (including coal, gas, oil, candles and matches) the average increase at 1st January, as compared with July, 1914, was about 75 per cent.

## ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance in pre-war working-class family expenditure, allowance being also made for the increase in the prices of soap, soda, domestic ironmongery, brushware and pottery, tobacco, fares and newspapers (averaging about 75 per cent.), the resultant general average increase for 1st January, 1932, is approximately **47 per cent.\*** over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 48 per cent. at 1st December, 1931, and 53 per cent. at 1st January, 1931.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken in 1932 as in 1914) is to show the *average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families* (i.e., the standard actually prevailing in working-class families before the war, irrespective of whether such standard was adequate or not). In view of the variations in the amounts of increase in the prices of different commodities it is probable that economies or readjustments in expenditure have been effected in many families, especially in those cases where incomes have not increased so much as prices. On the other hand, the standard of living may have been raised in many cases in which wages have been increased in greater proportion than prices. No allowance is made in the figures for any such alterations in the standard of living, as to which trustworthy statistics are not available.

## SUMMARY TABLE: 1920 to 1932.

The following Table shows the average percentage increase, as compared with July, 1914, for all the items included in the statistics, at the beginning of each month, 1920 to 1932:—

Average Percentage Increase since July, 1914—All Items.  
(Food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, etc.)

Year.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1920	125	130	130	132	141	150	152	155	161	164	176	169
1921	165	151	141	133	128	119	119	122	120	110	103	99
1922	92	88	86	82	81	80	84	81	79	78	80	80
1923	78	77	76	74	70	69	69	71	73	75	75	77
1924	77	79	78	73	71	69	70	71	72	76	80	81
1925	80	79	79	75	73	72	73	73	74	76	76	77
1926	75	73	72	68	67	68	70	70	72	74	79	79
1927	75	72	71	65	64	63	66	64	65	67	69	69
1928	68	66	64	64	64	65	65	65	65	66	67	68
1929	67	65	66	62	61	60	61	63	64	65	67	67
1930	66	64	61	57	55	54	55	57	57	56	57	55
1931	53	52	50	47	47	45	47	45	45	45	46	48
1932	47											

## NOTE.

A detailed account of the method of compilation of these statistics "The Cost of Living Index Number: Method of Compilation" has been published, and may be purchased, price 3d. net (3½d. post free), from H.M. Stationery Office, at any of the addresses shown on the cover of this GAZETTE.

\* If allowance is made for the changes in taxation since July, 1914, on the commodities included in these statistics, the average increase is about 1 per cent. less.



## RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—While the percentages given in the following Summary Tables are derived from the most authoritative sources of statistical information, certain differences in the nature and scope of the data used, in the methods of combining such data and in the periods for which the rise is measured, suggest the need for caution in drawing conclusions from a comparison between the figures for any two countries or cities. It is also to be observed that in every case the percentage calculation is based on the assumption that the standard of living is identical at the various periods compared.]

## I.—FOOD.

PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN RETAIL FOOD PRICES IN THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES AS COMPARED WITH JULY, 1914.\*

Country.	Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.*					Latest figures available.	
	July, 1928.	July, 1929.	July, 1930.	July, 1931.		Rise.	Date.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.		
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...	57	49	41	30	31		1932. 1 Jan.
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.							1931.
Czechoslovakia ...	53	49	30	17	11		Oct.
Denmark ...	44	40	32	19	19		Oct.
Egypt (Cairo)† ...	1,016	979	837	718	760		Aug.
Finland ...	522‡	503‡	517‡	461‡	461‡		Nov.
France (Paris)† ...	503**	514**	502**	502**	502**		Aug.
(other towns)† ...	54	56	46	30	22		Nov.
Germany ...	416	458	407	342	345		Nov.
Italy ...	73	57	51	38	36		Nov.
Norway ...	73	77	80	93	100		Oct.
Spain (Madrid)† ...	65	73	72	77	82		Oct.
(Barcelona)† ...	57	51	40	30	29		Dec.
Sweden† ...	57	55	52	40	37		Nov.
Switzerland ...	50	55	41	17	17		Oct.
United States ...							
BRITISH DOMINIONS, &c.							
Australia ...	52	60	47	25	25		Nov.
Canada ...	47	50	49	10	7		Nov.
India (Bombay):							
Native families ...	43	45	36	0	1		Dec.
Irish Free State ...	66	66	56	43**	55		Nov.
New Zealand ...	46	46	43	18‡	18‡		Nov.
South Africa ...	16	16	9	4	2		Nov.

## II.—ALL ITEMS.

PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES IN THE COST OF FOOD, TOGETHER WITH (SO FAR AS POSSIBLE) HOUSE-RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT, AND OTHER HOUSEHOLD REQUIREMENTS, AS COMPARED WITH JULY, 1914.\*

Country.	Items on which Computation is based.†	Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.*					Latest figures available.	
		July, 1928.	July, 1929.	July, 1930.	July, 1931.		Rise.	Date.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.		
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...	A,B,C,D,E	65	61	55	47	47		1932. 1 Jan.
FOREIGN COUNTRIES.								1931.
Belgium ...	A,C,D,E	711	771	769	689	676		Nov.
Czechoslovakia (Prague) ...	A,B,C,D,E	...	...	9	4	1		Oct.
Denmark ...	A,B,C,D,E	76	73	65	54	54		Oct.
Egypt (Cairo) ...	A,B,C,E	51	50	48	34	37		Oct.
Finland ...	A,B,C,D,E	1,113	1,101	1,008	904	921		Nov.
France (Paris) ...	A,B,C,D,E	419¶	455¶	492¶	465¶	465		3rd Qr.
Germany ...	A,B,C,D,E	53	54	49	37	32		Nov.
Holland (Amsterdam) ...	A,B,C,D,E	70§	69§	62§	54§	51		Sept.
Italy ...	A,B,C,D,E	426	442	431	386	296‡		Jan.-June
(Milan) ...	A,B,C,D,E	387	407	400	...	349		Oct.
(Rome) ...	A,B,C,D,E	93	80	75	67	50‡		Nov.
Norway ...	A,B,C,D,E	23	23	19	5	2		Dec.
Poland (Warsaw) ...	A,B,C,D,E	73	69	64	58	58		Oct.
Sweden ...	A,B,C,D,E	61	61	59	50	47		Nov.
Switzerland ...	A,B,C,D	70§	70§	67§	50§	50		June
United States ...	A,B,C,D,E							
BRITISH DOMINIONS, &c.								
Australia ...	A,B,C,D,E	47¶	50¶	41¶	25¶	25		3rd Qr.
Canada ...	A,B,C,D,E	55	56	56	37	35		Nov.
India (Bombay):								
Native families ...	A,B,C,D	47	48	40	8	9		Dec.
Irish Free State ...	A,B,C,D,E	73	74	68	57**	65		Nov.
New Zealand ...	A,B,C,D,E	62	60	58	45‡	42‡		Nov.
South Africa ...	A,B,C,D,E	31	31	28	22	22		Nov.

\* Exceptions to this are: Egypt, January 1913 to July 1914; France (other towns), August, 1914; Italy (all items) and Rome, January to June, 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; Spain, South Africa, France (Paris, all items), Poland, 1914; Germany, average, 1913-1914; Amsterdam, 1911-1913; Belgium, April, 1914; Italy (food), United States (all items), Canada, 1913; Australia (all items), November, 1914. The Australian percentages for all items are a weighted average for the six capital cities. The percentages are calculated, in Czechoslovakia and Poland, on prices converted to their gold values, and, in the other countries, on prices in the ordinary currency.

† Fuel and light are also included in these figures.

‡ New series.

§ Figure for June.

¶ A = Food; B = House-Rent; C = Clothing; D = Fuel and light; E = Other or Miscellaneous Items.

¶ Figure for 3rd Quarter.

\*\* Figure for August.

## POOR RELIEF IN DECEMBER, 1931.

(Data supplied by the Ministry of Health in England and Wales and the Department of Health in Scotland.)

THE number of persons\* relieved on one day† in December, 1931, in the forty-seven selected areas named below, was 633,440, or 3·3 per cent. more than in the previous month and 14·8 per cent. more than in December, 1930. The numbers relieved at these three dates were equivalent, respectively, to rates of 381; 369; and 332 per 10,000 of the population.

In the forty-three selected areas in England and Wales the number of persons relieved in December, 1931, was 527,796, an increase of 3·5 per cent. as compared with a month earlier and an increase of 14·4 per cent. as compared with December, 1930. In the four areas in Scotland the number relieved was 105,644, or 2·3 per cent. more than in the previous month and 17·2 per cent. more than a year ago.

Recipients of indoor relief in the forty-seven areas in December, numbered 102,958, or 0·3 per cent. less than in the previous month and 12·4 per cent. less than a year ago. Recipients of outdoor relief numbered 530,482, or 4·0 per cent. more than in the previous month and 22·2 per cent. more than in December, 1930.

Of the forty-seven areas, thirty-nine showed increases in the number per 10,000 relieved in December as compared with November, while seven showed decreases. In one area there was no change. Compared with December, 1930, forty-four areas showed increases, including Sheffield (368 per 10,000); Manchester (176 per 10,000); Liverpool (151 per 10,000); West Ham (110 per 10,000); and Glasgow (107 per 10,000); while three showed small decreases.

County of London	Number of Persons* in receipt of Poor Relief on one day† in December, 1931.			Rate per 10,000 of Population.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a	
	Indoor.	Outdoor.	Total.		Month before.	Year before.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
Birkenhead ...	910	4,917	5,827	394	+ 18	+ 98
Birmingham ...	5,386	14,286	19,672	196	+ 8	+ 2
Blackburn ...	803	2,807	3,610	294	+ 13	+ 39
Bolton ...	931	2,854	3,785	214	+ 19	+ 22
Bradford ...	1,264	7,164	8,428	283	+ 6	+ 34
Brighton ...	1,096	2,097	3,193	217	— 4	+ 14
Bristol ...	2,129	10,382	12,511	315	+ 23	+ 98
Burnley ...	524	1,820	2,344	239	+ 19	+ 10
Cardiff ...	1,552	7,452	9,004	403	+ 2	+ 31
Coventry ...	456	1,519	1,975	118	— 2	+ 4
Croydon ...	1,113	2,051	3,164	136	+ 2	+ 17
Derby ...	589	6,826	7,415	521	+ 17	+ 73
East Ham ...	689	2,998	3,687	259	+ 11	+ 66
Gateshead ...	788	6,163	6,951	568	— 17	+ 12
Huddersfield ...	545	1,445	1,990	175	+ 12	+ 6
Kingston-upon-Hull ...	1,772	16,202	17,974	574	+ 4	+ 37
Leeds ...	2,953	11,994	14,947	310	+ 13	+ 20
Leicester ...	852	4,342	5,194	217	+ 12	+ 14
Liverpool ...	7,224	47,484	54,708	639	+ 17	+ 151
Manchester ...	4,003	41,081	45,084	589	+ 40	+ 176
Middlesbrough ...	570	3,582	4,152	300	— 1	— 7
Newcastle-on-Tyne ...	974	14,886	15,860	560	+ 25	+ 79
Norwich ...	874	6,245	7,119	564	+ 31	+ 85
Nottingham ...	1,844	9,782	11,626	433	+ 13	+ 63
Oldham ...	967	1,713	2,680	191	+ 9	+ 53
Plymouth ...	529	5,955	6,484	311	+ 5	+ 41
Portsmouth ...	1,327	2,448	3,775	151	...	+ 11
Preston ...	717	1,006	1,723	145	+ 12	+ 35
St. Helens ...	525	3,576	4,101	384	+ 12	+ 8
Salford ...	1,603	5,016	6,619	296	+ 15	+ 22
Sheffield ...	1,877	43,471	45,348	886	+ 40	+ 368
Southampton ...	1,371	2,670	4,041	230	+ 4	+ 8
Southend-on-Sea ...	247	1,998	2,245	187	— 13	+ 59
South Shields ...	737	2,963	3,700	326	+ 9	+ 10
Stockport ...	608	1,523	2,131	170	— 8	+ 37
Stoke-on-Trent ...	1,769	6,085	7,854	284	+ 19	+ 53
Sunderland ...	917	8,050	8,967	482	+ 23	— 11
Swansea ...	678	5,468	6,146	373	+ 6	+ 8
Wallasey ...	286	1,040	1,326	136	— 6	+ 9
Walsall ...	600	3,406	4,006	389	+ 7	+ 18
West Ham ...	2,284	12,043	14,327	487	+ 24	+ 110
Wolverhampton ...	610	1,902	2,512	189	+ 8	+ 26
Total of the above-named County Boroughs ...	57,493	340,712	398,205	384	+ 14	+ 70
Total, County of London and Selected County Boroughs ...	95,640	432,156	527,796	358	+ 12	+ 46
SCOTLAND.						
Glasgow ...	5,174	73,935	79,109	727	+ 8	+ 107
Edinburgh ...	996	17,052	18,048	411	+ 17	+ 16
Dundee ...	707	3,707	4,414	251	+ 15	+ 41
Aberdeen ...	441	3,632	4,073	244	+ 32	+ 53
Total for the above Scottish Burghs ...	7,318	98,326	105,644	565	+ 13	+ 72
Total for above 47 areas in December, 1931	102,958	530,482	633,440	381	+ 12	+ 49

\* The figures include dependants, but exclude persons in receipt of outdoor medical relief only and casuals. In England and Wales, patients in mental hospitals (formerly referred to as lunatics in asylums), and, in Scotland, lunatics and mental defectives, are also excluded.

† 19th December in London, 26th December in the rest of England and Wales, and 15th December in Scotland.



## BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

## FOURTH QUARTER OF 1931.

Returns have been received from 142 Local Authorities in Great Britain, giving the estimated cost of buildings for which plans were passed during the fourth quarter of 1931. The summarised figures for the quarter are given in the Table below, together with similar figures as to plans passed by the same Authorities during the corresponding quarter of 1930.

District and Aggregate Population (at Census of 1931) of Towns from which returns have been received.	Estimated Cost of Buildings for which plans were approved in the 142 Towns from which returns have been received.					
	Dwelling Houses.	Factories and Workshops.	Shops, Offices, Ware-houses, and other Business Premises.	Churches, Schools, and Public Buildings.	Other Buildings, and Additions and Alterations to Existing Buildings.	TOTAL.
(a) FOURTH QUARTER OF 1931.						
ENGLAND AND WALES—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Northern Counties (780,000)	391,900	20,400	92,600	60,300	40,800	606,000
Yorkshire (2,462,000)	1,052,900	38,700	547,300	150,700	174,700	1,964,300
Lancs. and Cheshire (2,962,000)	688,800	111,200	66,400	503,700	203,700	1,573,800
North and West-Midland Counties (3,157,000)	1,301,500	212,000	105,600	275,600	333,900	2,228,600
South Midland and Eastern Counties (598,000)	409,700	36,700	33,100	4,600	42,200	526,300
Outer London* (2,616,000)	2,410,700	203,300	285,000	120,800	284,500	3,304,300
South-Eastern Counties (998,000)	617,900	32,400	72,000	131,200	129,200	982,700
South-Western Counties (452,000)	256,400	—	13,200	74,600	31,900	376,100
Wales and Mon. (821,000)	146,700	7,100	40,300	27,500	39,700	261,300
SCOTLAND (2,234,000)	517,500	7,400	186,200	97,500	227,700	1,036,300
Total (17,080,000)	7,794,000	669,200	1,441,700	1,446,500	1,508,300	12,859,700
(b) FOURTH QUARTER OF 1930.						
ENGLAND AND WALES—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Northern Counties	295,800	21,900	46,400	30,100	48,600	442,800
Yorkshire...	979,100	74,100	94,700	1,814,000	227,400	3,189,300
Lancs. and Cheshire	1,091,900	45,100	84,500	145,000	162,200	1,528,700
North and West-Midland Counties	1,320,800	196,100	134,400	250,500	381,700	2,283,500
South-Midland and Eastern Counties	381,800	27,300	59,500	24,000	45,000	537,600
Outer London* ...	4,256,900	256,500	383,300	121,300	381,000	5,399,000
South-Eastern Counties.	713,700	8,300	106,900	37,000	125,900	991,800
South-Western Counties.	208,900	800	48,900	312,000	42,000	612,600
Wales and Mon. ...	157,000	12,700	31,600	1,400	30,600	233,300
SCOTLAND ...	1,723,500	168,300	80,600	342,500	254,300	2,569,200
Total ...	11,129,400	811,100	1,070,800	3,077,800	1,698,700	17,787,800

## LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

## Trade Boards Acts, 1909-1918.

## RETAIL BESPOKE TAILORING TRADE (ENGLAND AND WALES).

AN employer was charged with the underpayment of two female workers and with failing to keep adequate records. The defendant pleaded guilty, and was fined £11, with £5 costs. Arrears amounting to £36 10s. 4d. were paid prior to the hearing.—*Rex v. Herbert Stanley Prout. St. Austell Police Court. 4th November, 1931.*

## GENERAL WASTE MATERIALS RECLAMATION TRADE.

Charges of underpaying seven female workers were brought against two partners, one of whom was further charged with furnishing false information. The defendant charged with underpayment only was fined 10s. on each charge; the defendant charged with furnishing false information 30s. on each charge of underpayment, and £5, or one month's imprisonment, for furnishing false information.—*Rex v. F. G. White & Co. Guildhall, Norwich. 15th December, 1931.*

## Trade Boards Act (Northern Ireland), 1923.

## LINEN AND COTTON HANDKERCHIEF AND HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND LINEN PIECE GOODS TRADE.

Criminal proceedings were brought against a firm in the linen and cotton handkerchief and household goods and linen piece goods trade in Northern Ireland for (a) failure to keep time records, and (b) failure to pay wages at not less than the minimum rates fixed by the Trade Board.

\* Particulars are not available for the London County Council area.

The Court imposed a fine of 7s. 6d. for failure to keep time records, and 5s. in respect of one case for failure to pay wages at not less than the minimum rates, the remaining charges of underpayment being withdrawn. Costs were awarded amounting to £2 5s. 6d.—*J. H. Craig v. Paragon Linen Company. Lurgan Petty Sessions, 1st December, 1931.*

## RETAIL BESPOKE TAILORING TRADE BOARD.

Criminal proceedings were brought against a firm in the retail bespoke tailoring trade in Northern Ireland for (a) failure to keep time records, and (b) failure to pay wages at not less than the minimum rate fixed by the Trade Board.

The Court imposed a fine of 1s. for failure to keep time records, and of 5s. for failure to pay wages at not less than the minimum rate; and ordered that arrears of wages amounting to £3 be paid to the worker concerned. In addition, costs amounting to £2 were allowed. *J. H. Craig v. Crawford & Crawford. Omagh Petty Sessions. 14th December, 1931.*

## Factory and Workshop Acts, 1901-1920.\*

A firm engaged in the manufacture of household linens was prosecuted for (a) employment of two women beyond the legal period, and (b) failure to supply three women with particulars of work and wages when the work was given out. Fines of 5s. in respect of the first offence, and of 7s. 6d. in respect of the second offence, were imposed, and costs were awarded amounting to £2 6s. 6d.—*J. H. Craig v. Paragon Linen Co.*

A firm engaged in the manufacture of handkerchiefs and household linens was prosecuted (i) for employment of two women at night, and (ii) for employing four women overtime for more than three nights in one week. Fines of £5 in each case of employment at night, and of £1 in each case of overtime, were imposed. Costs were awarded amounting to £2 14s.—*J. H. Craig v. Samuel McCrudden & Co., Ltd. Belfast Petty Sessions. 5th November, 1931.*

The occupier of a factory engaged in cabinet-making was prosecuted for the employment of one male young person at night. No fine was imposed, but a conviction was secured, and the defendant ordered to pay 7s. costs.—*J. H. Craig v. Alfred Hugh McDermott Wardle. Belfast Petty Sessions. 16th November, 1931.*

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTS, 1920-31.

## DECISIONS GIVEN BY THE UMPIRE.

THE Umpire is a judicial authority independent of the Ministry of Labour, appointed by the Crown under Section 12 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, for the purpose of determining disputed claims to benefit. His decisions† are final.

Appeals to the Umpire may be made by the Insurance Officer or by an Association of which the claimant is a member, or, with the permission of the Court of Referees, by the claimant himself. The claimant may also appeal if the decision of the Court was not unanimous.

The following decisions are of general interest:—

## Case No. 23024/31. (26.11.31.)

SECTION 7 (1) (ii) OF PRINCIPAL ACT (AS AMENDED)—NOT UNEMPLOYED—GENERAL RULES RELATING TO CLAIMS BY PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALLERS.

The claimant, a general labourer, had since 1928 followed a subsidiary occupation as a professional Rugby football player. Under the terms of his agreement with the club claimant was entitled to receive the maximum sum of £4 when selected to play for the first team, and lesser amounts, to a minimum of 10s., when selected to play as a reserve. During the previous season claimant had been selected to play for the second team and had received £1 10s. for an away win and £1 5s. when the match was drawn or played at home. Claimant had not played in any mid-week matches during the last season, but had required time off from his employment for 6 Saturday matches.

The Court of Referees decided that the claim should be allowed except in respect of any day upon which claimant played football. The Court was of opinion that the maximum remuneration contracted to be paid did not exceed 30s. a week.

The Insurance Officer disagreed with the Court's decision. He submitted that claimant had played or acted as a reserve for the first team on two occasions during the previous season, when his remuneration exceeded 30s. per match. He was therefore of opinion that, having regard to the terms of the agreement, claimant could not be deemed to be unemployed in any week in which his remuneration as a professional footballer exceeded 20s.

\* These cases were decided in the courts of Northern Ireland.

† Volumes containing selected decisions of the Umpire are published annually by H.M. Stationery Office, the latest being a volume of selected decisions given during the year 1930 (price 7s. 6d. net). A volume containing a special selection of important decisions given by the Umpire prior to 19th April, 1928 (price 15s. net), and a volume containing selected decisions given from 19th April, 1928, to 12th March, 1930 (price 6s. net), have also been issued; also an analytical guide to decisions given before 13th March, 1930 (price 2s. 6d. net). Selected decisions are also issued monthly in pamphlet form, and may be obtained, as and when issued, on payment of an annual subscription, the latest pamphlet being that for November, 1931.



*Decision by the Umpire.*—"On the facts before me my decision is that the claim for benefit should be disallowed in respect of any week in which the claimant is entitled to remuneration exceeding 20s.

"The decisions which have been given upon claims made by professional football players are numerous and complicated owing to the variety of agreements. Whilst accepting most of the general principles of previous decisions some variations of them appear necessary, and it will be convenient to collect the principles in a comprehensive decision and to state them, with such amendments as experience suggests, so that the Courts of Referees will be able to determine any case which falls within the compass of this decision by applying the Rules which are herein formulated.

"Within the compass of the decision will be found all cases in which the claimants are following the occupation of playing professional football otherwise than as their usual employment. The decision has no concern with cases in which the claimants have made the playing of football their usual employment, which is a subject dealt with in Decision 22406/31.\*

"This decision, therefore, deals with cases in which it is necessary to consider the application of Section 7 (2) (a) of the Principal Act as amended by the 1924 and 1927 Acts.

"By the amended subsection 'a person shall not be deemed to be unemployed on any day on which he is following any occupation from which he derives remuneration or profit.' To this there is an exception: 'unless that occupation could ordinarily have been followed by him in addition to his usual employment and outside the ordinary working hours of that employment,' and the remuneration does not on the daily average exceed 3s. 4d.

"Consideration of the various issues involved in the subsection are stated in the form of Rules.

"**Rule 1.**—The onus rests upon the claimant of proving that the occupation, as he has contracted to follow it, could ordinarily have been followed by him in addition to his usual employment and outside the ordinary working hours of that employment.

"**Rule 2.**—If the remuneration payable under the claimant's contract with the club is fixed by the match only, and the maximum payable under the terms of the contract cannot in any circumstances exceed 30s. per match, it may be presumed, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, that the occupation could ordinarily have been followed in addition to and outside the ordinary working hours of the claimant's usual employment.

"The reason why the highest sum mentioned in the agreement has been taken as the basis of this rule has been thus explained 'The maximum remuneration is taken as a test because that is the prize which every player has in view when he signs his contract. He can only attain that by securing a place in the first team, and this is only accomplished by the player who is willing to respond to the requirements of the club whether in respect of playing or training. His chances of success, present or future, depend largely upon his readiness to make sacrifices to secure it. The inducement of promotion and of higher pay is none the less because he has for the time being been placed in a lower grade than the first team.' (Decision 2311/30, not printed.)

"Illustrations of the evidence to the contrary, which may rebut the presumption mentioned in the rule, are found in the following instances, but they are not exhaustive:—

"(a) When provision is made in the contract for payment for lost time or when it is the practice of the club to pay for lost time;

"(b) When (on the assumption of the claimant being engaged in his usual employment) it appears from the club's fixtures or other evidence that it was, or probably will be, necessary for the claimant, in order to discharge his obligations under his contract, to obtain leave of absence to such an extent that the aggregate number of occasions of such absence is likely to exceed 20 per cent. of the number of times that he has played or will be likely to play during the currency of his contract.

"This fixes the minimum of absences which are equivalent to the 'rare occasions' mentioned in the proviso to Rule 4 of Decision 8628/29.†

"(c) When by the terms of his contract or by the practice of the club the claimant may be required to train at any time.

"**Rule 3.**—If the remuneration payable under the contract is fixed by the match and the maximum payable can in any circumstances exceed 30s. per match, or if the remuneration consists wholly or partly of a weekly wage (as distinguished from a payment per match), it will be presumed that the claimant could not ordinarily have followed the occupation in addition to and outside the ordinary working hours of his usual employment.

"This presumption may be rebutted if the claimant gives evidence from which it can reasonably be inferred that, during the currency of his contract with the club, he has been able, and will be able, to discharge his obligations to the club without having obtained, and without having to obtain, leave of absence from his usual employment on more than 20 per cent. of the number of times that he has played, or will be likely to play, during the currency of his contract.

"The present case is an illustration of such a rebuttal, as will be explained later.

"Having decided whether the occupation could or could not ordinarily have been followed in addition to and outside the ordinary working hours of the claimant's usual employment, it will be necessary to ascertain whether the claimant is to be deemed to be following the occupation continuously during the whole week or only on days of playing (or acting as a reserve) or training. This will depend upon the obligations imposed upon the claimant, either expressly by the terms of his contract or impliedly by the practice of the club.

"**Rule 4.**—A claimant will be deemed to be following the occupation during the whole week in the following circumstances:—

"(a) When he is paid a weekly wage, whatever the amount.

"(b) When the maximum remuneration payable under his contract exceeds or may exceed 30s. per match; unless the written contract expressly limits all the claimant's duties under it to a specified day or specified days.

"This provision is justified by the experience of the application of the principles of Decisions 1152/30,\* 2407/31† and 7027/31‡ which merely imported a rebuttable presumption of an obligation to play or train when the remuneration exceeded 30s. per match. A definite rule will now take the place of the presumption.

"(c) When, by the terms of the claimant's contract or by the practice of the club, the claimant is under obligation to play (or to act as a reserve) or to train on any day of the week as the club may require.

"**Rule 5.**—If the claimant's case does not fall under Rule 4 it must be ascertained upon what day or days in the week the claimant, by the terms of his contract or by the practice of the club, may be required to discharge any of his obligations to the club, and the claimant will then be deemed to be following his occupation on that day or those days.

"Lastly, the following Rules show the decision to be given in accordance with the findings under the principles of the preceding Rules:—

"**Rule 6.**—If the claimant has succeeded in showing that his occupation could ordinarily have been followed in addition to and outside the ordinary working hours of his usual employment, his total remuneration in any week must be averaged over the days of that week upon which he has been deemed to be following the occupation in accordance with Rules 4 and 5. If the daily average so found does not exceed 3s. 4d. benefit must be allowed in respect of those days; if the daily average exceeds that sum benefit must be disallowed in respect of those days.

"**Rule 7.**—If the claimant has failed to prove that his occupation could ordinarily have been followed in addition to and outside the ordinary working hours of his usual employment, the remuneration to which he is entitled in any week must be regarded as being paid in respect of all the days in that week upon which he is deemed to be following the occupation in accordance with Rules 4 and 5, and disallowance must be imposed in respect of all those days, irrespective of the amount of remuneration.

"One of the effects of the foregoing Rules will be to ignore the distinction between contracts which are expressed to be made for a definite period and those in which the period of following the occupation is only implied, and to treat each case on a weekly basis.

"Another of the effects will be to obviate the necessity of considering evidence to justify or to rebut the presumptions stated in the Rules laid down in Decision 8628/29. It has been found difficult in many cases to obtain satisfactory evidence for these purposes, and in not a few instances the information supplied has been of doubtful reliability. This has led to anomalies and a lack of uniformity in decisions, which will be removed by the more definite Rules laid down in this decision.

"In the present case the claimant has signed a contract with the Warrington Club (Rugby League). The remuneration is payable by the match, and the maximum stated in the contract exceeds 30s. per match.

"By clause 1 the claimant agrees 'that he will . . . play the game of the Rugby League football for the club, either for their first team, second team, or as a reserve to either team.'

"By clause 3, 'the player shall have the right to refuse to play when called upon, if by his playing he would jeopardise his position at his ordinary work or be likely to lose such work.'

"Reading these clauses together they mean that the claimant must play for the club or act as a reserve when called upon, unless he can justify a refusal to do so under clause 3 (Decision 16866/30§). There is no evidence in the present case, as there was in that of Decision 2407/31, that the claimant has waived his right under clause 3 by arranging with his employer for leave of absence, nor is there any other evidence from which it can be inferred that that clause is not operative.

"The presumption mentioned in Rule 3 is rebutted, and the claimant succeeds in showing that he could ordinarily have followed the occupation in addition to and outside the ordinary working hours of his usual employment.

"Under Rule 4 the claimant must be deemed to be following the occupation throughout the week, and under Rule 6 his remuneration in any week must be averaged over the week.

"The claimant cannot, therefore, be deemed to be unemployed in respect of any week in which he is entitled to remuneration which exceeds 20s."

#### Case No. 24784/31. (23.12.31.)

REGULATION 2 OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (ANOMALIES) REGULATIONS, 1931—SEASONAL WORKERS—HOTEL PORTER AT HOLIDAY RESORT—NORMALLY EMPLOYED ONLY DURING HOLIDAY SEASONS—NO INSURABLE EMPLOYMENT DURING OFF SEASON TO A SUBSTANTIAL EXTENT—NOT ENTITLED TO BENEFIT EXCEPT DURING HOLIDAY SEASONS OF EASTER AND WHITSUNTIDE, AND THE SUMMER HOLIDAY SEASON FROM MID-JULY TO MID-OCTOBER.

The material circumstances of this case are as stated in the following decision given by the Umpire:—

*Decision.*—"On the facts before me my decision is that the claim

\* Not published.

† See U.I. Code 8a, Umpire's Selected Decisions, page 361.

§ See U.I. Code 8a, Umpire's Selected Decisions, page 386.

‡ See Pamphlet No. 2/1931, Umpire's Selected Decisions, page 40.

§ See Pamphlet No. 4/1931, Umpire's Selected Decisions, page 81.

§ See U.I. Code 8b, Umpire's Selected Decisions, page 190.



for benefit should be disallowed from mid-October to mid-July except for ten days at Easter and a similar period at Whitsuntide.

"This appeal relates to seasonal employment as defined in Regulation 2 of the Unemployment Insurance Anomalies Regulations, 1931 (S.R. & O. 1931, No. 818).

"The claimant resides in Lowestoft, in which place, according to his grounds of appeal, he can only obtain hotel work and fish work. He does not appear to dispute that either of those employments so far as he is concerned is, or would be, seasonal employment, but he cannot understand why he has been disallowed benefit during the 'off-season' by the Court of Referees. Probably he is unacquainted with the Unemployment Insurance Anomalies Regulations, 1931.

"Since 1928 the claimant's employment has been that of an hotel porter in Lowestoft and nothing else.

"In 1928 and 1929 he had six months' employment at an hotel in each year. The name of the hotel at which he was employed is not stated.

"In 1930 he was employed for two weeks in November and for one week in December at different hotels.

"In 1931 he was employed as an hotel porter at the same hotel as that at which he had been employed in the previous December on the following occasions:—5th to 20th January, 1st to 12th April, 22nd to 26th May, 5th to 8th June and 21st July to 10th October.

"His employment at this last-named hotel since December, 1930, has been that of extra porter. The hotel keeps a permanent hall staff of two porters, a page boy and a page girl, and the claimant is engaged for the Lowestoft season, and whenever one of the permanent porters is on holiday or absent for any other cause, and when there is extra pressure of work.

"Having regard to the statements in the claimant's grounds of appeal I am not prepared to differ from the decision of the Court of Referees that the claimant's normal employment is that of extra porter at the hotel in question, and that this is seasonal employment.

"The claimant's employment in December, 1930, was necessitated by the number of dinners and dances given at the hotel at and about Christmas. His employment in January of this year was to replace one of the permanent porters while the latter was on holiday. The employment in April covered the Easter holiday and that in May the Whitsuntide holiday. I am not told the reason for the employment in June. The July to October employment was for the Lowestoft season.

"The only question which remains to be decided is what is the 'off-season,' applying the provisions of Regulation 2 (c) to the facts of this case.

"I hesitate to differ from the Court of Referees, whose local knowledge of the duration of the Lowestoft season or seasons has been supplied in the determination of this case. As, however, the only reason which has been given to me for the claimant's employment from mid-July to mid-October of this year is to cope with the extra pressure of work caused by visitors to the hotel, I must hold that for the class of hotel in question the season extends to mid-October. Similarly the evidence points to an influx of visitors at Easter and Whitsuntide, which may fairly be described as holiday seasons, though of short duration. Christmas does not appear to fall within this category, but to be the season when the local residents entertain their friends at the hotel.

"On the evidence before me it would appear that the claimant should not when unemployed be allowed to receive unemployment benefit from mid-October to mid-July, with the exception of two periods of ten days at Easter and Whitsuntide respectively."

#### Case No. 24830/31. (28.12.31.)

REGULATION 3 OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (ANOMALIES) REGULATIONS, 1931—PERSONS WHOSE NORMAL EMPLOYMENT IS FOR NOT MORE THAN TWO DAYS IN THE WEEK—SHOP ASSISTANT, AGED 17, WITH TWO SHORT SPELLS OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT—EMPLOYED ON TWO DAYS A WEEK (FRIDAY AND SATURDAY) FOR 32 WEEKS IN AN ESTABLISHMENT WHERE IT WAS CUSTOMARY TO ENGAGE ASSISTANTS FOR WEEK-END TRADE—HELD TO BE NORMALLY EMPLOYED NOT MORE THAN TWO DAYS A WEEK.

The claimant, a shop assistant, aged 17 years, was employed for 8 weeks to September, 1930. In December of that year she obtained employment with a bazaar company and worked full-time until 31st January, 1931, when she was discharged owing to lack of business. On 28th February, 1931, claimant was re-engaged at the bazaar for work on two days a week only (Friday and Saturday) for which she was paid 6s. It was stated that out of a staff of 15 girls employed at the bazaar 4 or 5 were employed regularly on a two days a week basis, and that recruitment to the full-time permanent staff was usually made from the efficient part-time employees.

The additional circumstances are as stated in the following decision given by the Umpire:—

**Decision.**—"On the facts before me my decision is that the claim for benefit should be disallowed in respect of Monday to Thursday inclusive in each week.

"There is a certain class of shops, of which the shop at which the claimant is employed is one, which engage assistants to sell on Fridays and Saturdays only: these being the days of the week on which most business is done.

"At the shop at which the claimant is employed there are four or five of such week-end assistants.

"The claimant has been employed at this shop on Fridays and Saturdays only since 28th February of this year.

"Previously to undertaking this last-mentioned employment the claimant had had two short spells of full-time employment as a shop assistant, the longer of which was of eight weeks' duration. She has had no employment except that mentioned.

"On these facts the Court of Referees correctly decided that the claimant was 'a member of the class of persons whose normal employment is employment in an occupation in which their services are not normally required for more than two days in the week,' from which it follows that, by reason of the provisions of Regulation 3 of the Unemployment Insurance Anomalies Regulations, 1931, the claimant is not entitled to receive benefit in respect of any days other than those days in the week which constitute her normal employment."

## INDUSTRIAL COURTS ACT, 1919, AND CONCILIATION ACT, 1896.

### Recent Proceedings.

#### (A)—INDUSTRIAL COURT DECISIONS.

TEMPORARY MALE CLERKS, GRADE III, CIVIL SERVICE.—*Temporary Staffs Joint Committee (Civil Service) and Civil Service Clerical Association v. H.M. Treasury. Difference.*—Claim for minimum of scale of pay for male grade III clerks in London, Intermediate and Provincial Centres to be raised by three increments, i.e. 7s. 6d. weekly. **Decision.**—The Court awarded that while no change shall be made in the existing scale of pay, officers at present serving with less than two years' service, as also new entrants, shall be given the option of accepting the rates payable under the present scale, or the minimum of the scale plus five shillings per week, for their first four years of service, and thereafter three annual increments of 3s. and a final increment to the maximum of the scale. In either case the rates payable shall be subject to the cost-of-living sliding-scale agreement by which the wages of temporary clerical classes are regulated. Award to operate from the beginning of the first full pay week in January, 1932. Award issued 8th December, 1931. (1522).

SUB-STATION ATTENDANTS, ELECTRICAL SUB-STATIONS, SOUTHERN RAILWAY.—*Electrical Trades Union v. Southern Railway. Difference.*—Whether sub-station attendants on the Southern Railway (South-Eastern Section) are not entitled to the extra 5s. per week provided for in Clause 5 (b) of the agreement of 5th December, 1918, between the railway companies and the Electrical Trades Union and other trade unions. **Decision.**—The Court decided against the claim. Award issued 10th December, 1931. (1523).

#### (C.) OTHER SETTLEMENTS.

ENGINEERING AND IRON-FOUNDING, WALES.—*Welsh Engineers' and Founders' Association v. The West Wales Allied Engineering Trades Committee.*—The employers claimed a reduction in wages and an alteration of conditions. Following a joint conference arranged by the Department, the employers' claim for a reduction in wages was withdrawn, and agreement was reached covering an amendment of working conditions in respect of overtime, nightshifts, piecework, and double-day shift or three-shift system.

## RAILWAYS ACT, 1921.

### NATIONAL WAGES BOARD.

FINDINGS \* were issued by the National Wages Board on 23rd December, 1931, in the following cases:—

#### Referred by the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen.

*Cleaner E. D. Coolbear, March, London and North-Eastern Railway.*—Claim for payment of sixth turn of duty, week ending 10th August, 1929. The Society claimed that Cleaner Coolbear was entitled to payment for the sixth turn of duty for the week ending 10th August, 1929. On that day he was instructed to take duty after a rest interval of 10 hours 25 minutes; he refused to do so and was paid only for the five turns he had worked during the week. The Society contended that on and from Tuesday, 6th August, Coolbear was put on a regular firing turn, and was therefore entitled to a twelve hours' rest period in accordance with Clause 6 of Railway Executive Committee Circular Letter No. 1786 of 3rd April, 1919. They claimed that he should be paid for the sixth turn of duty under the guaranteed week clause of the National Agreement.

The Board found that Cleaner Coolbear was not entitled to the payment claimed. (Two members of the Board were unable to concur in this decision.)

*Marginal Time Allowance for preparation of engines—Driver A. Bunting, Kipps, London and North-Eastern Railway.* The Society submitted that men employed on the duties of preparing engines should be allowed 60 minutes or 45 minutes for each engine, according to the class of engine. The claim arose out of the case of Driver Bunting, who on 13th August, 1930, signed on duty at 4.15 a.m., and had allocated to him for preparation eleven engines with a heating surface of less than 1,500 square feet, the last engine being booked to leave the shed at 11.47 a.m. The Society contended that this number of engines rendered it impossible for Bunting to perform the duties adequately in the time allotted by the Company, and also that the time allowed was not in accordance with the National Agreement.

The Board's finding was that paragraph 4 (c) of Railway Executive Committee Circular Letter No. 1937 provides that in the preparation of engines by shed staff a marginal time of 60 minutes should be

\* The Board's findings are placed on sale, and may be purchased from No. 5, Old Palace Yard, London, S.W.1.



allowed for the preparation of engines with a heating surface of more than 1,500 square feet, and a marginal time of 45 minutes for all other classes of steam engines. (One of the members of the Board who signed this finding made a reservation that he signed in respect of the position at Kipps only; he was of opinion that for men regularly employed on shed work there is necessity for a separate agreement as to their conditions of working. The representatives of the railway companies on the Board were unable to concur in the Board's finding.)

*Manning of Sentinel Locomotive, Engineer's Department, Lowestoft, London and North-Eastern Railway.* The Society claimed that the "Sentinel" locomotive working in the engineer's department at Lowestoft, London and North-Eastern Railway, should be manned by a driver and fireman in the line of promotion. The Society contended that, as the locomotive in the course of the day's work has to cross public roads, and also propel wagons into the main goods yard and return with empty wagons, the present arrangements in respect of the manning are unsatisfactory.

The Board by a majority were of opinion that the claim had not been established.

*Driver W. Carter, Bournemouth, Southern Railway—Claim for additional payment when travelling passenger between outward and homeward trips of a mileage turn of duty.*—The Society claimed that Driver Carter should be paid for 2 hours, 1 hour 55 minutes, and 2 hours 40 minutes on 23rd, 25th, and 27th July, 1929, respectively, when travelling as a passenger between the outward and homeward trips whilst performing a mileage turn of duty. The Society submitted that, although there is no specific reference in the National Agreements to payment when travelling midway between a mileage turn of duty as Driver Carter was rostered to do, the principle embodied in clause 9 of Circular Letter No. 1937 should apply.

The Board by a majority found that Driver Carter was not entitled under the provisions of the National Agreements to the payment claimed.

#### Referred by National Union of Railwaymen.

*Relief Signalmen—Method of payment when relieving Signalmen and Porter-Signalmen who normally work spread-over turns.*—The Union submitted a claim that relief signalmen should be paid for the over-all time when they are relieving signalmen or porter-signalmen who normally work spread-over turns of duty. The Union relied on Clause 61 of the Third Memorandum on Points of Interpretation, and submitted also that where men are booked for duty away from their home station, any period of duty under the spread-over arrangement is of no avail, the men being unable to spend such period at home, and that in most cases the men have no alternative but to remain in the signal box for the period they are booked off duty. The Board were of opinion that the claim failed.

*Ticket Collector G. Davey and Porter H. H. Brown, Thornaby Station, London and North Eastern Railway—Application for payment as for continuous duty.*—On Sunday, 29th September, 1929, these two men were rostered for spread-over turns of duty, in the course of which they were booked off from 6.45 p.m. to 8.10 p.m., that is, for an interval of 1 hour 25 minutes. The Union claimed that the men should receive payment as for continuous duty. The Union based their claim on paragraph 4 of National Wages Board Decision No. 33, and contended that the Board apparently took the view that if a man was booked off for less than two hours the period was of no value to him, and that he should therefore receive payment as for continuous duty.

The Board found that Ticket Collector G. Davey and Porter H. H. Brown were not entitled to payment as for continuous duty in respect of Sunday, 29th September, 1929, under the terms of National Wages Board Decision No. 33.

*Goods Porter F. Kingsnorth and Goods Porter G. F. Ford, Blackfriars Goods Depot, Southern Railway—Claim for Higher Grade Pay.*—The Union submitted two separate claims that these two men were entitled to the loader's rate of pay for certain stated periods. They contended that the men were loading for full turns of duty during the periods referred to, and that accordingly the rate of pay for loaders as set out in the National Agreement should be paid to them.

The Board, after reviewing the submissions made to them, were of opinion that the claims should be referred back to the parties for further consideration.

*No. 3 Relaying Gang, Staveley Town, London and North Eastern Railway—Application for continuance of payment of pre-war differential on transfer from rural to industrial area.*—The Union claimed that this relaying gang should retain the differential of 1s. 6d. per week when transferred from Brigg (rural area) to Staveley Town (industrial area). The Union submitted that the continued payment of the differential is provided for under the clause "Special Relaying Gangs" in Appendix C of the Memorandum of Agreement dated 20th March, 1920, which states:—"Agreed that in cases where before the war men forming the special relaying gangs were paid a higher rate than that applied to ordinary platelayers, such men shall continue to receive the same differential as in 1913."

The Board by a majority were of opinion that the differential payment provided in the Clause "Special Relaying Gangs" in Appendix C of the Memorandum of Agreement dated 20th March, 1920, is a personal one to the men employed in the special relaying gangs, and that they should continue to receive it until their positions are vacated.

*Relayers and Ballastmen, Gang No. 6, Low Moor, London and North Eastern Railway—Application to be paid on the basis of a*

*44-hour week whilst working in Bowling Tunnel.*—The Union claimed that relayers and ballastmen when employed in Bowling tunnel should be paid on the basis of a 44-hour week, in the same way as men regularly employed in the tunnel length. The Union contended that, as the relayers and ballastmen concerned when employed in the tunnel are subject to the same exceptional circumstances as the regular tunnel length men, they should receive the same conditions as far as working hours and payment are concerned, i.e., 48 hours' payment for a 44-hour working week. The Union also relied upon Clause 14 of the first Memorandum of Agreement on Points of Interpretation, dated 21st December, 1920.

The Board found that the claim had not been established. Seven members of the Board, however, did not concur in this finding.

*Permanent Way Extra Gang, Dover Priory, Southern Railway—Claim for payment in respect of rest period.*—The Union claimed that the men in question should be paid at overtime rate for one hour in respect of certain turns of duty when they were rostered for duty with only eight hours' rest period. They submitted that the arrangements in connection with the unloading of the stone train were known to the management some days beforehand, and that therefore arrangements should have been made for the men to be so rostered for duty as to allow for the minimum rest period of nine hours, as set out in Clause 6 of Railway Executive Committee Circular Letter No. 1786 of 3rd April, 1919. As this was not done the Union submitted that the men should be paid at overtime rate in respect of one hour short of the nine hours' rest period. The Company contended that the work came within the category of "special duty."

The Board found that the turns of duty in question do not come within the category of special duty, and that the rest period before such turns should have been nine hours.

*Leading Carter F. Christian, Retford, London and North Eastern Railway—Alteration of Roster—Claim for payment in respect of change of short turn of duty.*—The Union claimed that Leading Carter Christian was entitled to payment of 5s. in respect of his short turn of duty being changed from Saturday to Friday during the week ended 24th August, 1929. They submitted that when a man normally works five long turns and one short turn of duty for a guaranteed week, and either by custom or agreement Saturday has been regarded as the appropriate day for the short turn, the Company is not entitled to utilise any other day in the week for the short turn.

The Board decided against the claim.

## TRADE BOARDS ACTS.

### I.—CONFIRMING ORDERS.

#### Drift Nets Mending Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order E. (12), dated 21st December, 1931, confirming the variation of general minimum time-rates, general minimum piece-rates and overtime rates for female workers, and specifying 28th December, 1931, as the date from which such rates should become effective.

#### Brush and Broom Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Order N.I.B.B. (40), made by the Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland, dated 9th December, 1931, confirming the variation of general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates, general minimum piece-rates and general overtime rates for male and female workers in the trade, and specifying 1st January, 1932, as the date from which such minimum rates become effective.

#### Retail Bespoke Tailoring Trade Board (England and Wales).

Order R.B. (E. & W.) 6, dated 8th January, 1932, confirming the variation of certain general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates, and overtime rates for male and female workers and general minimum piece-rates for certain classes of male workers in the following areas:—Northern, Yorkshire, East Lancashire, West Lancashire, North Midland, Central Midland, South Midland, Eastern, South-Eastern, London, South-Western, Central Southern, North Wales, South Wales; and specifying 15th January, 1932, as the date from which such minimum rates should become effective.

## FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

### Asbestos Industry Regulations.

THE Home Secretary, on 31st December, 1931, made Regulations\* under Section 79 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, to apply to all factories and workshops in which certain specified processes are carried on in connection with the manipulation of asbestos and the manufacture or repair of articles composed wholly or partly of asbestos and processes incidental thereto.

The Regulations, which are in accordance with the draft issued on 15th September, 1931,† may be cited as the Asbestos Industry Regulations, 1931, and will come into force (with certain exceptions) on 1st March, 1932.

\* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1931; No. 1140. H.M. Stationery Office; price 2d. net (2½d. post free).

† See the issue of this GAZETTE for September, 1931 (page 369).



## OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

[NOTE.—The prices quoted are net, and do not include postage.]

**APPROVED SOCIETIES.**—*National Health Insurance. Report by the Government Actuary on the third valuation of the assets and liabilities of approved societies.* (Cmd. 3978; price 1s. 6d.)

**COST OF LIVING.**—*An international enquiry into costs of living. A comparative study of workers' living costs in Detroit (U.S.A.) and fourteen European cities. Studies and Reports, Series N (Statistics), No. 17.* (Published in London for the International Labour Office by P. S. King & Son, Ltd.; price 7s. 6d.) (See pages 11–12.)

**FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.**—*Report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for 1930. Part 2. Friendly Societies.* (S.O. publication; price 1s. 6d.)

**LABOUR LEGISLATION.**—*Legislative Series. Vol. IX. 1928. Part II. G. B.—Ven. (Great Britain to Venezuela.)* (Published in London for the International Labour Office by P. S. King & Son, Ltd.; price £1 15s. for three parts.)

**MESSROOMS AND CANTEENS.**—*Messrooms and canteens at small factories and workshops. Welfare Pamphlets, No. 2.* (3rd edition.) Home Office. (S.O. publication; price 4d.)

**MINING.**—(i) *Coal Mines Act, 1930. Report by the Board of Trade under Section 7 of the Act on the working of schemes under Part I of the Act during the June and September quarters, 1931.* (Cmd. 3982; price 3d.) (ii) *Statistical summary of output, and of the costs of production, proceeds and profits of the coalmining industry for the quarter ended 30th September, 1931.* Mines Department. (Cmd. 3987; price 1d.) (See page 11.)

**RATIONALISATION.**—*The social aspects of rationalisation: introductory studies. Studies and Reports, Series B. (Economic Conditions) No. 18.* (Published in London for the International Labour Office by P. S. King & Son, Ltd.; price 8s.)

**SAFETY.**—*Safety Organisation in Factories. Safety Pamphlet No. 14.* Home Office. (S.O. publication; price 3d.)

**SHIPPING CASUALTIES.**—*Return of shipping casualties to and deaths on vessels registered in the United Kingdom in the year ending 31st December, 1930, with comparative figures for earlier periods.* Board of Trade. (S.O. publication; price 9d.)

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.**—(i) *Minutes of evidence taken before the Royal Commission on Unemployment Insurance. Forty-first day.* (ii) *Appendices to the minutes of evidence taken before the Royal Commission on Unemployment Insurance. Part V. Statistical analyses by the Ministry of Labour of (I) persons insured against unemployment in Great Britain at July, 1930, and (II) persons on the registers of employment exchanges at 2nd February, 1931.* Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publications; price 3s. 6d. and 5s. 6d. respectively.) (See pages 8–10.) (iii) *Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1931. Selected decisions given by the Umpire on claims for benefit during the month of November, 1931.* U.I. Code 8B. Pamphlet 11/1931. Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publication; price 6d.)

**VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE.**—*Choice of Careers Series. No. 4, Surveying, land and estate agency, and auctioneering.* Revised September, 1931. No. 13, *Insurance.* Ministry of Labour. (S.O. publications; price 2d. each.)

## GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

### LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, DECEMBER, 1931.

#### ADMIRALTY.

##### (Civil Engineer-in-Chief's Department.)

**Chatham:** **Portland Cement:** Gillingham Portland Cement Co., Ltd., London, W.C. **Portsmouth:** **Portland Cement:** Cement Marketing Co., Ltd., London, S.W.

##### (Contract and Purchase Department.)

**Anchor:** W. L. Byers & Co., Ltd., Sunderland.—**Aprons, Linen and Operation Gowns:** Frank Lane, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Bells, Gongs, etc.:** Hawkers, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Boat, Motor, 30-ft.:** Vosper & Co., Ltd., Portsmouth.—**Bolts and Nuts, Wrought Iron:** Edward Mercer, Ltd., Hollinwood; Chas. Richards & Sons, Ltd., Darlaston; Stones Bros., Ltd., West Bromwich; Wilkes, Ltd., Darlaston.—**Bow Cap Gear:** MacTaggart, Scott & Co., Ltd., Loanhead.—**Branch Breakers:** Whipp & Bourne, Ltd., Manchester.—**Cabinets, Ice:** Marco Refrigerators, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Cable Gear, Chain:** Clarke Chapman & Co., Ltd., Gateshead; Carron Company, Falkirk; J. G. Walker & Son, Ltd., Old Hill; Woodhouse Bros., Cradley Heath; H. Wood & Co., Ltd., Chester; Fellows Bros., Ltd., Cradley Heath; Brown Lenox & Co., Ltd., Pontypridd; Laird & Son, Ltd., Irvine.—**Caps, Blue Cloth, with Peaks:** J. Compton Sons & Webb, Ltd., London, E.; Hobson & Sons (London), Ltd., London, S.E.; Zeffertt & Son, Portsmouth.—**Carpets, Rugs and Mats:** Thos. Bond Worth & Co., Ltd., Stourport; Carpet Trades, Ltd., Kidderminster; Tomkinsons, Ltd., Kidderminster.—**Cloth, Cotton Cleaning:** A. Worsley & Sons, Ltd., Bury; A. Robertshaw & Sons, Ltd., Mytholmroyd.—**Cocks, Gunmetal, Valves, Torpedo Fittings:** W. N. Baines & Co., Ltd., Rotherham; Peter Brotherhood Ltd., Peterborough; Hayward Tyler & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Sir J. Laing & Sons, Ltd., Sunderland; Shipham & Co. Ltd., Hull; Smith Bros. & Co. (Hyson), Ltd., Nottingham; S. Smith & Sons (Notts), Ltd., Nottingham; T. Wilson & Sons (Swalwell), Ltd., Swalwell.—**Compressing Equipment:** Reavell & Co., Ltd., Ipswich.

—**Condenser Installation:** Telegraph Condenser Co., Ltd., London, W.—**Cross Connectors for 3-inch Rope:** C. Richards & Sons, Ltd., Darlaston.—**Drawers, Knitted:** J. B. Lewis & Sons, Ltd., Nottingham; I. & R. Morley, Haenor; Moore, Eady & Murcott Goode, Ltd., Derby.—**Driers, Paste:** Colthurst & Harding, Ltd., Bristol; Craig & Rose, Ltd., Leith; J. Hare & Co. (Colours), Ltd., Bristol.—**Drill, Brown:** Howe & Coates, Ltd., Manchester.—**Enamels, White and Grey:** Lewis Berger & Sons, Ltd., London, E.; Blacklock & Macarthur, Ltd., Glasgow; Paripan, Ltd., Egham; Gross Sherwood & Heald, Ltd., Barking; Jenson & Nicholson, Ltd., London, E.—**Engines, A.E.C.:** Associated Equipment Co., Ltd., Southall.—**Engines, Motor Boat:** J. & H. McLaren, Ltd., Leeds; Norris Henty & Gardners, Ltd., Patricroft.—**Fittings, Electric Light:** Edison Swan Electric Co., Ltd., Ponders End; Engineering & Lighting Equipment Co., Ltd., St. Albans; Gabriel & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; General Electric Co., Ltd., Birmingham; W. McGeoch & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Oliver Pell Control, Ltd., London, S.E.; Player, Mitchell & Breeden, Birmingham; Rainsford & Lynes, Ltd., Birmingham; Revo Electric Co., Ltd., Tipton; Veritys, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Generating Sets, Electric:** Crossley Bros., Ltd., Openshaw.—**Handkerchiefs, Black Silk:** Josiah Smale & Son, Ltd., Macclesfield.—**Heaters, Surface Feed Water:** Caird & Rayner, Ltd., London, E.—**Heating Equipment, Steam:** Benham & Sons, Ltd., London, W.—**Lamps, Electric:** General Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.; Siemens Electric Lamps & Supplies, Ltd., London, E.C.; British Thomson-Houston Co., Ltd., Rugby.—**Lathe, Screwcutting:** Noble & Lund, Ltd., Felling.—**Lathes, 8½-inch Gap:** Dean Smith & Grace, Ltd., Keighley.—**Lead, Red:** Cookson Lead & Antimony Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Walkers Parker & Co., Ltd., Chester.—**Leggings, Web:** Mills Equipment Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Linoleum and Cork Carpet:** Barry Ostlere & Shepherd, Ltd., Kirkcaldy; Michael Nairn & Co., Ltd., Kirkcaldy.—**Machines, Drilling:** Frederick Town & Sons, Halifax.—**Machines, Grinding:** Alfred Herbert, Ltd., Coventry.—**Masts, W/T:** Milliken Bros., Ltd., Watford.—**Panels, Amplifying, etc.:** Radio Instruments, Ltd., Croydon.—**Paste, White Lead Oil:** Brimsdown Lead Co., Ltd., Brimsdown; Champion Druce & Co., Ltd., London, N.; Librex Lead Co., Ltd., Liverpool; Locke Lancaster & W. W. & R. Johnson & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.; Mersey White Lead Co., Ltd., Warrington; Walkers Parker & Co., Ltd., Chester.—**Pneumatic Tube Installations:** Sturtevant Engineering Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Racks, Accessories for W/T Receivers:** McGeoch & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Sawmill, Motor-driven Circular:** John Pickles & Son (Engineers), Ltd., Hebden Bridge.—**Shafting, Telegraph:** English Steel Corporation, Ltd., Sheffield.—**Switches:** Alfred Graham & Co., Ltd., Slough.—**Switchgear:** Whipp & Bourne, Ltd., Manchester.—**Truck, Electric and Spare Battery:** R. A. Lister & Co., Ltd., Dursley.—**Tuner Amplifiers:** Radio Instruments, Ltd., Croydon.—**Valves, Vent and Spares:** MacTaggart, Scott & Co., Ltd., Loanhead.—**Wire, Aerial:** Frederick Smith & Co., Salford.—**Wire, Copper:** Concordia Electric Wire Co., Ltd., Long Eaton; Connollys (Blackley), Ltd., Blackley; Enfield Cable Works, Ltd., Brimsdown; Johnson, Clapham & Morris, Ltd., London, E.C.; Kent Bros. Electric Wire Co. & E. H. Phillips, Ltd., Kew Gardens; London Electric Wire Co., & Smiths, Ltd., London, E.; F. W. Potter & Soar, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Wire Rope, Steel:** British Ropes, Ltd., Dagenham.—**X-Ray Apparatus and Radiographic Couch:** A. E. Dean & Co., London, E.C.—**X-Ray Machines:** A. E. Dean & Co., London, E.C.

#### WAR OFFICE.

**Acid, Sulphuric:** Spencer, Chapman & Messel, Ltd., London, E.—**Bags, Kit:** C. Groom, Ltd., London, E.—**Bodies, Workshop:** Tuke & Bell, Ltd., Lichfield.—**Boots, Gum:** Dunlop Robber Co., Ltd., Liverpool.—**Boots and Shoes:** Adams Bros. (Raunds), Ltd., Raunds.—**Canvas, Flax:** Island Spinning Co., Ltd., Lisburn.—**Cap Comforters:** A. Yates & Co., Leicester.—**Cases, Mattresses and Slips, Bolster:** C. Groom, Ltd., London, E.; S. B. Sadler & Sons, Burnham-on-Crouch.—**Chassis, Medium, Six-Wheeled, and Cabs:** Guy Motors, Ltd., Wolverhampton.—**Chassis, Motor Car, and Bodies:** Austin Motor Co., Ltd., Birmingham.—**Clothing, Waterproof:** North British Rubber Co., Ltd., Edinburgh.—**Coke Grading Plant:** New Conveyor Co., Ltd., Smethwick.—**Copper Ingot:** British Metal Corporation, Ltd., London, E.C.; H. Gardner & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; British American Metals Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Cotton, Drab, Brown, etc.:** Hugh Sleight & Co., Leek.—**Cotton Waste:** J. Hargreaves, Bacup; Redmayne & Isherwood, Ltd., Manchester.—**Drawers, Brown, Cotton:** Nottingham Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Loughborough; I. & R. Morley, Haenor.—**Drill, Khaki:** J. H. Greenhow & Co., Ltd., Manchester; J. Hoyle & Sons, Ltd., Bury.—**Emery Cloth:** T. Goldsworthy & Sons, Ltd., Manchester.—**Floor Polish:** Cle-Pol Manufacturing Co., London, E.—**Forge Fittings, etc.:** East Dereham Foundry, Ltd., East Dereham.—**Galvanizing Boxes:** Lancaster & Co. (Bow), Ltd., London, E.—**Gloves, Knitted, Drab:** Overhand Glove Co., Ltd., Leicester.—**Ironmongery:** Comyn Ching & Co. (London), Ltd., London, W.C. Pryke & Palmer, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Laces, Leather:** City Leather Co., Ltd., Derby.—**Lathes:** Denham's Engineering Co., Ltd., Halifax; Graham & Normanton, Halifax.—**Magnesium Powder:** British Maxium, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Metal Rod:** I.C.I. Metals, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Methylated Spirit:** Barter Trading Corporation, Ltd., Ipswich; Methylating Co., Ltd., London, W.—**Overall (Jackets and Trousers):** Milns, Cartwright, Reynolds, Ltd., London, S.W.; J. Compton Sons & Webb, Ltd., London, E.—**Paint, Service Colour:** Burrell & Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Pipes, etc., Cast Iron:** J. & R. Ritchie, Ltd., Middlesbrough.—**Purses, Highland:** Leckie, Graham & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; T. Dunlop, Glasgow.—**Roofing Composition:** British Bye-Products, Ltd., Northfleet.—**Shirts, Angola, Drab:** McIntyre, Hogg, Marsh & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.; Kelsall & Kemp,



Ltd., Rochdale.—**Steel Tubing:** Accles & Pollock, Ltd., Oldbury.—**Switches, Motor, Directing:** India Rubber, Gutta Percha & Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., London, E.—**Thread, Machine:** Lindsay, Thompson & Co., Ltd., Belfast.—**Ticken:** A. Blyth & Co., Kirkcaldy.—**Tin Ingot:** R. Wolff & Co., London, E.C.—**Towels, Hand, Turkish:** Stott & Smith, Ltd., Congleton.—**Wall and Ceiling Board:** Venesta, Ltd., London, E.C.; Patent Impermeable Millboard Co., Ltd., Sunbury Common; Limehouse Paper Mills, Ltd., London, E.; British Plaster Board, Ltd., Wallasey.—**Water Softening Mixture:** Sofnol, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Webbing, Spun Silk:** Brough, Nicholson & Hall (1930), Ltd., Leek.—**Zinc Ingot:** H. Gardner & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Works Services:** *Building Works and Services:* Aldershot, Marlborough Lines, Hammersley Barracks, Erection of Barrack Block: T. H. Jones, South Farnborough. Aldershot, Barrosa and Albuhera Barracks, Provision of Sanitary Annexes: Lee Bros. (Aldershot), Ltd., Aldershot. Aldershot, Gibraltar Barracks, Repairs to Roofs: J. A. Tuxford, London, S.E. Bulford, Amiens Lines, Erection of Petrol Store: W. E. Chivers & Sons, Ltd., Devizes. Chatham, School of Military Engineering, Periodical Painting: N. S. Long, Blackpool. Colchester, Provision of Officer's Quarter: H. Everett & Son, Colchester. Colchester, Plassy Married Soldiers' Quarters, Provision of Bath Annex: W. Chambers & Son (Colchester), Ltd., Colchester. Didcot, Vauxhall Camp, Erection of Coal Yard and Miniature Rifle Range: Boshers (Cholsey), Ltd., Cholsey. Edinburgh, Redford Barracks, Provision of Annexes and Heating Installation: Pirie & Co., Ltd., Edinburgh. Feltham, Erection of Warrant Officer's Quarter: Thomas & Edge, Ltd., London, S.E. Hounslow, Infantry Barracks, Erection of Cookhouse: F. R. Hipperson & Son, London, E.C. Larkhill, Reconstruction of Water Supply; Larkhill, Drainage System, etc.; Larkhill, Erection of Regimental Institute: J. B. Edwards & Co. (Whyteleafe), Ltd., London, W. Larkhill and Salisbury, Periodical Services: Fields, Ltd., Nottingham. Perham Down, Drainage System, etc.: J. B. Edwards & Co. (Whyteleafe), Ltd., London, W. Shorncliffe, Periodical Services: A. Bagnall & Sons, Ltd., Shipley. Warley, Erection of Dining Room and Cookhouse Block: H. E. Jerram, London, E. Woolwich, Military College of Science, Steel-framed Garage: A. & J. Main & Co., Ltd., Glasgow. Catterick, Supply Depot, Erection of Forage and Granary: G. Dougill & Sons, Darlington. Lichfield, Repairs to Roads and Parades: Tarslag (1923), Ltd., Wolverhampton. Melton Mowbray, Term Contract: F. D. Goodwin, Melton Mowbray.

## AIR MINISTRY.

**Aircraft, Development Test:** Short Bros. (Rochester & Bedford), Ltd., Rochester, Kent.—**Aircraft, Dummy:** H. G. Hawker Engineering Co., Ltd., Kingston-on-Thames.—**Aircraft, Fitting Engines:** Blackburn Aeroplane & Motor Co., Ltd., Brough, Yorks.—**Aircraft, Re-building Bomber:** Fairey Aviation Coy., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex.—**Aircraft, Spares:** Blackburn Aeroplane & Motor Co., Ltd., Brough, Yorks; Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex; Handley Page, Ltd., London, N.W.; Short Bros. (Rochester & Bedford), Ltd., Rochester, Kent; Sir W. G. Armstrong-Whitworth Aircraft, Ltd., Coventry; Supermarine Aviation Works (Vickers), Ltd., Southampton; Vickers (Aviation), Ltd., Weybridge.—**Aircraft, Tests:** Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol; Westland Aircraft Works, Yeovil.—**Aircraft, Work on:** Blackburn Aeroplane & Motor Co., Ltd., Brough, Yorks.—**Aircscrews:** Aircscrew Co., Ltd., Weybridge; Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol; Fairey Aviation Coy., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex.—**Bomb Carriers:** Hobbies, Ltd., Dereham; Vickers-Armstrongs, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Boots, Ankle:** Adams Bros. (Raunds), Ltd., Raunds; Tebbutt Bros. & Hall, Ltd., Raunds.—**Buildings and Works Services:** Ironing Machine (Henlow): Thos. Bradford & Co., Salford, Lancs. Runways for Torpedo Workshops (Gosport): Herbert Morris, Ltd., Loughborough. Workshops, Stores & Offices (Aldergrove): H. & J. Martin, Ltd., Belfast.—**Calculators, Wind:** H. Hughes & Son, Ltd., London, E.C.—**Canvas, Proofed:** Holdsworth & Gibb, Ltd., Swinton, Lancs.—**Crossley 6-Wheeler Spares:** Crossley Motors, Ltd., Gorton.—**Electric D.C. Motor:** Bull Motors, Ltd., Ipswich.—**Engines, Aircraft:** Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Engines, Aircraft, and Tests, etc.:** Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol.—**Engines, Aircraft, Cylinders:** D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.—**Engines, Aircraft, Conversion:** Armstrong Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry.—**Engines, Aircraft, Exhaust Manifolds:** Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol.—**Engines, Aircraft, Overhaul:** Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol.—**Engines, Aircraft, Rebuilding:** Armstrong Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry.—**Engines, Aircraft, Spares:** Armstrong Siddeley Motors, Ltd., Coventry; Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., Bristol; D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.; Rolls Royce, Ltd., Derby.—**Engines, Aircraft, Work on:** D. Napier & Son, Ltd., London, W.—**Machine-Gun Parts:** Vickers-Armstrongs, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Photographic Film:** Kodak, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Refuelling Scow, Modification:** Saunders-Roe, Ltd., East Cowes.

## CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

**Blankets:** T. & D. Lee & Sons, Ltd., Dewsbury; A. Preston & Sons, Ltd., Dewsbury.—**Cable:** British Insulated Cables, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Car:** Sunbeam Motor Car Co., Ltd., Wolverhampton.—**Cement:** Cement Marketing Co., London, S.W.—**Clothing:** Hobson & Sons (Ldn.), Ltd., London, S.E.; Milns Cartwright Reynolds, Ltd., London, S.W.—**Cotton Wool:** Vernon & Co., Ltd., Preston.—**Detonators:** Nobel's Explosives Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Drill:** E. Spinner & Co., Manchester.—**Flannel:** Kelsall & Kemp, Ltd., Rochdale.—**Lymph:** The Lister Institute, Marazion.—**Motor Roller Spares:** Barford & Perkins, Ltd., Peterborough.—**Oils:** Premier Oil Extracting Mills, Ltd., Hull; The Vacuum Oil Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Pipes:** Stanton Ironworks Co., Ltd., Nottingham; Staveley Coal & Iron Co., Ltd., Hollingwood.—**Pump Spares:**

Hathorn, Davey & Co., Ltd., Leeds.—**Rail Anchors:** P. & M. Co. (England), Ltd., London, S.W.—**Road Tar:** Gas Light & Coke Co., London, E.C.; Lancashire Tar Distillers, Ltd., Manchester.—**Steel Angles:** P. & W. Maclellan, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Tablets:** Howards & Sons, Ltd., Ilford.—**Tabloids:** Burroughs Wellcome & Co., London, E.C.—**Water Meters:** Manchester Water Meter Co., Manchester.—**Weighbridges:** W. & T. Avery, Ltd., Birmingham.—**X-Ray Apparatus:** Newton & Wright, Ltd., London, N.

## H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

**Cloth, Tracing:** Morley Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Eccles; Winterbottom Book Cloth Co., Ltd., Manchester.—**Gum, Liquid:** F. Mordan & Co., Ltd., London, N.; Henry C. Stephens, Ltd., London, N.—**Paper:** Caldwell's Paper Mill Co., Ltd., Inverkeithing; Carrongrove Paper Co., Ltd., Denny; Robt. Craig & Sons, Ltd., Caldercruix; Darwen Paper Mill Co., Ltd., Darwen; Golden Valley Paper Mills, Ltd., Bitton; Imperial Paper Mills, Ltd., Gravesend; North Wales Paper Co., Ltd., Oakenholt; Olives Paper Mill Co., Ltd., Bury; Wiggins, Teape and A. Pirie (Sales), Ltd., Inverness.—**Pencils:** British Pens, Ltd., Keswick.—**Printing, Ruling, Binding, etc.:** Group 152 (1931)—Scotland. Bookwork Printing: J. J. Gray, Edinburgh. Group 153 (1931)—Scotland. Bookwork Printing: Thos. Paul, Ltd., Falkirk. Group 348 (1932)—The Navy List and Appendix: Jas. Truscott & Son, Ltd., London, E.C. Group 349 (1932)—The Ministry of Labour Gazette: Eyre & Spottiswoode, Ltd., London, E.C. Group 350 (1932)—Bookwork and Jobwork Printing: H.M. Stationery Office Press, London, S.W. Group 635 (1931)—Jobwork Printing: Charles Sever, Ltd., Manchester; Group 636 (1932)—Northern Area. Jobwork Printing. Group 637 (1932)—Northern Area. Jobwork Printing: Mackie & Co., Ltd., Warrington. 2,000,000 Forms U.I.80.B.: C. Birchall, Ltd., Liverpool. 3,000,000 Forms U.I.80.B.: C. Tinling & Co., Ltd., Prescott.

## POST OFFICE.

**Apparatus, Telegraphic:** Creed & Co., Ltd., Croydon.—**Apparatus, Telephonic:** Automatic Telephone Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Liverpool; Ericsson Telephones, Ltd., Beeston; General Electric Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Standard Telephones and Cables, Ltd., London, N.W.; Telephone Manufacturing Co. (1929), Ltd., London, S.E.—**Beeswax:** Wilkins Campbell & Co., Ltd., West Drayton, Middlesex.—**Blocks, Terminal:** Thomas De La Rue & Co., Ltd., London, E.; Ebonestos Insulators, Ltd., London, S.E.—**Boxes, Glass:** Pilkington Brothers, Ltd., St. Helens.—**Boxes, Service:** Venner Time Switches, Ltd., New Malden.—**Cable:** British Insulated Cables, Ltd., Prescott; Connollys (Blackley), Ltd., Manchester; Enfield Cable Works, Ltd., Brimsdown; W. T. Henley's Telegraph Works Co., Ltd., Gravesend; Pirelli-General Cable Works, Ltd., Eastleigh; Siemens Brothers & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Standard Telephones and Cables, Ltd., London, E.; Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Union Cable Co., Ltd., Dagenham.—**Cable Drums:** Pirelli-General Cable Works, Ltd., Eastleigh.—**Canvas, Sailcloth:** Richards, Ltd., Aberdeen.—**Capping Steel:** John Lysaght, Ltd., Newport.—**Condensers:** Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, N.—**Conduit and Conduit Fittings:** F. C. Blackwell & Co., Ltd., Liverpool; Falk, Stadelmann & Co., Ltd., Birmingham; Steel Tube and Conduits Co. (Middlesbrough), Ltd., Middlesbrough. Epsom: O. C. Summers, London, N.—**Conveyors:** Derby, Midland Road Post Office: Lamson Pneumatic Tube Co., Ltd., London, E.C.—**Electric Passenger Lift:** General Post Office (West), London, E.C.1: Pickerings, Ltd., Stockton-on-Tees.—**Cords, Telephone:** Phoenix Telephone & Electric Works, Ltd., London, N.W.; Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, E.—**Ducts:** Albion Clay Co., Ltd., Burton-on-Trent.—**Engraving, etc., Metal Type:** G. De Lacy & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.; H. B. Sale, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Materials for Post Office Clothing:** R. Brearley & Son, Ltd., Batley.—**Motor Cars and Vans:** Morris Motors, Ltd., Cowley, Oxon.—**Parts for Bicycles:** New Hudson, Ltd., Birmingham.—**Poles, Telegraph:** Forestry Commission (England and Wales), London, S.W.; A. & G. Paterson, Ltd., Banbury; Frank Sime, Inverness.—**Repair, etc., of Tents:** John Smith & Co. (London, E.), Ltd., Goodmayes.—**Roofs, Pole:** John Hill & Sons, Stourbridge.—**Signs, Glass:** Brilliant Sign Co. (1907), Ltd., London, W.—**Telephonic Repeater Equipment:** Leicester; Taplow: The General Electric Co., Ltd., Coventry.—**Transformers, etc.:** Birmingham Head Post Office Sub-Station: Crompton Parkinson, Ltd., Chelmsford.—**Troughing, Wood:** Calters, Ltd., London, S.E.

**Conduits, Laying, etc.:** London-St. Margarets Bay (Hythe-St. Margarets Bay Section); Thornton Heath, Surrey (Brigstock Road): J. E. Billings & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Rothesay, Bute: P. & F. McCallion, Dumbarton. Wellingborough; Leeds (Head Post Office-Headrow, Quebec Street, etc.): James F. Hodge, Birmingham. Wargrave (Berks); Oxford (East): Alex. Thomson & Co. (London), Ltd., London, W.C. Bagshot (Surrey): Wm. Dobson (Edinburgh), Ltd., Edinburgh. Hunslet (Leeds): Whittaker Ellis, Ltd., London, S.W. Penrhyn (Cornwall); London-St. Margarets Bay (Ashford-Canterbury, etc., Sections): James McLaren, Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne. Glasgow (Langside and Giffnock): J. McAdam & Sons, Ltd., Aberdeen. Kilmarnock: Robison & Davidson, Lockerbie. Bentley (Doncaster); Abergele, etc.: The Norwest Construction Co., Ltd., Liverpool. Liverpool (Mersey Tunnel): E. Nuttall, Sons & Co., Ltd., Manchester. Liverpool (Old Swan, etc.): Wm. Pollitt & Co., Ltd., Bolton. Belfast (Grosvenor Road): Moore & Rowley, Birmingham.—**Telephone Exchange Equipment:** Messrs. Selfridge & Co., (London, W.1); Priory (Birmingham Automatic Area): Ericsson Telephones, Ltd., London, W.C. Sub-Contractors for Priory: Hart Accumulator Co., Ltd., London, E., for Batteries; The Electric Construction Co., Ltd., London, W.C., for Charging Machine; Sloane, Fulham, and



Terminus (London Automatic Area): Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, W.C. Sub-Contractors for Terminus: Hart Accumulator Co., Ltd., London, E., for Batteries; The Electric Construction Co., Ltd., London, W.C., for Charging Machine and Ringing Machines; London Trunk Exchange: Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, W.C. Sub-Contractors for London Trunk: D. P. Battery Co., Ltd., Bakewell, for Batteries; The Electric Construction Co., Ltd., London, W.C., for Charging Machine and Ringing Machines; Bishopsgate (London Automatic Area); Paignton (Torquay Automatic Area); and Torquay (Torquay Automatic Area): Automatic Telephone Manufacturing Co., Ltd., London, W.C. Edgware (London Automatic Area); Birmingham (Birmingham Automatic Area); Haverton Hill (Middlesbrough Multi Exchange Automatic Area); and Kensington (London Automatic Area): The General Electric Co., Ltd., Coventry. Sub-Contractors for Kensington: D. P. Battery Co., Ltd., Bakewell, for Batteries. Belgrave (Leicester Multi Office Automatic Area); Warstock (Birmingham Automatic Area); and Halesowen (Birmingham Automatic Area): Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. Sub-Contractors for Halesowen: Hart Accumulator Co., Ltd., London, E., for Batteries; English Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C., for Charging Machine. Middleton (Manchester Area): Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. Sub-Contractors for Middleton: The Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., Manchester, for Batteries; English Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C., for Charging Machine. Failsworth (Manchester Area): Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. Sub-Contractors for Failsworth: The Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., Manchester, for Batteries; English Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C., for Charging Machine; Crompton Parkinson, Ltd., Chelmsford, for Ringing Machines. Aston Cross (Birmingham Automatic Area): Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. Sub-Contractors for Aston Cross: The Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., Manchester, for Batteries; The Electric Construction Co., Ltd., London, W.C., for Charging Machine; Crompton Parkinson, Ltd., Chelmsford, for Ringing Machines. Shirley (Birmingham Automatic Area): Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. Sub-Contractors for Shirley: Hart Accumulator Co., Ltd., London, E., for Batteries; The Electric Construction Co., Ltd., London, W.C., for Charging Machine.

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