

THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE

VOL. L.—No. 6.]

JUNE, 1942.

[PRICE SIXPENCE NET.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE
Employment, Wages, Cost of Living and Trade Disputes in May	117	Employment Overseas	125
Special Articles, Reviews, etc. :—		Fatal Industrial Accidents	125
Average Weekly Earnings of Workpeople in the Principal Industries at January, 1942	118	Industrial Diseases	125
Hours of Work and Man-Power	121	Changes in Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour in May	126
Control and Organisation of the Coal Industry : Government Proposals	122	Changes in Retail Prices and Cost of Living	129
Wages in the Coal-Mining Industry : Appointment of a Board of Investigation	122	Trade Disputes in May	130
Labour Shortage in Cotton Spinning Mills	122	Retail Prices Overseas	131
Conditions of Employment in the Distributive Trades : Wholesale Grocery and Provision Trade (England and Wales)	123	Legal Cases Affecting Labour	131
Control and Organisation of Dock Labour	123	Industrial Courts Act, 1919, and Conciliation Act, 1896 :—	
Regional Organisation of Production : Report of the Committee on Regional Boards	123	Industrial Court Awards	131
Hours of Women and Young Persons : Extension of General Emergency Order for Cotton Spinning or Doubling	123	Single Arbitrators and <i>ad hoc</i> Boards of Arbitration	131
Fatal Accidents at Mines and Quarries in 1941	123	Court of Inquiry	131
Factory Ventilation in the "Black-Out"	123	Conditions of Employment and National Arbitration Orders, 1940 and 1941 :—	
Employment in May :—		National Arbitration Tribunal Awards	131
General Summary	124	National Arbitration Tribunal (Northern Ireland) Awards	131
Unemployment Chart	124	Trade Boards Acts :—	
Composition of Unemployment Statistics	125	Confirming Orders	132
		Superannuation Schemes (War Service) Act	132
		Statutory Rules and Orders	132

EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, COST OF LIVING, AND TRADE DISPUTES IN MAY.

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

The number of men and boys registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain as wholly unemployed at 11th May, 1942 (exclusive of men numbering 25,628 who had been classified by interviewing panels as unsuitable for ordinary industrial employment) was 65,771, showing a decrease of 3,772 as compared with the corresponding total for 13th April. Those registered as on short time or otherwise temporarily suspended from work on the understanding that they were shortly to return to their former employment numbered 2,599; this was a decrease of 682 as compared with 13th April. Those registered as unemployed casual workers (being persons who normally seek their livelihood by jobs of short duration) numbered 2,951, showing a decrease of 774 as compared with 13th April.

The corresponding figures for women and girls at 11th May, 1942, were 43,192 wholly unemployed (exclusive of those, numbering 1,505, who had been classified by interviewing panels as unsuitable for normal full-time employment), 3,190 temporarily stopped, and 281 unemployed casual workers. Of the 43,192 wholly unemployed, 1,896 had been classified as unable for good cause to transfer to another area. As compared with 13th April, the numbers wholly unemployed showed a decrease of 4,313, those temporarily stopped showed a decrease of 10, and unemployed casual workers showed an increase of 36.

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 during May resulted in an aggregate increase estimated at about £225,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 630,000 workpeople, and in a decrease estimated at £6,500 in those of about 280,000 workpeople.

In the coal mining industry, rates of wages were increased in South Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Warwickshire, and reduced

in the rest of Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Cannock Chase, through the operation of sliding-scale agreements under which wage rates fluctuate in correspondence with the proceeds of the industry. Increases in wage rates were also granted in the road-stone quarrying industry, in the linen industry in Northern Ireland, in ready-made and wholesale bespoke tailoring, in retail food and milk distribution, in the rubber industry, and for manual workers in the employment of local authorities; and there was an increase in the war risk money payable to officers and men in the merchant navy. On the other hand, there were slight reductions in the rates of wages of workpeople employed in the iron and steel industry, and in tobacco manufacture, under the operation of cost-of-living sliding scales.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st June the official cost-of-living index figure was 99 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, as compared with 100 per cent. at 1st May. For food alone, the index figure at 1st June was 59 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, as compared with 60 per cent. at 1st May.

The decline in the index figures was due to reductions in the prices of milk in many districts. There was little change, on average, in the prices of other items covered by the statistics.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in May, was 174. In addition, 5 disputes which began before May were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The approximate number of workpeople involved in these 179 disputes (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred) was 94,000, and the aggregate duration of the disputes in May was about 306,000 working days.

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS OF WORKPEOPLE IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES AT JANUARY, 1942.

IN January last an enquiry was made by the Ministry of Labour and National Service in order to obtain particulars of the average weekly earnings of workpeople employed in manufacturing industries generally, and in some of the principal non-manufacturing industries, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The enquiry was made on lines corresponding with those of a previous enquiry relating to July, 1941, the results of which were published, together with some comparative figures for October, 1938, in the issues of this GAZETTE for November and December, 1941.*

In the enquiry of January, 1942, forms were sent to all employers who had supplied information both in October, 1938, and July, 1941, and to a number of establishments (mainly in the engineering and allied industries) which had not been in operation at those dates,† asking for particulars of the total number of wage-earners employed in the last pay-week of January, 1942, and of the aggregate earnings of those wage-earners in that week. The form also asked that separate particulars should be supplied, if possible, of the numbers of men (21 years of age and over), youths and boys (under 21 years), women (18 years and over), and girls (under 18 years), and of the total earnings of each of these groups. As in the case of the enquiries made in October, 1938, and July, 1941, the figures given were to include all the wage-earners at work in the specified week, other than office staffs, shop assistants, and outworkers working at home on materials supplied by the employer. Foremen, transport workers, warehousemen, etc., were to be included, but managers, commercial travellers, clerks and typists, and salaried persons generally were to be excluded. In cases where the works were stopped, as the result of a general or local holiday, breakdown, fire, strike or lock-out, or enemy action, for the whole or part of the last pay-week in January, the employers were asked to substitute particulars for the nearest week of an ordinary character. The wages shown were to be the total earnings, inclusive of bonuses, before any deductions in respect of income tax or of the workers' contributions to statutory insurance schemes (health and pensions, unemployment, etc.).

The total number of establishments to which forms were sent was nearly 56,700. Of these, approximately 56,200 furnished returns suitable for tabulation, the total number of workpeople covered being over 6 million. The average earnings of these workpeople in the last pay-week of January, 1942, are shown, industry by industry, in the Table on pages 120 and 121, together with the percentage increases in average earnings as compared with the last pay-week of October, 1938, the latest pre-war date for which similar particulars are available. It should be borne in mind that the average earnings shown cover all classes of manual wage-earners, including unskilled workers and general labourers as well as operatives in skilled occupations.

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS IN JANUARY, 1942, AND PERCENTAGE INCREASES SINCE OCTOBER, 1938.

The following Table shows the average earnings, in the last pay-week of January, 1942, of the workpeople in respect of whom returns were received, in each of the 16 main groups of industries covered by the enquiry:—

Average Earnings, in the last pay-week of January, 1942, of the Workpeople covered by the returns received.

Industry Group.	Men (21 years and over).	Youths and Boys (under 21 years).	Women (18 years and over).	Girls (under 18 years).	All Workers.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Iron, stone, etc., mining and quarrying ..	82 3	43 5	†	†	75 8
Treatment of non-metallic ferrous mine and quarry products ..	93 0	44 9	46 7	31 1	82 8
Brick, pottery and glass ..	88 9	39 0	40 1	23 7	65 0
Chemical, paint, oil, etc. ..	99 7	39 0	47 8	24 11	74 8
Metal, engineering and ship-building ..	118 4	44 6	53 3	30 4	92 7
Textiles ..	84 6	37 7	43 3	28 3	54 1
Leather, fur, etc. ..	91 2	40 2	42 11	25 8	66 5
Clothing ..	86 5	34 9	41 9	23 11	46 4
Food, drink and tobacco ..	88 6	37 11	41 8	25 9	60 10
Woodworking ..	87 2	34 8	44 8	26 3	67 0
Paper, printing, stationery, etc. ..	101 2	32 10	42 0	23 4	67 11
Building, contracting, etc. ..	83 5	42 9	46 2	†	77 5
Miscellaneous manufacturing industries ..	106 8	44 1	46 5	27 11	71 5
Transport, storage, etc. (excluding railways) ..	93 7	38 5	61 4	†	84 9
Public utility services ..	79 9	35 6	38 2	25 2	73 0
Government industrial establishments ..	115 8	44 7	58 10	36 2	89 9
All the above ..	103 5	41 11	48 0	26 11	78 3

The figures given in this Table relate to the average earnings of the wage-earners employed in those establishments from which returns were received. While the numbers of workpeople covered by the returns were generally adequate to afford a

* The results of an earlier enquiry relating to July, 1940, were published in the issues of this GAZETTE for November and December, 1940, and March, 1941.

† Forms were also sent to some firms in the engineering and allied industries and in the linen industry in Northern Ireland, who had supplied returns in July, 1941, but not in October, 1938.

‡ The numbers returned in this group were very small.

satisfactory basis for statistics of average earnings in the individual industries, the general averages shown for the 16 groups of industries and for all the industries combined are to some extent affected by the fact that different industries were not represented in equal proportions in the returns received. For example, returns were received from a much higher proportion of employers in the engineering industry than in the building industry; consequently, the engineering industry has an unduly heavy weight, while the building industry has less than its appropriate weight, in the calculations on which the foregoing averages are based. In order to eliminate the effects of such disparities, the averages for each of the 16 groups of industries, and the general averages for all the industries combined, have been re-calculated on the basis of the estimated total numbers of wage-earners employed* in the individual industries (a) in October, 1938, and (b) in January, 1942, and are given in the following Table. Corresponding averages for July, 1940, and July, 1941, were given in the issues of this GAZETTE for March, 1941, and December, 1941, respectively.

Average Earnings, in the last pay-week of October, 1938, and of January, 1942, calculated on the basis of the total numbers employed in each industry.

Industry Group.	Men (21 years and over).	Youths and Boys (under 21 years).	Women (18 years and over).	Girls (under 18 years).	All Workers.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Average Earnings in the last pay-week of October, 1938.					
Iron, stone, etc., mining and quarrying ..	60 0	30 2	†	†	56 8
Treatment of non-metallic ferrous mine and quarry products ..	66 5	31 1	29 8	17 11	61 0
Brick, pottery and glass ..	63 2	27 8	27 10	14 10	47 8
Chemical, paint, oil, etc. ..	69 3	29 5	32 8	18 2	55 0
Metal, engineering and ship-building ..	75 0	26 1	33 4	19 11	59 8
Textiles ..	57 3	24 0	31 9	19 8	37 10
Leather, fur, etc. ..	64 1	25 4	34 11	17 6	46 9
Clothing ..	64 3	24 9	32 9	17 6	35 0
Food, drink and tobacco ..	65 3	28 1	32 11	19 0	47 0
Woodworking ..	66 3	23 4	33 8	17 5	51 10
Paper, printing, stationery, etc. ..	84 3	24 8	34 1	17 1	57 7
Building, contracting, etc. ..	66 0	25 8	†	†	61 2
Miscellaneous manufacturing industries ..	69 1	26 8	31 9	18 5	46 6
Transport, storage, etc. (excluding railways) ..	70 0	27 1	34 11	†	65 6
Public utility services ..	63 1	27 7	27 8	21 5	59 8
Government industrial establishments ..	75 3	32 7	44 9	†	70 6
All the above ..	69 0	26 1	32 6	18 6	53 3
Average Earnings in the last pay-week of January, 1942.					
Iron, stone, etc., mining and quarrying ..	81 3	43 7	†	†	75 2
Treatment of non-metallic ferrous mine and quarry products ..	92 7	45 0	46 9	31 1	81 4
Brick, pottery and glass ..	88 10	39 1	39 11	23 7	64 9
Chemical, paint, oil, etc. ..	100 2	39 0	48 2	24 11	74 7
Metal, engineering and ship-building ..	119 2	45 2	53 7	31 0	93 0
Textiles ..	84 6	37 6	43 4	28 3	54 1
Leather, fur, etc. ..	90 9	40 2	42 6	25 3	64 4
Clothing ..	85 0	34 6	41 2	23 7	45 4
Food, drink and tobacco ..	88 3	37 1	41 6	25 5	60 11
Woodworking ..	86 2	34 5	44 8	25 10	66 3
Paper, printing, stationery, etc. ..	101 3	31 9	41 10	22 9	69 5
Building, contracting, etc. ..	84 2	44 11	46 1	†	78 1
Miscellaneous manufacturing industries ..	104 4	43 8	45 8	28 0	68 6
Transport, storage, etc. (excluding railways) ..	92 10	41 2	60 7	†	84 4
Public utility services ..	79 9	35 2	38 5	25 3	73 4
Government industrial establishments ..	115 8	44 7	58 10	36 2	89 9
All the above ..	102 0	42 6	47 6	26 10	77 9

When these figures are compared with those in the previous Table, it will be seen that the effect of re-calculating the average earnings on the basis of the total numbers employed in each industry (instead of the numbers employed by those firms who supplied returns) is to lower the average shown for men in January, 1942, by 1s. 5d., to raise the average for youths and boys by 7d., and to lower the averages for women and for all workers combined by 6d., while that for girls remains almost unchanged. The difference of 1s. 5d. in the average for men is mainly due to the fact that in the building and contracting industries, which were under-represented in the returns received, employment in the last week of January, 1942, was seriously affected by severe weather conditions, with the result that the average earnings of men in these two industries were considerably below the general average for other industries; and when the building and contracting industries are given their

* The averages shown for "all workers" have been calculated by applying the total numbers employed in each industry to the average earnings of all the workers covered by the returns received for that industry, those for men by applying the total number of men employed to the average earnings of the men covered by the returns, and similarly for youths and boys, women and girls.

† The numbers returned in this group were very small.

full weight in the calculations the effect is to reduce the general average earnings shown for men for all industries combined.

The percentage increases in average weekly earnings between October, 1938, and January, 1942, shown by the figures in the foregoing Table, are set out below :—

Average Percentage Increases in Weekly Earnings between October, 1938, and January, 1942.

Industry Group.	Men.	Youths and Boys.	Women.	Girls.	All Workers.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Iron, stone, etc., mining and quarrying	35.4	44.5	—	—	32.6
Treatment of non-metalliferous mine and quarry products	39.4	44.8	57.6	73.5	33.3
Brick, pottery and glass	40.6	41.3	43.4	59.0	35.8
Chemical, paint, oil, etc.	44.6	32.6	47.4	37.2	35.6
Metal, engineering and shipbuilding	58.9	73.2	60.8	55.6	55.9
Textiles	47.6	56.3	36.5	43.6	43.0
Leather, fur, etc.	41.6	58.6	21.7	44.3	37.6
Clothing	32.3	39.4	25.7	34.8	29.5
Food, drink and tobacco	35.2	32.0	26.1	33.8	29.6
Woodworking	30.1	47.5	32.7	48.3	27.8
Paper, printing, stationery, etc.	20.2	28.7	22.7	33.2	20.5
Building, contracting, etc.	27.5	75.0	—	—	27.7
Miscellaneous manufacturing industries	51.0	63.8	43.8	52.0	47.3
Transport, storage, etc. (excluding railways)	32.6	52.0	73.5	—	28.8
Public utility services	26.4	27.5	38.9	17.9	22.9
Government industrial establishments *	53.7	36.8	31.5	—	27.3
All the above	47.8	62.9	46.2	45.0	46.0

From these figures, together with those given on pages 120 and 121, it will be seen that the percentage increases in average earnings between October, 1938, and January, 1942, varied widely in different industries. In the 16 groups of industries specified in the above Table, the percentage increases shown for men range from about 20 per cent. in the paper, printing, etc., industries and 26 per cent. in the public utility services to about 59 per cent. in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding group, while those for women range from 22 or 23 per cent. in the leather industries and the paper, printing, etc., group to over 60 per cent. in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding group and over 70 per cent. in transport, storage, etc. The general averages for all industries taken together showed increases of 48 per cent. for men, 63 per cent. for youths and boys, 46 per cent. for women, 45 per cent. for girls, and 46 per cent. for all workers combined.

It should be noted that the percentages of increase in the earnings of all classes of workers combined, as shown in the last column of the above Table, are affected by the changes which have taken place since 1938 in the relative proportions of men, boys, women and girls employed in each of the various groups of industries, the proportions of men having declined while those of women have increased. Similarly, the percentage increases shown for all the industries taken together include the effects of transference to the munitions industries, in which earnings are relatively high, of large numbers of workers formerly employed in industries with a lower average level of earnings.

AVERAGE EARNINGS IN JULY, 1941, AND JANUARY, 1942.

As compared with the average weekly earnings in July, 1941, particulars of which were published in the issues of this GAZETTE for November and December, 1941, the general averages for all industries combined for the last pay-week of January, 1942, show increases of about 2½ per cent. for men, nearly 1½ per cent. for youths and boys, about 8 per cent. for women and 7 per cent. for girls. For all workers combined the average rose by about 2½ per cent. In the majority of the individual industries the figures show increases between July, 1941, and January, 1942. In the building and contracting industries, however, the average earnings returned were considerably lower in January, 1942, than in July, 1941, and reductions were also shown in the earnings of men and boys in some other industries, including iron, stone, etc., mining and quarrying, the treatment of non-metalliferous mine and quarry products, and the woodworking industries. In most cases these reductions were largely due to the exceptionally severe weather conditions in the last week of January, 1942, which seriously hindered outdoor work.

AVERAGE EARNINGS IN OCTOBER, 1938, JULY, 1940, JULY, 1941, AND JANUARY, 1942.

The following Table shows the average weekly earnings, in the industries covered by these enquiries, in October, 1938, July, 1940, July, 1941, and January, 1942, computed on the basis of the total numbers of workpeople employed in the different industries at those dates. In this connection it should be observed that figures analysed by age and sex were obtained in respect of all the workpeople covered by the returns received

in October, 1938, and of 95 to 97 per cent. of those covered by the returns for July, 1941, and January, 1942. In July, 1940, however, separate particulars for men, boys, women and girls were supplied by establishments employing less than four-fifths of the total number of workpeople covered by the figures relating to the average earnings of "all workers," and the particulars shown for men, boys, women and girls at that date, therefore, are less fully representative than the corresponding particulars for other dates.

Date	Men (21 years and over).	Youths and Boys.	Women (18 years and over).	Girls.	All Workers.
Average Weekly Earnings.					
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
October, 1938	69 0	26 1	32 6	18 6	53 3
July, 1940	89 0*	35 1	38 11	22 4	69 2
July, 1941	99 5	41 11	43 11	25 0	75 10
January, 1942	102 0	42 6	47 6	26 10	77 9
Percentage increase compared with October, 1938.					
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
July, 1940	29.0*	34.5	19.7	20.7	29.9
July, 1941	44.1	60.7	35.1	35.1	42.4
January, 1942	47.8	62.9	46.2	45.0	46.0

At each of the dates shown in this Table there were wide variations, between different industries, in the percentages of increase in average earnings since October, 1938. From the figures given in the previous Table, for example, it will be seen that in the paper, printing, etc., group of industries the average increase between October, 1938, and January, 1942, was about 20 per cent. for men and less than 23 per cent. for women, whilst in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding group the corresponding figures were about 59 and 61 per cent. respectively.

The percentage increases in average earnings since October, 1938, shown in the foregoing Tables, represent the combined effect of a number of factors, including (a) increases in rates of wages, (b) fuller employment, with longer working hours and more extended working of night-shifts, (c) extensions of systems of payment by results, and (d) changes in the proportions of men, boys, women and girls employed in different industries and occupations. As regards the first of these factors, it is estimated, from such information as is available to the Department, that in the industries covered by these enquiries the average level of rates of wages for a full ordinary week's work, exclusive of overtime, was about 10 or 11 per cent. higher in July, 1940, about 18 higher in July, 1941, and about 22 per cent. higher in January, 1942, than in October, 1938. The differences between these figures and the increases of about 30 per cent., 42 per cent. and 46 per cent., respectively, shown by the returns of actual weekly earnings, represent the net effects of the other factors referred to above.

As regards working hours, it should be observed that the month of July, 1940, was a period when, in many establishments engaged in the production of munitions, output was being speeded up as much as possible, and very long hours, often with a seven-day week, were being worked. There were consequent increases in earnings which were more than proportionate to the additional hours, owing to overtime rates and various forms of bonus payment; these increased charges being, of course, spread over a higher output. In July, 1941, and January, 1942, the weekly working hours in most of the industries employed on the manufacture of armaments and munitions were considerably in excess of those worked in October, 1938, which was in general a period of normal employment, though they were not so long, on the whole, as in July, 1940. On the other hand, as already mentioned, hours of work in outdoor employments in January, 1942, were curtailed by severe weather conditions.

The changes which have occurred during the war in the numbers employed in the different industries have tended to raise the general level of average earnings of men, boys, women and girls, respectively, through the transference of workers from industries and occupations in which wages were relatively low to others with a higher level of earnings. On the other hand, the percentage increases in the average earnings of "all workers," as shown in the foregoing Tables, are to some extent affected by the fact that the proportions of men represented in the figures were lower, and those of women were higher, in July, 1940, July, 1941, and January, 1942, than in October, 1938. If the average earnings of men, boys, women and girls in each industry, both at October, 1938, and at January, 1942, are combined by the use of "weights" corresponding with the estimated numbers employed in the various industries at October, 1938, thus eliminating, so far as possible, the effects of the changes since that date in the proportions of men, boys, women and girls employed in the different industries, the figures obtained for January, 1942, show increases of approximately 40 or 41 per cent. for men, 56 or 57 per cent. for youths and boys, 34 or 35 per cent. for women, 40 per cent. for girls, and 38 or 39 per cent. for all workers combined.

* In the case of the Government Industrial Establishments the comparisons between the average earnings in October, 1938, and January, 1942, are materially affected by the fact that the returns for the latter date covered a number of establishments, employing a considerable number of workpeople, which were not in operation in October, 1938.

* Some firms who supplied returns showing the total earnings of their workpeople in July, 1940, did not give details analysed by sex and age (see paragraph preceding the Table). If detailed figures had been available for these firms, the average earnings shown for men at July, 1940, and the percentage increases as compared with October, 1938, would probably have been slightly in excess of the figures shown in the Table.

AVERAGE EARNINGS IN THE LAST PAY-WEEK OF JANUARY, 1942, AND PERCENTAGE INCREASES AS COMPARED WITH THE LAST PAY-WEEK OF OCTOBER, 1938.

Industry.	Average earnings,* in last pay-week in January, 1942, of wage-earners covered by returns received.					Percentage increase as compared with last pay-week of October, 1938.				
	Men (21 and over).	Youths and boys.	Women (18 and over).	Girls.	All workers.†	Men (21 and over).	Youths and boys.	Women (18 and over).	Girls.	All workers.†
IRON, STONE, ETC., MINING AND QUARRYING :—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Iron Ore and Ironstone Mining, etc. ..	92 8	44 6	—	—	87 3	43·7	28·7	—	—	—
Stone Quarrying and Mining ..	78 7	43 5	—	—	74 4	28·8	62·8	—	—	41·5
Clay, Sand, Gravel and Chalk Pits ..	77 0	45 10	—	—	72 1	35·7	42·9	—	—	29·7
Other Mining and Quarrying ..	82 7	41 1	—	—	71 8	38·6	33·6	—	—	32·9
										30·5
TREATMENT OF NON-METALLIFEROUS MINING PRODUCTS :—										
Coke-Ovens and By-product works ..	96 9	43 11	—	—	91 6	36·6	28·9	—	—	34·4
Artificial Stone, Concrete, etc. ..	89 6	45 7	46 11	31 1	75 3	40·6	53·2	57·0	73·5	33·0
Cement, Limekilns and Whiting ..	93 4	43 11	46 2	—	84 8	39·1	33·4	†	—	33·7
BRICK, POTTERY AND GLASS INDUSTRIES :—										
Brick, Tile, Pipe, etc. ..	81 5	40 7	38 5	28 7	69 2	32·0	39·1	34·4	59·5	30·9
Pottery, Earthenware, etc. ..	87 2	33 8	39 0	21 11	52 10	43·1	46·4	40·1	51·1	43·4
Glass and Glass Bottle Manufacture ..	101 5	39 3	42 4	24 10	71 8	47·5	41·0	56·3	54·4	34·2
CHEMICAL, PAINT, OIL, ETC., INDUSTRIES :—										
Chemicals and Explosives ..	101 3	39 5	50 0	25 1	74 3	46·2	36·3	53·5	38·7	38·4
Paint, Varnish, Red Lead, etc. ..	89 2	36 2	39 6	24 0	70 9	37·5	29·9	30·9	37·1	30·6
Oil, Glue, Soap, Ink, Matches, etc. ..	99 2	39 2	42 3	24 9	76 5	41·7	34·3	27·4	32·6	32·1
METAL, ENGINEERING, AND SHIP-BUILDING INDUSTRIES :—										
Pig Iron Manufacture (Blast Furnaces) ..	107 7	50 3	—	—	103 2	30·4	50·4	—	—	29·1
Iron Puddling, Steel Smelting, Rolling, etc. ..	118 4	49 9	54 2	—	105 4	48·1	61·4	†	—	44·0
Non-Ferrous Metal Manufacture ..	113 1	57 2	52 4	34 7	96 7	58·2	89·0	65·3	57·8	53·3
Tinplate and Steel Sheet Manufacture ..	118 1	45 4	43 11	—	95 10	40·7	81·9	25·8	—	34·2
Iron and Steel Tubes ..	112 7	48 3	50 2	—	95 10	58·4	68·3	70·5	—	51·3
Wire, Wire Netting, Wire Ropes, etc. ..	103 8	39 8	43 6	27 2	78 1	51·5	55·6	48·8	49·5	41·3
Engineering, etc.‡ :										
General Engineering, and Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding ..	114 4	43 2	55 0	31 8	90 4	55·2	77·4	71·4	62·4	49·5
Electrical Engineering ..	115 11	40 9	51 2	27 10	76 11	55·8	64·6	57·8	44·0	51·3
Marine Engineering ..	110 9	37 3	53 9	—	94 7	47·5	102·3	†	—	53·2
Constructional Engineering ..	101 1	39 11	48 0	—	85 5	40·4	63·5	†	—	36·8
Motor Vehicle, Cycle and Aircraft Manufacture and Repair ..	137 8	51 4	61 10	37 9	109 8	65·7	81·7	54·3	42·0	55·2
Ship Building and Repairing ..	112 11	37 4	49 11	—	100 1	61·1	79·9	†	—	67·0
Railway Carriage and Wagon and Tram Building, etc. ..	102 8	32 11	50 10	—	84 8	42·9	36·7	†	—	36·6
Electric Cables, Apparatus, Lamps, etc. ..	111 2	45 10	48 8	27 9	73 10	52·3	49·5	36·4	33·2	47·4
Hand Tools, Cutlery, Saws, Files, etc. ..	107 11	41 6	43 6	23 5	74 2	57·9	74·7	55·8	52·7	64·5
Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Rivets, Nails, etc. ..	102 2	41 10	50 3	31 4	68 4	58·4	73·1	68·4	70·9	61·4
Brass and Yellow Metal Goods ..	104 11	42 11	47 3	30 5	75 1	52·4	64·0	54·9	62·9	52·7
Heating and Ventilating Engineering ..	107 8	42 6	—	—	84 6	41·0	60·9	—	—	24·6
Watches, Clocks, Plate, Jewellery, etc. ..	98 0	41 3	41 6	27 2	66 3	37·9	61·2	35·3	53·8	37·8
Other Metal Industries ..	113 10	45 10	46 9	29 5	77 11	62·8	74·1	48·0	54·1	57·9
TEXTILE INDUSTRIES :—										
Cotton ..	83 11	41 10	47 3	31 11	55 10	65·1||	90·2||	50·4||	60·9||	56·9||
Woolen and Worsted..	83 0	37 10	42 11	31 2	55 10	44·3	53·9	37·3	43·8	43·2
Silk Throwing, Spinning and Weaving (including Artificial Silk Weaving) ..	92 2	36 10	41 10	26 0	57 7	48·5	58·4	34·9	43·1	48·0
Artificial Silk Spinning ..	97 7	39 9	40 8	28 11	71 11	31·9	42·0	44·0	55·6	37·6
Flax Spinning and Weaving ..	68 4	27 6	30 7	20 8	36 7	47·2||	41·6||	18·9||	21·9||	30·0||
Jute Spinning and Weaving ..	73 8	37 3	40 8	28 2	46 8	44·4	54·7	19·6	35·2	28·1
Hemp, Rope, Cord, Twine, etc. ..	85 6	33 7	37 9	23 5	46 5	52·0	76·8	36·0	28·3	48·9
Hosiery ..	100 0	35 5	46 1	27 4	51 0	26·7	29·6	25·1	35·0	26·4
Lace ..	87 7	—	39 0	25 5	55 0	45·2	—	30·0	45·2	37·8
Carpets and Rugs ..	83 0	—	49 0	26 10	54 5	36·3	—	34·6	38·2	39·8
Other Textiles ..	88 1	40 3	41 3	25 8	48 8	47·8	58·9	34·5	45·3	40·7
Textile Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc. ..	81 11	37 2	39 0	24 5	63 4	43·1	40·3	36·0	32·6	39·4
LEATHER, LEATHER GOODS AND FUR INDUSTRIES :—										
Tanning, Currying and Dressing ..	92 0	41 5	44 11	29 1	73 11	47·0	56·8	49·3	51·7	37·5
Leather Goods Manufacture ..	85 8	34 3	39 9	23 7	49 7	39·3	56·9	28·6	43·7	42·3
Fur Dressing, etc.** ..	93 9	40 7	47 7	26 3	63 6	12·4	36·0	3·3	22·1	13·9
CLOTHING INDUSTRIES :—										
Tailoring :										
Ready-made and Wholesale Bespoke ..	89 5	33 3	42 9	24 8	44 7	29·6	36·6	29·2	41·6	29·5
Retail Bespoke—										
Firms employing 10 or more workers ..	86 2	—	40 0	19 4	49 4	17·4	—	3·7	15·4	10·2
Firms employing less than 10 workers ..	71 4	—	39 11	—	50 3	16·5	—	17·4	—	16·2
Dress Making and Millinery :										
Firms employing 10 or more workers ..	89 2	—	43 7	23 2	39 9	30·5	—	22·2	33·0	22·3
Firms employing less than 10 workers ..	—	—	42 10	—	40 0	—	—	20·4	—	37·9
Hats and Caps (including Straw Plait) ..	87 1	41 11	42 2	28 0	53 4	33·0	64·9	31·1	49·3	34·2
Shirts, Collars, Underclothing, etc. ..	82 1	—	37 7	22 7	36 1	24·4	—	17·1	30·3	19·9
Other Dress Industries ..	81 4	32 11	41 9	24 4	43 2	29·4	39·6	25·6	40·4	33·5
Boot, Shoe and Slipper Making and Repairing :										
Firms employing 10 or more workers ..	88 4	35 3	46 11	24 4	60 2	36·8	39·1	22·9	30·4	31·5
Firms employing less than 10 workers ..	79 10	31 2	—	—	65 2	33·8	23·8	—	—	25·5
Laundries :										
Firms employing 10 or more workers ..	81 11	35 2	39 3	23 3	40 11	35·0	51·8	39·8	31·0	39·5
Firms employing less than 10 workers ..	—	—	30 8	—	32 6	—	—	31·4	—	31·3
Dyeing, Dry Cleaning, etc. ..	78 4	—	36 1	20 4	43 11	28·4	—	16·7	25·8	24·3

[Continued on page 121]

* Where no figure is given, the number of workers covered by the returns received was too small to provide a satisfactory basis for the calculation of a general average for the industry.

† Some of the firms who supplied returns showing the total earnings of all their wage-earners in the last pay-week of January, 1942, did not analyse their figures by sex and age. Consequently, the average earnings shown for "all workers" are based on somewhat larger numbers of returns than are the averages shown for men, boys, women and girls. As, however, the workpeople employed by firms whose returns were analysed by sex and age formed approximately 96·5 per cent. of the total number of workpeople covered by the averages shown for "all workers," these averages may generally be regarded as representative. In October, 1938, the returns showed the individual earnings of all the workpeople employed by the firms who supplied information.

‡ The number of workpeople in respect of whom information was received in October, 1938, was too small to provide a basis for a calculation of the average percentage increase between that date and January, 1942.

§ The figures given for the engineering, etc., industry are based partly on returns from firms who are members of the Engineering and Allied Employers' National Federation, and partly on returns from non-federated firms. The average earnings shown by the federated firms were considerably higher than those shown by the non-federated firms; for example, the average weekly earnings of "all workers" in January, 1942 (including men, boys, women and girls) were 99s. 9d. for the federated firms, as compared with 86s. 8d. for the non-federated firms.

|| The average earnings in the cotton industry in October, 1938, were adversely affected by trade depression.

¶ As many of the principal firms in the linen industry in Northern Ireland did not supply information for October, 1938, enquiries were sent to these firms in January 1942, in addition to those who had furnished returns. Consequently the number of returns received in January, 1942, was much greater than in October, 1938. While the average earnings shown for January, 1942, are based on all returns received, the percentages of increase since October, 1938, have been calculated from the data supplied by firms who furnished returns for both dates.

** The number of workpeople now employed in the fur industry is much smaller than in 1938 and some firms whose operatives were earning high wages in October, 1938, were employing few or no workpeople in January, 1942.

AVERAGE EARNINGS IN THE LAST PAY-WEEK OF JANUARY, 1942, AND PERCENTAGE INCREASES AS COMPARED WITH THE LAST PAY-WEEK OF OCTOBER, 1938—continued.

Industry.	Average earnings,* in last pay-week in January, 1942, of wage-earners covered by returns received.					Percentage increase as compared with last pay-week of October, 1938.				
	Men (21 and over).	Youths and boys.	Women (18 and over).	Girls.	All workers.†	Men (21 and over).	Youths and boys.	Women (18 and over).	Girls.	All workers.†
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
FOOD, DRINK AND TOBACCO INDUSTRIES :—										
Bread, Biscuits, Cakes, etc.:										
Firms employing 10 or more workers ..	89 7	35 2	41 5	23 8	61 2	38.0	46.0	25.8	34.6	34.7
Firms employing less than 10 workers ..	86 7	31 9	39 3	—	63 10	46.3	47.7	38.5	—	34.9
Grain Milling ..	92 4	45 4	41 5	25 9	78 4	45.2	28.6	39.6	65.2	36.4
Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery ..	94 1	32 10	40 9	23 6	54 10	30.8	12.9	21.6	33.6	38.5
Other Food Industries ..	87 7	40 10	39 10	26 5	58 7	35.3	28.9	28.8	44.7	26.2
Drink Industries ..	84 0	37 0	38 6	25 6	63 8	31.1	36.2	37.1	18.1	23.0
Tobacco, Cigars, Cigarettes, etc. ..	100 5	43 8	49 5	29 6	56 3	19.2	5.0	21.3	32.1	18.2
WOODWORKING INDUSTRIES :—										
Millsawing and Machine Joinery ..	82 7	34 9	44 10	26 11	67 11	32.1	51.6	32.5	46.2	28.5
Wood Box and Packing Case ..	85 5	32 10	45 9	24 10	62 10	28.4	52.7	36.9	36.7	35.6
Cabinet Making, Furniture Making, Upholstery, etc.:										
Firms employing 10 or more workers ..	90 5	36 1	45 8	27 0	65 10	31.7	46.8	31.1	50.7	25.4
Firms employing less than 10 workers ..	80 11	30 2	40 11	—	62 9	30.0	53.4	21.8	—	27.0
Carriages, Carts, etc. ..	98 10	34 4	46 6	—	76 2	34.8	43.6	52.0	—	31.1
Other Woodworking ..	86 8	33 10	41 0	25 3	63 8	34.0	58.6	46.0	57.0	33.3
PAPER, PRINTING, ETC., INDUSTRIES :—										
Paper and Paper Board ..	97 8	42 6	42 0	25 4	73 2	47.8	39.3	31.9	24.1	37.6
Wallpapers§ ..	82 4	—	40 7	—	68 8	30.9	—	25.2	—	52.9
Cardboard Boxes, Paper Bags and Stationery	97 0	38 5	42 4	25 3	54 1	29.8	39.7	27.3	45.7	34.4
Stationery and Typewriting Requisites (not paper)	99 11	32 6	43 0	24 7	57 2	31.6	40.3	30.6	43.2	35.6
Printing, Publishing and Bookbinding ..	103 9	27 6	41 5	20 8	73 10	13.2	19.6	17.8	25.9	14.3
BUILDING AND CONTRACTING, ETC. :—										
Building ..	82 1	40 7	43 10	—	75 9	23.4	61.8	†	—	23.3
Public Works Contracting, etc. ..	85 4	55 6	—	—	81 1	35.8	54.5	—	—	32.4
Electrical Contracting ..	107 10	37 5	—	—	84 2	36.2	77.5	—	—	48.3
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES :—										
Rubber ..	107 8	44 8	48 7	29 0	74 11	51.1	41.4	49.9	43.8	46.9
Oilcloth, Linoleum, etc. ..	82 5	—	41 10	—	66 4	32.6	—	33.9	—	20.8
Brushes and Brooms ..	86 11	—	40 7	27 0	51 7	41.3	—	27.8	40.9	35.2
Scientific and Photographic Instruments and Apparatus ..	118 0	45 5	49 8	27 5	78 10	58.9	77.5	47.5	50.9	57.1
Musical Instruments, Toys, Games and Sports Requisites ..	92 6	—	39 6	23 1	58 5	33.4	—	31.7	36.5	37.2
Other Industries ..	100 9	44 3	43 7	28 5	63 3	47.3	69.1	38.4	55.7	41.6
TRANSPORT, STORAGE, ETC. :—										
Tramway and Omnibus Service, and other										
Road Passenger Transport ..	93 0	31 11	62 7	—	83 3	28.9	23.2	71.9	—	21.4
Goods Transport by Road ..	89 9	45 9	—	—	82 10	35.5	59.1	—	—	33.4
Dock, Harbour, Canal, etc., Service|| ..	99 4	37 8	—	—	95 8	32.3	15.6	—	—	31.1
Warehousing, Storage, etc. ..	95 6	39 0	40 6	—	85 0	49.6	61.4	19.1	—	58.9
PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES :—										
Gas Supply ..	89 10	35 8	45 0	—	84 0	30.2	36.3	58.8	—	28.6
Water Supply ..	85 0	35 0	—	—	83 2	30.8	15.7	—	—	29.9
Electricity Supply ..	91 10	31 3	49 8	—	85 5	26.8	19.0	96.1	—	24.2
Local Authorities (Non-Trading) Services ..	73 8	37 11	37 1	25 2	67 0	27.2	21.3	33.6	20.3	22.9
GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS¶ :	115 8	44 7	58 10	36 2	89 9	53.9	36.8	31.5	†	27.3

* † ‡ See footnotes on previous page.

§ The number of workpeople now employed in wallpaper manufacture is much smaller than in October, 1938.

|| The figures relate to the permanent employees of dock, harbour and canal authorities; they do not cover dock workers paid by the day or half-day.

¶ In the case of the Government Industrial Establishments the comparisons between the average earnings in October, 1938, and January, 1942, are materially affected by the fact that the returns for the latter date covered a number of establishments, employing considerable numbers of workpeople, which were not in operation in October, 1938.

HOURS OF WORK AND MAN-POWER.

AFTER consultation with the Joint Consultative Committee of the National Joint Advisory Council,* the Ministry of Labour and National Service has decided to develop the principle, which has already been applied to a considerable extent, that the length of the working time in an industry or undertaking is an important factor to be taken into account in assessing the labour force required to be retained by the industry or undertaking. Where it is found that, exclusive of meal breaks, the hours worked fall short of 52 a week in the case of industrial work, or 46 a week in the case of office staffs, it will be assumed that a reduction of staff can be achieved by increasing the hours of work of the staff retained, unless special circumstances exist which make this inappropriate.

The foregoing principle is to be applied both in discussions with industries regarding the amount of labour which they should be permitted to retain and also in the consideration of applications for deferment of military service made by individual employers or requests for the retention of staff whom it is proposed to remove under the Registration for Employment Order.† Even where, in an industry or undertaking, it is not possible or appropriate to increase the general working hours,

individual workers who could reasonably be expected to work longer will, so far as practicable, either be withdrawn and be substituted by suitable workers who are available only for the shorter hours, or else, if this is not practicable, they may be expected to give additional services as part-time workers in other work.

It is emphasised that increased hours of work are asked for only where the increase is justified by the volume of work to be performed. In certain cases it may be possible to conclude arrangements with well-defined industries under which, though their labour force would be calculated on the basis of the standards mentioned above, some other means than a general increase of working hours should be accepted as producing equivalent results in the matter of the release of labour.

Where, in connection with the above arrangements, an industry or an undertaking increases the hours of work, this will not affect existing agreements or practice with regard to payment for time worked in excess of the agreed normal working week.

The above-mentioned principle as regards working hours is also to be applied to holidays. While the annual holidays of manual workers in the munitions industries and of administrative and clerical workers in Government Departments are being restricted, it is felt that, where holidays exceed two weeks in the course of a year, their curtailment should be considered as a means of saving man-power, and that retention of staff to enable longer holidays to be taken is not justifiable.

* See the issue of this GAZETTE for June, 1940, page 156.

† See the issue of this GAZETTE for March, 1941, pages 51 and 73.

CONTROL AND ORGANISATION OF THE COAL INDUSTRY.

GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS.

In a White Paper* published on 3rd June, the Government announced their general proposals concerning coal, covering both production and consumption and the organisation of the coal-mining industry. A summary of the principal features of these proposals is given below, in so far as they are directly concerned with labour and man-power in the industry.

Reviewing the general question of man-power, the Government point out that, in spite of the fact that the Essential Work Order has been applied to the coal-mining industry and that men are not, therefore, at liberty to leave it at will, there is a net wastage of some 25,000 men per annum. Last year wastage was offset, and a decline in output prevented, by the return to the mines of 33,000 men from other industries, and this year 6,500 men are being returned to the mines from the Army, 1,300 from the R.A.F. and 3,500 from industry and Civil Defence. These expedients, though they relieve immediate needs, cannot be repeated year by year, and more lasting remedies must be found for closing the gap between normal entry into and exit from the industry. To this end, the Minister of Labour and National Service has given instructions for the addition of coal-mining to the list of priority industries to which, under certain conditions, men not deferred in their present work may go, instead of being called up for military service; and as soon as the report is available of the Departmental Committee† appointed by the Minister of Labour and National Service to consider the problem of juvenile recruitment to the industry, the Government will consider, as a matter of urgency, what further steps should be taken to stimulate recruitment by improving the conditions and prospects (including facilities for training) of boys and youths entering the industry. The Government also propose to establish a Medical Consultative Service for the mines, with a view to the reduction of the numbers of workers leaving the industry on account of sickness of a not very serious character.

The Government's proposals for the re-organisation of the industry provide for the assumption by the Government of full control over the operation of the mines and for the organisation of the industry on the basis of national service. For this purpose, a responsible Minister would be appointed and national and regional machinery would be set up under his control. The Minister would be assisted by a Controller-General, whose chief officers would include a Labour Director responsible for the welfare, safety, health and working conditions of coal-miners and for the allocation of mining labour. A National Coal Board would be set up, the functions of which would comprise, *inter alia*, the consideration of matters relating to the maintenance of man-power and labour productivity, including the enrolment of new entrants and the instruction, training and advancement of boys and youths, and matters affecting the welfare, health and safety of mine-workers. In each coal-producing region, the powers of the Minister would be exercised through a Controller, who would be advised by a Regional Coal Board and assisted by a number of Directors, including one concerned with labour questions affecting the industry in the Region. The Controller would exercise full and undivided responsibility for the policy and general conduct of mining operations in his Region. It is not proposed, however, to interfere with the statutory responsibility of pit managers for questions of safety. Pit Production Committees would continue, as at present constituted, to assist pit managers to secure maximum output; but they should be relieved of all responsibility for dealing with individual cases of absenteeism. In the mining industry, as in other industries, absenteeism and persistent lateness should be made offences for which a man could be prosecuted without the prior issue of "directions."

Experience in other industries had shown, however, that in the large majority of cases absenteeism could be checked by methods of persuasion, without recourse to proceedings in the courts. In each Region, therefore, the Minister would appoint Investigation Officers, to whom all cases of absenteeism, persistent lateness and other disciplinary offences would be referred. This Officer would interview the man within twenty-four hours of receiving such a report. In suitable cases he might recommend prosecution, but the responsibility for instituting proceedings would rest with the National Service Officer.

As regards wages machinery, the Government state that the success of the proposed National Coal Board as a body for promoting increased production would, in their view, be gravely prejudiced if it were associated in any way with wages questions. However, a system should be developed by which questions of wages and conditions in the mining industry would be dealt with on a national basis and by a properly constituted national body. Accordingly, the Government propose to discuss with both sides of the industry the question of establishing a procedure and permanent machinery for dealing, against the background of a continuous review, both nationally and locally, with questions of wages and conditions (see the article on this page entitled "Wages in the Coal-Mining Industry.")

CONSUMPTION.

As a result of the measures outlined in the White Paper, together with greater economies in consumption, the Government count on bridging the existing gap between production and consumption, and providing a margin against contingencies. Substantial further economies in coal consumption must, however, be secured. As regard industrial consumers, such economies are to be achieved through improved methods of fuel consumption, and by the introduction of a system, of allocating coal to industry, similar to that for allocating raw materials. As regards domestic consumption, the Government have decided that the most practical and effective method of rationing the consumption of domestic fuel is by means of a "points" scheme of rationing on lines indicated in an annexe to the White Paper. They have decided that it is not essential that this Scheme should be introduced forthwith. It is necessary, however, that the public should restrict their fuel consumption voluntarily as nearly as possible to the limits which would be imposed on them if rationing were introduced. The public will therefore be asked to practise the maximum possible economy on a voluntary basis. It is important, however, to ensure that if it should become necessary the scheme for the rationing of domestic fuel could be introduced at short notice; and all the necessary administrative preparations will therefore be made, including the issue of application forms to householders and the making of assessments by Local Fuel Overseers.

The proposals, as a whole, were approved by both Houses of Parliament on 11th June.

WAGES IN THE COAL-MINING INDUSTRY.

APPOINTMENT OF A BOARD OF INVESTIGATION.

When the Government announced their general proposals covering the production and consumption of coal and the organisation of the coal-mining industry (see the article on this page entitled "Control and Organisation of the Coal Industry") they took the view that the success of the proposed National Coal Board as a body for promoting increased production would be gravely prejudiced if it were associated in any way with wages questions.

After discussion with the industry of the position that had been reached in the wages negotiations, the Government decided to refer the whole question to a Board of Investigation. The Board was appointed on 5th June jointly by the Minister of Labour and National Service and the President of the Board of Trade and began work immediately. It was constituted as follows: The Right Honourable Lord Greene, O.B.E. (Chairman), Colonel Ernest Briggs, D.S.O., B.Sc., George Chester, Esq., Sir John Forster, Dr. Arnold D. McNair, C.B.E., F.B.A., LL.D.

The Board are required under their terms of reference not only to "consider and report in the first instance upon the immediate wages issue," but also to "inquire into the present machinery and methods of determining wages and conditions of employment in the industry, and to submit recommendations for the establishment of a procedure and permanent machinery for dealing with questions of wages and conditions of employment in the industry."

The Government have given an assurance that the decision taken following the report of the Board on the immediate wages issue* should operate retrospectively with effect as from 1st June.

LABOUR SHORTAGE IN COTTON SPINNING MILLS.

As the result of discussions between representatives of the Ministry of Supply (including Royal Ordnance Factory officials), the Trade Union leaders, the Cotton Controller and the Ministry of Labour, special steps are being taken to meet the serious shortage of cotton operatives for the spinning mills. This shortage is estimated at over 10,000 workers, but substantial numbers are in the lower grades. Employers in need of labour for the production of cotton yarn have been asked to furnish lists of operatives of the types in demand whom they formerly employed and now desire to re-employ, and these operatives are being approached with a view to their transfer back to the mills until the required complement is reached. Many former cotton operatives are now employed on munitions work, and it is anticipated that the number of such workers to be withdrawn from Royal Ordnance Factories will be not less than 2,000. If sufficient volunteers are not forthcoming the Minister of Labour is to use his powers under Regulation 58A of the Defence (General) Regulations to direct the return of the workers to their former employment as cotton operatives.

It is emphasised that the supply of additional labour to employers is conditional upon efforts being made by the employers on their own account to meet the situation, and priority in the allocation of labour made available under the present arrangements is to be given to employers who adopt a system of part-time working.

* Cmd. 6364. Coal. H.M. Stationery Office; price 2d. net, (3d. post free).
† See the issue of this GAZETTE for May, 1942, page 104.

* A summary of the first Report of the Board, dealing with this question and recommending general increases in wages, will be given in the next issue of this GAZETTE.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT IN THE DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES.

WHOLESALE GROCERY AND PROVISION TRADE (ENGLAND AND WALES).

THE recently established Joint Industrial Council for the Wholesale Grocery and Provision Trade (England and Wales)* has adopted an agreement, the provisions of which are summarised below, regulating the rates of wages and conditions of employment of workers, other than transport and clerical workers, engaged in the distribution of groceries and provisions, other than by retail, in England and Wales. The rates and conditions laid down in the agreement, which became operative on and from the pay day in the week beginning 8th June, 1942, are stated to be minima and are not to prevent the payment of higher rates or the operation of better conditions, or to prejudice any worker who is in receipt of higher wages or is working under better conditions.

WAGES.

The agreement provides for the following scales of minimum weekly rates of wages:—*London Area* (i.e., the area within a circle of 16 miles radius from Charing Cross, including any towns through which the circumference of the circle passes): male workers, 21s. at 16 years, increasing to 72s. at 21 years and over; female workers, 20s. at 16 years, increasing to 45s. at 21 years and over. *Elsewhere*: male workers, 20s. at 16 years, increasing to 66s. at 21 years and over; female workers, 19s. at 16 years, increasing to 42s. at 21 years and over.

Women, 18 years of age and over, may be employed on work which was restricted to male labour before the war, at a minimum rate of 60 per cent. of the appropriate men's rate during the first three months, increasing to 70 per cent. during the second three months and 80 per cent. thereafter. Piecework rates are to be so fixed as to yield to a normal worker earnings not less than 20 per cent. in excess of the daywork rate. The rates of pay for sub-normal workers are to be settled by agreement between the individual employers and workers concerned, subject to the approval of the Joint Secretaries of the Joint Industrial Council and to reference, in cases of disagreement, to an Appeals Committee.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT.

The normal working week is not to exceed 48 hours, exclusive of meal times. For the purposes of overtime payment, the working week is to be reckoned either cumulatively or on the basis of a schedule of daily hours. Where a cumulative week is worked, overtime is to be paid for at the rate of time-and-a-quarter for the first five hours beyond 48 hours in any one week, and thereafter at the rate of time-and-a-half, provided that overtime rates are paid for all hours of work in excess of nine in any one day in the case of a 5½-day week, or ten in the case of a 5-day week. Where a scheduled week is worked, the rate of payment for overtime is time-and-a-quarter for the first two hours in excess of the normal working day and time-and-a-half thereafter. For work on Sundays, payment is at double-time rate, and for work on a statutory or public holiday an additional day's pay is to be given.

Workers who have completed twelve months' service are to receive six days' holiday with pay annually, and those with less than twelve months' but more than 26 weeks' service in any one calendar year are to receive one day's paid holiday for every eight weeks' service completed. Holidays are to be taken consecutively, and when, owing to war conditions, they cannot be granted, payment in lieu is to be made.

Workers with over twelve months' service with an employer are entitled to not less than two weeks' sick leave at full pay and four weeks at half pay in each year, subject to the production of a medical certificate. For service of less than twelve but more than six months with an employer, the minimum sick leave is one week at full pay and two weeks at half pay.

The agreement provides for the settlement by the Joint Industrial Council, through an Appeals Committee, or, if the Committee fails to agree, by the Independent President, of claims for special relief made by employers who consider that, owing to economic, financial or trading difficulties, they are unable to operate the agreement, in whole or in part.

CONTROL AND ORGANISATION OF DOCK LABOUR.

Dock Labour Schemes under the Essential Work (Dock Labour) Order have come into operation at eight ports, in addition to those mentioned in earlier issues of this GAZETTE.† The eight ports are Aberdeen, Boston, Cardiff, Dundee, Grangemouth, King's Lynn, Leith and Swansea. The terms of employment under the Schemes are those laid down in the agreement of the National Joint Council for Dock Labour of 16th July, 1941, which were summarised on page 32 of the issue of this GAZETTE for February, 1942.

REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF PRODUCTION.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL BOARDS.*

THE Report* has recently been published of the Committee which, under the chairmanship of The Rt. Hon. Sir Walter Citrine, K.B.E., was appointed by the Minister of Production on 18th February, 1942, "to examine the present constitution and functions of the Production Executive's Regional Boards and of the Central Joint Advisory Committee to the Production Executive and to make recommendations as to any changes in these matters that may appear to be necessary or desirable." The Report is accompanied by a Memorandum by the Minister of Production setting out the policy of the Government on the recommendations of the Committee and, subject to certain comments contained in the Memorandum, declaring the intention of the Government to take immediate steps to put the Committee's recommendations into practical effect.

The Government, in adopting the Committee's proposals, have had full regard to the functions of the Ministry of Labour and National Service in relation to the labour factor in production. Thus, the Government accepts the Committee's view that the wider responsibility of the Ministry of Labour and National Service in regard to man-power generally, as distinct from industrial man-power, must be safeguarded when there is a question of settling local disputes concerning, *inter alia*, allocation of labour. They accept the recommendation that in such cases the Regional Director of Production and the Regional Controller of Labour and National Service should act jointly. The Regional Controllers of the Ministry of Labour and National Service will continue to sit on the Regional Boards and other Executive Committees, and a representative of the Ministry will serve on the Regional Organisation Committee which, on the recommendation of the Citrine Committee, has been appointed for the central co-ordination of the work of the Regional Organisation.

HOURS OF WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS.

EXTENSION OF GENERAL EMERGENCY ORDER FOR COTTON SPINNING OR DOUBLING.

AN Order was made by the Minister of Labour and National Service on 29th May, 1942, extending until 27th June, 1942, the operative period of the General Emergency Order for Cotton Spinning or Doubling, which was due to expire on 30th May, 1942. As reported on page 84 of the issue of this GAZETTE for April, 1942, this General Emergency Order makes provision whereby factories in which the spinning or doubling of cotton yarn is carried on are exempted, as respects women and young persons employed in accordance with specified conditions, from the provisions of the Factories Act, 1937, as to hours of employment and holidays; the right of occupiers of such factories to avail themselves of the Order being subject, however, to the grant by the Inspector of Factories for the District of written permission to do so.

FATAL ACCIDENTS AT MINES AND QUARRIES IN 1941.

A "Provisional Statement of Number of Deaths by Accidents at Mines and Quarries in Great Britain, together with the Isle of Man, during 1941"† has been issued by the Mines Department.

The Statement shows that, in all, 997 persons were killed by accidents which occurred during the year 1941 at mines and quarries in Great Britain, together with the Isle of Man. The corresponding figures for 1940 and 1939 were 1,008 and 783 respectively. Of the total number of deaths caused by accidents in 1941, 923 occurred at mines under the Coal Mines Act, 1911, and of these 501 resulted from falls of ground.

FACTORY VENTILATION IN THE "BLACK-OUT."

HURRIED measures taken on the outbreak of war to blackout factories often resulted in serious interference with the means of ventilation and affected the health and productive capacity of the workers. Much has since been done to remedy the defects, but the subject remains one of pressing importance, particularly in the summer months. A pamphlet—*Factory Ventilation in the Black-out*‡—was issued in the early part of the war and has now been re-issued in a slightly revised form by the Factory Department of the Ministry of Labour and National Service. The pamphlet describes briefly the various measures which can be taken to improve ventilation without permitting the escape of interior artificial light, such as mechanical ventilation, provision of light-trap ventilators and stimulation of air movement. A number of drawings are included, showing simple ideas for the construction of light-traps at ventilator openings, such as windows and other wall and roof openings.

* Cmd. 6360. H.M. Stationery Office; price 6d. net (7d. post free).

† H.M. Stationery Office, price 1d. net; 2d. post free.

‡ *Factory Ventilation in the Black-out*. Factory Form 301 (Revised, February, 1942). H.M. Stationery Office; price 3d. net (4d. post free).

* See the issue of this GAZETTE for April, 1942, page 85.

† See the issues of this GAZETTE for February, 1942, page 32, and April, 1942, page 84.

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

THE number of men and boys registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain as wholly unemployed at 11th May, 1942 (exclusive of men numbering 25,628 who had been classified by interviewing panels as unsuitable for ordinary industrial employment) was 65,771, showing a decrease of 3,772 as compared with the corresponding total for 13th April. Those registered as on short time or otherwise temporarily suspended from work on the understanding that they were shortly to return to their former employment numbered 2,599, showing a decrease of 682 as compared with 13th April. Those registered as unemployed casual workers numbered 2,951, a decrease of 774 since 13th April.

The corresponding figures for women and girls at 11th May were 43,192 wholly unemployed (exclusive of those numbering 1,505 who had been classified by interviewing panels as unsuitable for normal full-time employment), 3,190 temporarily stopped, and 281 unemployed casual workers. Of the 43,192 wholly unemployed 1,896 had been classified as unable for good cause to transfer to another area. As compared with 13th April, the numbers wholly unemployed showed a decrease of 4,313, those temporarily stopped showed a decrease of 10, and unemployed casual workers showed an increase of 36.

The number of applicants for unemployment benefit or allowances included in the foregoing totals for 11th May was 77,444, as compared with 79,663 at 13th April, and 240,119 at 12th May, 1941.

The numbers registered as unemployed* at 11th May, 1942, are analysed below:—

	Wholly Unemployed.	Temporarily Stopped.	Unemployed Casual Workers.
Great Britain.			
Men	55,060	2,579	2,945
Boys	10,711	20	6
Women	32,902	3,084	281
Girls	10,290	106	—
Total	108,963	5,789	3,232
Decrease (—) as compared with:			
13th April, 1942	— 8,085	— 692	— 738
12th May, 1941	—140,935	—59,955	—9,700
Great Britain and Northern Ireland.			
Men	60,722	3,071	3,911
Boys	11,357	31	8
Women	40,979	5,127	301
Girls	11,207	205	1
Total	124,265	8,434	4,221
Decrease (—) as compared with:			
13th April, 1942	— 9,210	— 1,776	— 799
12th May, 1941	—170,208	—62,209	—10,117

The numbers of unemployed persons* on the registers at 11th May in each administrative region are shown below:—

Region.	Men 18 years and over.	Boys 14-17 years.	Women 18 years and over.	Girls 14-17 years.	Total.
Wholly Unemployed.					
London and South-Eastern	15,090	2,372	8,498	1,934	27,894
Eastern	1,904	365	1,740	578	4,587
Southern	1,508	397	888	399	3,192
South-Western	2,207	405	1,992	417	5,021
Midlands	1,089	535	480	468	2,572
North-Midlands	1,228	288	880	243	2,639
North-Eastern	3,641	454	1,678	521	6,294
North-Western	5,892	1,504	3,420	850	11,666
Northern	3,658	1,417	2,825	1,991	9,891
Scotland	9,746	1,550	8,555	1,469	21,320
Wales	9,097	1,424	1,946	1,420	13,887
Great Britain	55,060	10,711	32,902	10,290	108,963
Northern Ireland	5,662	646	8,077	917	15,302
Great Britain and Northern Ireland	60,722	11,357	40,979	11,207	124,265
Temporarily Stopped and Unemployed Casual Workers.					
London and South-Eastern	763	—	443	6	1,212
Eastern	351	3	1,138	11	1,503
Southern	140	5	41	2	188
South-Western	459	—	66	5	530
Midlands	99	—	51	—	150
North-Midlands	238	—	196	7	441
North-Eastern	767	6	252	24	1,049
North-Western	723	5	317	10	1,055
Northern	588	5	254	14	861
Scotland	560	2	580	18	1,160
Wales	836	—	27	9	872
Great Britain	5,524	26	3,365	106	9,021
Northern Ireland	1,458	13	2,063	100	3,634
Great Britain and Northern Ireland	6,982	39	5,428	206	12,655

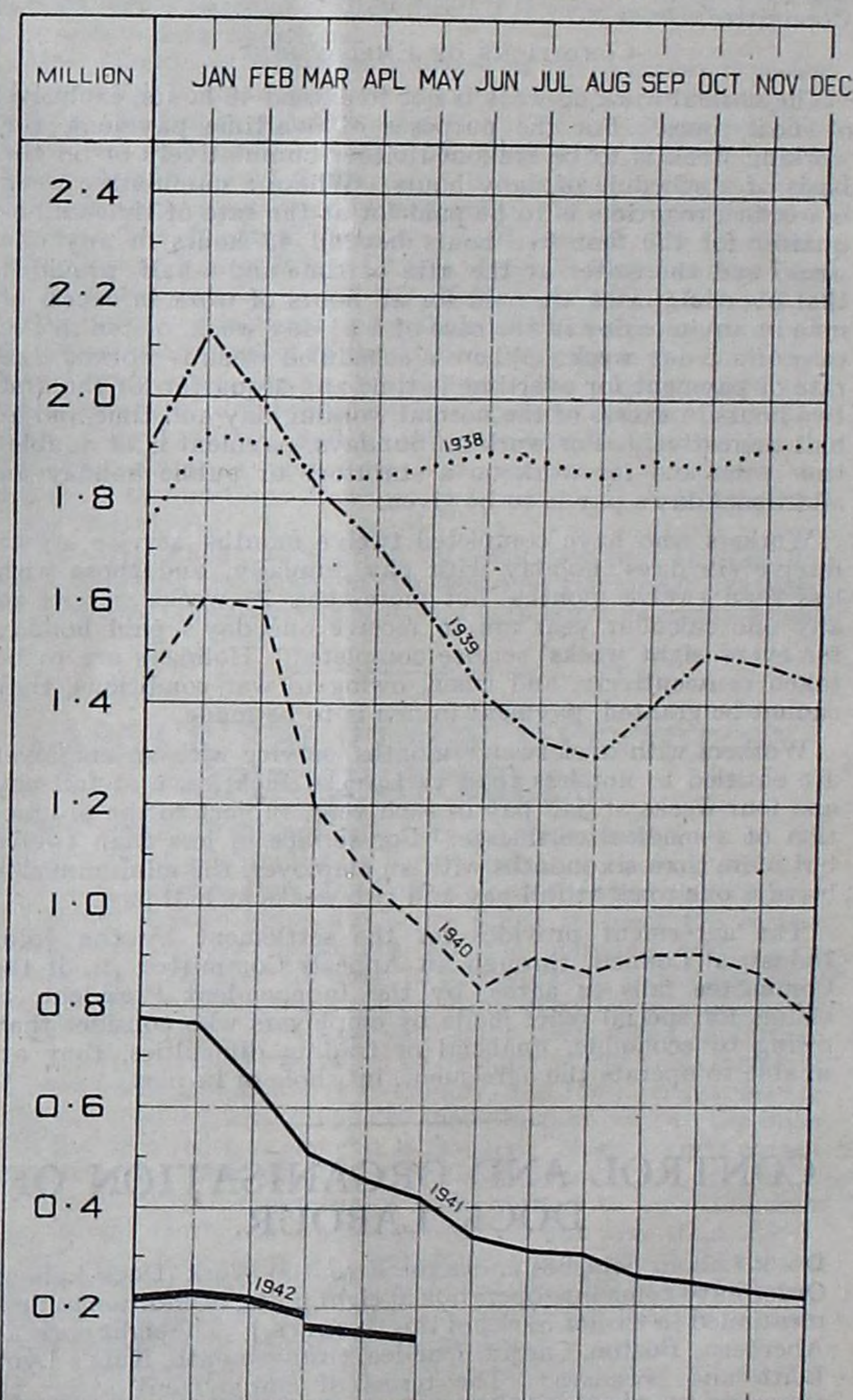
* The figures given are exclusive of men classified as unsuitable for ordinary industrial employment and women unsuitable for normal full-time employment.

The following Table shows the numbers on the registers at one date in each month since May, 1941:—

Date.	Great Britain.					G. Britain & N. Ireland.
	Men 18 years and over.	Boys 14-17 years.	Women 18 years and over.	Girls 14-17 years.	Total.	Total.
Wholly Unemployed.						
1941						
12 May	127,733	14,251	122,002	26,326	290,312	334,887
16 June	110,428	11,134	102,181	19,913	243,656	278,238
14 July	102,010	11,652	88,852	17,063	219,577	252,002
11 August	98,737	17,390	82,208	21,436	219,771	247,294
15 September	87,638	12,410	78,854	17,692	196,594	220,597
13 October	85,598	11,436	72,789	16,027	185,850	210,645
17 November	86,173	9,162	64,093	12,556	171,984	194,810
8 December	84,235	8,108	62,058	10,823	165,224	189,020
1942						
12 January	87,943	12,272	56,101	14,546	170,862	195,558
16 February	89,443	10,485	50,728	11,519	162,175	184,370
16 March* (a)	84,326	9,084	45,863	10,055	149,328	169,569
13 April	58,353		44,154		121,646	141,887
11 May	55,060	10,711	34,509	12,996	117,048	133,475
Temporarily Stopped and Unemployed Casual Workers.						
1941						
12 May	39,289	550	36,889	1,948	78,676	84,981
16 June	27,442	407	29,010	1,424	58,283	63,307
14 July	31,326	541	24,524	1,312	57,703	63,896
11 August	27,089	459	21,840	1,130	50,518	56,126
15 September	17,323	112	16,002	590	34,027	39,213
13 October	15,956	84	13,764	545	30,349	35,129
17 November	16,611	87	9,671	749	27,118	31,616
8 December	13,862	87	8,303	878	23,130	27,498
1942						
12 January	16,160	79	7,346	401	23,986	29,172
16 February	19,080	247	6,566	349	26,242	30,801
16 March	9,731	63	4,179	143	14,116	18,675
13 April	6,942	64	3,245	200	10,451	15,230
11 May	5,524	26	3,365	106	9,021	12,655

UNEMPLOYMENT CHART.

NUMBERS ON THE REGISTERS IN GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.



Note.—From March, 1942, persons who had been classified as unsuitable for ordinary employment have been excluded from the statistics relating to the numbers unemployed. The effect of the change is shown by the two points, on the chart, for that month.

* The figures on line (a) include, while these on line (b) exclude, men classified by interviewing panels as unsuitable for ordinary industrial employment and women classified as unsuitable for normal full-time employment. The figures given in the Table for dates prior to March include, while those for later dates exclude, persons in these categories.

COMPOSITION OF UNEMPLOYMENT
STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

ANALYSIS FOR 11TH MAY, 1942

	Men 18 years and over.	Boys under 18 years.	Women 18 years and over.	Girls under 18 years.	Total.
Insured on Register:—					
1. Claimants to Benefit and applicants for Unemployment Allowances* ..	50,786	2,162	20,489	1,573	75,010
2. Non-claimants* ..	20,932	—	810	—	21,742
3. Applicants for Unemployment Allowances* ..	4,598	5,409	6,903	4,580	21,490
4. Women aged 60-64, claiming Benefit† ..	2,076	—	230	—	2,306
5. Persons without applications* ..	1,162	41	1,025	31	2,259
6. Number on Register* ..	1,380	—	294	—	1,674
7. Two months' file‡ ..	—	—	175	—	175
8. Special Schemes—Claim- ants to Benefit ..	4,038	3,125	7,675	4,212	19,050
9. Total on Register* ..	1,240	—	171	—	1,411
10. Insured Unemployed:—					
11. Number on Register* ..	55,384	7,571	27,392	6,153	96,500
12. (items 1 and 2) ..	23,008	—	1,040	—	24,048
13. Two months' file‡ ..	15,167	3,239	27,839	3,303	49,548
14. Special Schemes—Claim- ants to Benefit ..	156	2	114	1	273
15. Total* ..	70,707	10,812§	55,345	9,457||	146,321
	23,008	—	1,040	—	24,048

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

ACCORDING to returns received by the Bureau of Labour Statistics from employers, covering over 55 per cent. of the aggregate number of wage-earners in manufacturing industries, the number of workpeople employed at the middle of February, 1942, increased by 0.4 per cent. as compared with the figure for the middle of January, 1942. If the average monthly index of employment in the establishments covered for the three years 1923-25 be taken as 100, the corresponding figure for February, 1942, was 132.9, as compared with 132.4 for January, 1942, and 117.8 for February, 1941.

Information supplied by the Social Security Board shows that the number of applications for employment registered at Public Employment Offices at the end of February, 1942, was 4,880,600, as compared with 4,893,333 at the end of January, and 4,670,962 at the end of February, 1941. These figures include a large number of persons assigned to employment on the various established systems of Federal works projects.

CANADA.

According to returns received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from 12,923 employers, the number of workpeople employed at 1st March, 1942, was 1,651,067, as compared with 1,654,191 at 1st February. If the average number of workpeople employed by the reporting firms in the year 1926 be taken as 100, the index of employment was 165.1 at 1st March, 1942, 165.4 at 1st February and 135.3 at 1st March, 1941.

At the end of January, 1942, 4.3 per cent. of the aggregate membership (approximately 324,000) of trade unions were unemployed, as compared with 5.2 per cent. at the end of December, 1941, and 6.6 per cent. at the end of January, 1941.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

According to information published in the official *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics* for March, 1942, returns received by the Office of Census and Statistics from selected industrial undertakings show that employment increased slightly during January, 1942. If the average number of workpeople employed in the reporting firms in July, 1925, be taken as 100, the index of employment was 190.5 in January, 1942, 190.3 in December, 1941, and 180.2 in January, 1941.

ÉIRE.

The number of persons on the live registers of the Employment Exchanges fell from 89,244 at 25th April, 1942, to 81,551 at 30th May. The figures for both these dates are affected by the entry into force, on 11th March, 1942, of an Order issued under the Unemployment Assistance Act, 1933, the effect of which is to restrict, during the period from 11th March to 27th October, 1942, the eligibility for unemployment assistance of a certain class of persons living in rural areas. At 31st May, 1941, when an Order of similar nature was in force, the total number of persons on the live registers was 62,877.

* The figures on line (a) exclude men classified as unsuitable for ordinary industrial employment and women classified as unsuitable for normal full-time employment; the figures on line (b) show the numbers of men and women in these categories.

† These are women who had ceased to be insurable under the Unemployment Insurance Acts on reaching the age of 60, but were still applying for unemployment benefit under Section 3(4) of the Old Age and Widows' Pensions Act, 1940.

‡ The two months' file of lodged books consists of books of persons who had registered as unemployed at some date within the previous two months and were not known to have found work, but were not maintaining registration for employment.

§ Including 4,664 boys aged 14 and 15.

|| Including 4,102 girls aged 14 and 15.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

THE number of workpeople, other than seamen,* in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, whose deaths from accidents in the course of their employment occurred or were reported in May† was 195, as compared with 221‡ in the previous month and with 277§ in May, 1941. Details for separate industries are given below:—

MINES AND QUARRIES.		FACTORIES—continued.	
Under Coal Mines Acts:—		Paper, Printing, etc. ..	
Underground ..	49	Rubber ..	2
Surface ..	2	Gas Works ..	2
Metalliferous Mines ..	5	Electrical Stations ..	2
Quarries ..	2	Other Industries ..	1
TOTAL,			
MINES AND QUARRIES ..	58	WORKS AND PLACES UNDER	
		SS. 105, 107, 108, FACTORIES	
		ACT, 1937.	
FACTORIES.		Docks, Wharves, Quays	
Clay, Stone, Cement, Pot-		and Ships ..	12
tery and Glass ..	3	Building Operations ..	26
Chemicals, Oils, Soap, etc.	3	Works of Engineering	
Metal Extracting and		Construction ..	3
Refining ..	2	Warehouses ..	—
Metal Conversion and			
Founding (including		TOTAL, FACTORIES ACT	118
Rolling Mills and Tube			
Making) ..	6		
Engineering, Locomotive			
Building, Boilermaking,			
etc. ..	22	RAILWAY SERVICE.	
Railway and Tramway		Brakesmen, Goods Guards	3
Carriages, Motor and		Engine Drivers, Motor	
other Vehicles and Air-		men ..	2
craft Manufacture ..	3	Firemen ..	—
Shipbuilding ..	16	Guards (Passenger) ..	—
Other Metal Trades ..	5	Labourers ..	2
Cotton ..	1	Mechanics ..	—
Wool, Worsted, Shoddy ..	1	Permanent Way Men ..	5
Other Textile Manu-		Porters ..	2
facture ..	2	Shunters ..	3
Textile Printing, Bleach-		Other Grades ..	2
ing and Dyeing ..	1	Contractors' Servants ..	—
Tanning, Currying, etc. ..	—		
Food and Drink ..	1	TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE	19
General Woodwork and			
Furniture ..	4	Total (excluding Seamen)	195

INDUSTRIAL DISEASES.

THE Table below shows the number of cases§ and deaths§ in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported during May under the Factories Act, 1937, or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, 1926:—

I. Cases.	I. Cases—continued.
LEAD POISONING.	EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION (SKIN CANCER) ¶ ..
Among Operatives	10
engaged in:	
Smelting of Metals ..	1
Plumbing and Soldering ..	—
Shipbreaking ..	—
Printing ..	—
Other Contact with	CHROME ULCERATION.
Molten Lead ..	Manufacture of Bichro-
White and Red Lead	mates ..
Works ..	Dyeing and Finishing ..
Pottery ..	Chrome Tanning ..
Vitreous Enamelling ..	Chromium Plating ..
Electric Accumulator	Other Industries ..
Works ..	4
Paint and Colour Works ..	TOTAL ..
Coach and Car Painting ..	11
Shipbuilding ..	Total Cases ...
Paint used in Other	54
Industries ..	
Other Industries ..	II. Deaths.
Painting of Buildings ..	LEAD POISONING.
	Shipbuilding ..
TOTAL ..	1
10	
OTHER POISONING|| ..	OTHER POISONING.
21	Toxic Jaundice ..
	1
ANTHRAX.	EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION
Handling of Horsehair ..	(SKIN CANCER).
Handling and Sorting of	Oil ..
Hides and Skins ..	1
TOTAL ..	Total Deaths ...
2	3

* Statistics of fatal accidents to seamen are not available.

† For mines and quarries, weekly returns are furnished, and the figures cover the 4 weeks ended 30th May, 1942, in comparison with the 5 weeks ended 2nd May, 1942, and the 4 weeks ended 31st May, 1941.

‡ Revised figure.

§ 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 or not included (as cases) in the same or previous returns.

¶ Aniline, 18; Toxic Jaundice, 2; Toxic Anaemia, 1.

|| Pitch, 4; Tar, 5; Paraffin, nil; Oil, 1.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN MAY.

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 Great Britain and Northern Ireland during May resulted in an aggregate increase estimated at about £225,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 630,000 workpeople, and in a decrease estimated at about £6,500 in those of 280,000 workpeople.

The principal industries and services in which wages were increased were coal mining in certain districts, roadstone, etc., quarrying, the linen industry in Northern Ireland, ready-made and wholesale bespoke tailoring, the merchant navy, the non-trading services of a large number of local authorities, retail food distribution, milk distribution and rubber manufacture. Those in which wages were reduced included coal mining in certain districts, the iron and steel industry, and tobacco, etc., manufacture.

In the coal mining industry, increases occurred in South Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Warwickshire owing to the operation of sliding-scale agreements under which wage rates fluctuate in correspondence with the ascertained proceeds of the industry. Roadstone, etc., quarrymen received an increase of $\frac{3}{4}$ d. an hour in war bonus. In the linen industry in Northern Ireland there were increases of about 10 per cent. in the flax spinning section and 7 per cent. in the weaving section. In ready-made and wholesale bespoke tailoring there was an increase of $1\frac{1}{4}$ d. an hour for men and of 1d. an hour for women and learners. The war risk money payable to officers and men in the merchant navy was increased to £10 a month or 46s. 8d. a week (half these amounts in the case of boys). Manual workers employed in the non-trading services of a large number of local authorities in England and Wales received increases of $\frac{3}{4}$ d. an hour or 3s. a week, with smaller increases for women and juveniles in some cases. The minimum weekly rates of wages fixed by the Retail Food Trades Joint Industrial Council for England and Wales were raised by 5s. for branch managers and branch manageresses, by amounts ranging from 1s. 6d. to 3s., according to age, for other male workers, and from 1s. to 2s. for other female workers. In milk distribution, the Trade Board minimum rates were raised by 5s., 3s. or 2s. a week, according to area, for men and 3s. or 2s. a week for women in England and Wales and by 3s. a week for men and women in Scotland. In

rubber manufacture there were additions to Trade Board minimum rates ranging from $\frac{3}{4}$ d. to $1\frac{1}{4}$ d. an hour for men, youths and boys and from $\frac{3}{4}$ d. to 1d. an hour for women and girls. Other groups of workpeople whose wage rates were increased including timeworkers and pieceworkers in the woollen and worsted industry in the South of Scotland and signalmen and traffic regulators on main-line railways.

There were decreases in wages in the coal mining industry, under sliding-scale agreements, in Derbyshire (except South Derbyshire), Nottinghamshire and Cannock Chase. In the iron and steel industry (including pig iron manufacture, iron puddling and steel melting and rolling), the flat-rate addition to wages was reduced, under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements, by 0.8d. a shift for men and 0.4d. a shift for youths and boys. In tobacco, etc., manufacture there were decreases in Trade Board minimum time rates of $4\frac{1}{4}$ d. a week for men and 3d. a week for women and juveniles, with corresponding decreases for piece workers. Other industries in which reductions occurred included iron mining in some districts and tinplate manufacture.

Of the estimated total increase of £225,000 a week, about £1,000 was due to the operation of sliding scales based on fluctuations in the proceeds of the coal mining industry or in the cost of living; £184,000 was due to arrangements made by joint standing bodies; and nearly all the remainder was the result of direct negotiation between the employers and workpeople or their representatives. The whole of the estimated decrease of £6,500 was due to the operation of sliding scales based on fluctuations in the proceeds of the coal mining industry or in the cost of living.

The changes reported in the first five months of 1942, in the industries covered by the statistics, are estimated to have resulted in a net increase of about £560,000 a week in the full-time wages of over 3,000,000 workpeople, and in a net decrease of about £10,000 in those of 300,000 workpeople. In the corresponding five months of 1941 there was a net increase in these industries estimated at about £1,000,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 6,650,000 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

No important changes in hours of labour were reported during May.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)
Coal Mining	Derbyshire (except South Derbyshire).	1 May	Workpeople employed in and about coal mines.	Decrease of 0.99 per cent. on basis rates, leaving wages 5.08 per cent. above the basis rates.†
	South Derbyshire ..	1 May	Do.	Increase of 1.67 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 78.37 per cent. above the basis rates.†
	Nottinghamshire ..	1 May	Do.	Decrease of 2 per cent. on basis rates, leaving wages 108 per cent. above the basis rates.†
	Cannock Chase ..	1 May	Workpeople employed in and about coal mines, other than engine winders, deputies and firemen, examiners and shotlighters.	Decrease of 0.85 per cent. on basis rates, leaving wages 45.77 per cent. above the basis rates for shopmen, mechanics and surface workers not handling coal and 43.77 per cent. above the basis rates for all other workers.†
	Leicestershire ..	1 May	Workpeople employed in and about coal mines.	Increase of 1.11 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 82.71 per cent. above the basis rates.†
	Warwickshire ..	1 May	Do.	Increase of 2 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 88 per cent. above the basis rates.†
	Cumberland ..	22 May	Iron ore miners	Increase of 6d. a shift for men and of 3d. a shift for youths and boys.
		25 May	Do.	War bonus increased† by $\frac{1}{4}$ d. a shift (1s. 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to 2s. for those 18 years and over and 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to 1s. for those under 18).
	Furness and district ..	23 May	Do.	War bonus increased† by 2d. a shift (1s. 11d. to 2s. 1d.) for those 18 years and over, and by 1d. (11 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to 1s. 0 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.) for those under 18 years.
	Cleveland	3 May	Iron ore miners	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) reduced† by 0.8d. a shift (1s. 6.4d. to 1s. 5.6d.) for men, and by 0.4d. (9.2d. to 8.8d.) for youths and boys.
Other Mining and Quarrying.	Leicestershire and adjoining parts of Lincolnshire.	3 May	Ironstone miners and limestone quarrymen.	
	North Lincolnshire ..	3 May	Ironstone miners and quarrymen ..	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) increased† by 1d. a shift (1s. 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to 2s. 0 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.) for those 18 years and over, the flat-rate addition for those under 18 remaining unchanged at 1s. a shift.
	Northamptonshire (including Corby).	3 May	Ironstone miners and quarrymen and limestone quarrymen.	
	Banbury and district	3 May	Ironstone miners and quarrymen ..	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) increased† by 0.1d. an hour (3.2d. to 3.3d.) for men, and by 0.05d. (1.6d. to 1.65d.) for youths and boys.
	South and West Durham.	3 May	Limestone quarrymen	
	West Cumberland ..	25 May	Limestone quarrymen	War bonus increased by $\frac{1}{4}$ d. a hour (3 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.) for men and by proportional amounts for youths.
	Scunthorpe (certain firms).	25 May	Slag and tar macadam workers ..	Increase of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. an hour for timeworkers, and of an equivalent amount for pieceworkers. Rates after change for timeworkers: Grade A areas, delvers and hewers, 1s. 10d., bottom delvers 1s. 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ d., saw frame feeders, 1s. 7d., labourers, 1s. 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.; Grade B, 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. an hour less than Grade A.
	Various districts in Great Britain.‡	21 May	Roadstone, limestone and igneous quarry workers.	Minimum hourly rates adopted, of 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. at 14 years, increasing to 1s. 2d. at 20 years.
	Yorkshire|| .. .. .	1 May	Sandstone and freestone quarry workers.	
	Great Britain ..	4 May	Youths and boys employed in the silica and moulding sands industry	

* The particulars of numbers affected and amount of change in the weekly wages and hours of labour exclude changes affecting Government employees, agricultural workers, 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 wages and hours of these classes are shown in the list of principal changes recorded. The estimates of the effects of the changes on weekly wages are based on normal conditions of employment and do not take into account the effect of overtime working, etc.

† Flat-rate advances, previously paid in addition to basis rates and percentages, remained unchanged.

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

§ The districts affected include North-East England, North Lancashire and South Westmorland, Clitheroe district, Derbyshire and district, North Wales, Leicestershire and district, Warwickshire, West Midlands, South-East and South-West England, South Wales, and West, South and East Scotland.

|| The districts include (Grade A) Huddersfield, Crosland Moor, Bradford district (including Thornton, Shipley, Idle and Queensbury), Keighley district (including Haworth), Halifax and Brighouse districts and Horsforth, and (Grade B) Pateley Bridge district.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY—continued.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)
Other Mining and Quarrying. (Contd.)	South Wales and Monmouthshire.	21 May	Pennantstone quarry workers (except those whose wages are regulated by movements in the building industry). Able-bodied men	War bonus increased by 1d. an hour for men and for youths, 18 years and over, and by 3d. for boys, 15 to 17 years of age. Rates after change for men: drillers, barriers-down and mixers, 1s. 7½d., quarrymen and crusher feeders, 1s. 6½d., labourers, 1s. 5½d.
Stock Brick Making.	North-East Kent and South-East Essex.	1st full pay week commencing 1 Apr.	Youths and boys Women and girls	New scale of rates adopted, of 1s. 4d. an hour for setters, moulders (hand and machine made), 1s. 3½d. for sorters (kiln car), crowders, off-bearers (hand made) and temperers (hand and machine made), 1s. 3d. for labourers, earth diggers, sorters (clamp) and off-bearers (machine made), and 11s. a shift of 8 hours for burners, plus 1d. an hour war bonus in each case.
Iron and Steel Manufacture.	Cleveland and Durham, West Cumberland and North Lancs., North Lincs., North Staffs., South Staffs., Bilston, Northants. (excluding Corby), and South Wales and Monmouthshire.	3 May	Workpeople employed at blast-furnaces (except those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries).	New scale of rates adopted, of 17s. a week at 14 years, increasing to 50s. at 20 years, plus 4d. a day war bonus in each case.
	Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire.	1st pay day in May.	Workpeople (excluding those engaged on maintenance work) employed at blastfurnaces.	New scale of rates adopted, of 23s. 6d. a week at 16 years, increasing to 36s. at 18 years, plus 4d. a day war bonus in each case.
	West of Scotland	Pay period commencing nearest 1 May.	Workpeople (excluding those engaged on maintenance work) employed at certain blastfurnaces.	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) reduced* by 0.8d. a shift (1s. 6.4d. to 1s. 5.6d.) for men and by 0.4d. (9.2d. to 8.8d.) for youths and boys.
	Great Britain†	4 May	Workpeople employed at steel sheet rolling mills.	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) reduced* by 0.8d. a shift (1s. 4.8d. to 1s. 4d.) for men and by 0.4d. (8.4d. to 8d.) for youths and boys.
	North-East Coast Area	3 May	Workpeople employed at iron puddling furnaces and rolling mills.	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) reduced* by 0.8d. a shift (1s. 5.6d. to 1s. 4.8d.) for men, by 0.4d. (8.8d. to 8.4d.) for youths and boys, and by amounts varying from 0.4d. to 0.8d., according to age, occupation and experience, for women, 18 years and over.
	Great Britain‡	3 May	Workpeople employed in steel melting shops (melters, pitmen, slagmen, ladlemen, furnace helpers, gas producers, semi-skilled workers and labourers, etc.).	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) reduced* by 0.8d. a shift (1s. 6.4d. to 1s. 5.6d.) for men and by 0.4d. (9.2d. to 8.8d.) for youths and boys.
	North-East Coast Area	3 May	Workpeople employed at steel rolling mills.	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) reduced* by 0.8d. a shift (1s. 6.4d. to 1s. 5.6d.) for men and by 0.4d. (9.2d. to 8.8d.) for youths and boys.
	Barrow-in-Furness	3 May	Rail millmen, merchant millmen, enginemen, crane-men, etc.	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) reduced* by 0.8d. a shift (1s. 6.4d. to 1s. 5.6d.) for men, by 0.4d. (9.2d. to 8.8d.) for youths and boys, and by 0.4d., 0.6d. or 0.8d., according to age, occupation and experience, for women, 18 years and over.
	Workington	3 May	Steel millmen and labourers (dual workers).	
	Scunthorpe	3 May	Steel millmen, wagon builders and repairers.	
	Corby	3 May	Workpeople employed at blast-furnaces.	
	Bilston	3 May	Steel millmen, maintenance men, etc.	
	West of Scotland	3 May	Millmen, gas producers, engine-men, crane-men, firemen and mill labourers, semi-skilled workers and general labourers employed at steel rolling mills.	
	South-West Wales	3 May	Workpeople (excluding those engaged on maintenance work) employed in Siemens steel manufacture.	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) reduced* by 0.8d. a shift (1s. 5.6d. to 1s. 4.8d.) for men and by 0.4d. (8.8d. to 8.4d.) for youths and boys.
	Certain districts in England.§	Beginning of 1st full pay period after 30 Jan.	Metal dressers (as defined in Award).	Minimum basic rates adopted of 36s. to 42s. a week, according to district, plus in each case a bonus of 35s. 6d. for timeworkers.||
Engineering	North Staffordshire¶	1st full pay week in May.	Skilled toolroom workers	Basic rate adopted of 50s. a week. Rate after change for timeworkers, 50s., plus a bonus of 35s. 6d.
	Manchester district	1st full pay period following 13 May.	Boiler firemen, enginemen, etc., employed in engineering establishments.	Minimum basic rates adopted, for a working week of 47 hours, of 33s. to 46s., according to size of boiler, for boiler firemen, of 33s., 35s. or 42s., according to type of engine, for enginemen, and of 30s. for auxiliary workers, plus 35s. 6d. bonus in each case.
Galvanising	England and Wales **	4 May	Workpeople employed on galvanising processes (excluding the process of annealing).	Flat-rate addition to wages (previously granted) reduced* by 0.8d. a shift (1s. 5.6d. to 1s. 4.8d.) for men, by 0.4d. (8.8d. to 8.4d.) for youths and boys, and by amounts varying from 0.4d. to 0.8d., according to age, occupation and experience, for women, 18 years and over.
Tinplate Manufacture.	South Wales and Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire.	3 May	Men, women and juveniles (excluding those engaged on maintenance work).	Cost-of-living bonus reduced* by 0.8d. (1s. 7.2d. to 1s. 6.4d.) for men and for women on men's work, 21 years of age and over, and by 0.4d. (9.6d. to 9.2d.) for other women and juveniles.
Farriery	Edinburgh	12 May	Farriers	Increase of 2½d. an hour. Rates after change: firemen, 1s. 11d., doormen, 1s. 10½d.
Iron and Steel Scrap.	Great Britain	1st pay day after 6 April.	Men, youths and boys and women (18 years and over).	Increase of 1d. an hour for men and of proportional amounts for other workers. Rate after change for men, 68s. a week.
Woollen and Worsted Industry.	South of Scotland	Beginning of 1st full pay period following 13 May.	Timeworkers and pieceworkers	Current minimum average rates of lower paid timeworkers raised to 60s. a week for men and 43s. for women, with consequential adjustments in the rates of some higher paid workers, resulting in increases of amounts ranging from 1s. 3d. to 5s. 3d. a week for men, of 1s. 3d. for women, and of 2s. 9d. for certain classes of pieceworkers.
Silk Dyeing and Finishing.	Macclesfield	Pay day in week ending 9 May.	Men, women and juveniles	Cost-of-living wage decreased* from 100 to 99 per cent. on basis rates. Minimum weekly rates after change: men, 63s. 8d., plus 2s. 6d. for 48 hours (special payment); women, 18 years and over, 39s. 10d., plus 1s. 6d. for 48 hours (special payment).
Linen, etc., Industry	Northern Ireland	4 May	Workpeople employed in flax spinning. Workpeople employed in linen, cotton and silk weaving.	Further increase of 12½ per cent. (22½ to 35 per cent.) on wages in operation before 4th December, 1939. Further increase of 9 per cent. (27½ to 36½ per cent.) on wages in operation before 4th December, 1939.
Ready-made and Wholesale Bespoke Tailoring.	Great Britain	1st full pay period after 18 May.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls	Increases on current earnings of 1½d. an hour for men and of 1d. for women and male and female learners.
Retail Bespoke Tailoring.	Northern Ireland	4 May.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls	Minimum rates increased by 7½ per cent.††

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

† This decrease affected mainly the employees of firms which are members of the Sheet Trade Board, the principal districts concerned being Staffordshire, Cheshire, Tees-side, South Wales and Monmouthshire and the Glasgow district.

‡ This decrease affected mainly the employees of firms affiliated to the Iron and Steel Trades Employers' Association, the principal districts concerned being the North-East Coast, Cumberland, Lancashire, South Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, the Midlands, South Wales and the West of Scotland.

§ The districts concerned are Barrow, Birmingham, Bradford, Coventry, Derby, Halifax, Huddersfield, Keighley, Leeds, Leicester, Lincoln, London, Loughborough, Nottingham, Oldham and Peterborough.

|| This increase was the result of Award No. 213 of the National Arbitration Tribunal, dated 18th May, 1942.

¶ The districts covered are Burslem, Etruria, Hanley, Longport, Milton, Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent.

** This decrease affected mainly the employees of firms which are members of the Galvanising Conciliation Board.

†† This increase took effect under an Order issued under the Trade Boards Acts. Details of the minimum rates are contained in the Confirming Order of the Minister of Labour (Northern Ireland), obtainable from H.M. Stationery Office.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MAY—*continued.*

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in <i>Italics</i> .)
Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing (Factory Branch).	Northern Ireland ..	18 May	Timeworkers:— Men, youths and boys Women and girls Pieceworkers:— Men and women (other than hand-embroidery workers). Hand-embroidery workers ..	Increases of 2d. an hour in general minimum time rates for cutters, of ½d. to 1½d., according to age, for other classes, and of ½d. or 1d., according to period of employment, for late entrants.* Increases of ½d. to 1d. an hour, according to occupation, in general minimum time rates for other than learners, and of 1s. to 3s. 6d. a week, according to period of employment, for learners.* Increases of 1½d. or 2½d. an hour in piecework basis time rates for men, and of ½d. to 1½d. an hour for women, according to occupation.* Increase of 15 per cent. or 3s. in the £ in general minimum piece rates.*
Wholesale Mantle and Costume Making.	Northern Ireland ..	16 May	Timeworkers:— Men, youths and boys Women and girls Pieceworkers	Increases of 1½d. an hour in general minimum time rates for men in certain operations (other than learners) and of ½d. to 1½d. an hour for learners.* Increases of ½d. an hour in general minimum time rates for other than learners and of ½d. to ½d. an hour, according to age, for learners.* Increases of 1½d. an hour in piecework basis time rates for men and of ½d. for women.*
Baking	England and Wales ..	6 May	Chargehands	Increases of 1½d. an hour in general minimum time rates for men and of 1d. for women. Rates after change, according to area: men, 61s. to 72s. a week; women, 41s. to 46s.*
	Manchester and district.†	8 May	Men, women and juveniles	Bonus granted of 4s. a week for men and for women, 21 years and over, and of 2s. for those under 21. Rates after change include: men—forehands, 82s., tablehands, 72s.; women—forewomen, 53s. 6d., confectioners, 46s. 6d., other general workers, 40s. 6d., plus a bonus of 4s. a week in each case.
Tobacco, etc., Manufacture.	Great Britain ..	1 May	Workpeople employed in tobacco, cigarette, etc., manufacture.	Decreases† of 4½d. a week in minimum rates for men, and of 3d. for women and juveniles, with corresponding decreases for pieceworkers.*
Merchant Navy	Great Britain ..	1 May	Officers and men in the Merchant Navy.	"Seafarers' War Risk Money" increased from £5 to £10 a month (boys £2 10s. to £5) or from 23s. 4d. to 46s. 8d. a week (boys 11s. 8d. to 23s. 4d.).§
Railway Service	Great Britain ..	11 May	Signalmen (passenger and goods boxes), relief signalmen and traffic regulators.	Increases varying from 1s. to 6s. 6d. a week, according to class and locality, for signalmen, and from 6d. to 4s. for relief signalmen; and an increase of 4s. for traffic regulators.
Local Authorities (Non-trading Services).	England and Wales ..	1st full pay week in May.	Manual workers, except those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries.	Increases of 3s. a week or ½d. an hour for men, of 2s. 3d. or ⅞d. for women and of proportional amounts for youths and boys.||
Saddle and Harness Making.	London (Metropolitan Police Area).	1 May	Brown and black saddlers and harness makers.	Increase of 2d. an hour (1s. 7d. to 1s. 9d.) in minimum rate for time-workers and of 12½ per cent. for pieceworkers (making wages for heavy work 110 per cent. and for light work 95 per cent. above the July, 1914, prices).
Skip and Basket Making.	Lancashire and Cheshire.	1 May	Skip and basket makers	Decrease† of 1 per cent. on list prices, leaving wages 126½ per cent. above the list.
Hairdressing	Great Britain ..	1st pay day in May.	Assistants, receptionists, counter hands, etc., employed in hairdressing establishments.	Scales of general minimum weekly rates of wages adopted, for a working week of 48 hours. Minimum rates after change include:—Assistants—males, 16s. at 15 years, increasing to 65s. (in gentlemen's saloons) or 75s. (in ladies' saloons, or in both ladies' and gentlemen's saloons) at 24; females, 16s. at 15 years, increasing to 55s. or 65s. at 24; supplemented, in all cases, by a commission of 10 per cent. on all service takings over £4 a week. Receptionists and counter hands—males, 21s. 6d. at 16 years, increasing to 65s. at 25; females, 19s. 6d. at 16 years, increasing to 43s. at 24.¶
	England and Wales ..	18 May	Workpeople employed in retail book-selling, newsagency, stationery, tobacco and confectionery distribution.	Scales of general minimum weekly rates of wages adopted, for a working week of 48 hours. Minimum rates after change:—London: shop assistants, clerks, shop cashiers and central warehouse staffs—males, 21s. 6d. at 16 years, increasing to 65s. at 25; females, 19s. 6d. at 16 years, increasing to 43s. at 24; all other male workers (except craftsmen, production staff and transport workers), 20s. 6d. at 16 years, increasing to 60s. at 24; the minimum weekly rates in Provincial Zone "A" and Provincial Zone "B" are, respectively, 3s. and 5s. a week less than the corresponding rates in London.¶
Distribution	England and Wales ..	Pay day following 18 May	Workpeople employed in retail food distribution, including grocery and provisions, cooked meats and other cooked foods (other than fried fish), fresh, cured, dried and smoked fish, game, poultry and rabbits, fruit, vegetables and flowers and excisable liquor (off licence), but not including butchers' meat or bakery goods.	Increases in the minimum weekly rates of wages fixed by the Retail Food Trades Joint Industrial Council, as follows:—Branch managers and branch manageresses, 5s.; other male workers, 3s. at 21 years and over, 2s. at 18 and under 21 and 1s. 6d. at under 18; other female workers, 2s., 1s. 6d. and 1s., respectively.
	England and Wales ..	4 May	Workpeople employed in milk distribution:— Foremen Other men, youths and boys .. Women and girls	Increases of 5s., 3s. or 2s. a week, according to area, in general minimum time rates.* Increases of 5s., 3s. or 2s. in general minimum time rates for those 21 years and over, of 3s. or 2s. for those 18 and under 21, and of 2s. for those under 18.* Increases of 3s. or 2s. in general minimum time rates for those 18 years and over and of 2s. for those under 18.* Increase of 3s. a week in general minimum time rates.*
	Scotland	8 May	Male and female workpeople of all ages employed in milk distribution.	Increases of 3s. 6d. a week for males, 18 years and under 21, and of 3s. for those under 18; of 2s. for females, 18 years and under 21, and of 3s. for those under 18.
	Scotland	18 May	Junior workers employed by retail co-operative societies.	Addition of 1½d. an hour to general minimum time rates and piecework basis time rates for those 19 years and over, and increases ranging from ½d. to 1½d. for those under 16 to under 19 years.*
Rubber Manufacture.	Great Britain ..	22 May	Men, youths and boys Women and girls	Addition of 1d. an hour to general minimum time rates and piecework basis time rates for those 19 years and over, and increases ranging from ½d. to ¾d. for those under 16 to under 19 years.*
	London	1st pay day in May.	Men, women and juvenile workers in film studios.	Bonus decreased† by 4d. a week (15s. to 14s. 8d. for those paid weekly and 16s. to 15s. 8d. for those paid hourly) for workpeople, 21 years and over, and by 2d. (7s. 6d. to 7s. 4d. for those paid weekly and 8s. to 7s. 10d. for those paid hourly) for workpeople under 21.
Cinematograph Film Production	London and district ..	1st pay day in May.	Laboratory workers employed in film processing and printing in the film production industry.	Cost-of-living bonus decreased† by 3d. a week (10s. 3d. to 10s.) for those 21 years and over and by 1½d. (5s. 1½d. to 5s.) for those under 21.

* These changes took effect under Orders issued under the Trade Boards Acts. Details of the minimum rates are contained in the Confirming Orders of the Minister of Labour, obtainable from H.M. Stationery Office.

† Including Manchester, Salford, Stockport, Didsbury, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Stretford, Urmston, Flixton, Irlam and Cadishead, Barton, Patricroft, Eccles, Swinton, Pendlebury, Prestwich, Middleton, Oldham, Stalybridge, Ashton-under-Lyne, Walkden, Hyde, Denton, Royton, Shaw, Crompton and Glossop.

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

§ These increases applied to the crews of all vessels covered by the National Maritime Board Rate of Pay Agreements, and also, subject to the consent of the Government Department concerned, to the crews of railway-owned vessels.

¶ The authorities affected are mainly those affiliated to the District Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities' Non-Trading Services (Manual Workers) in the areas concerned. The areas in question, and the minimum or standard rates after change for general labourers (or equivalent classes of workpeople) in these areas, are indicated below (except where otherwise stated, the rates are those fixed for the sub-divisions of the areas): Northumberland, Durham and North Riding of Yorkshire, 1s. 5½d. and 1s. 4½d. an hour; West Riding of Yorkshire, 1s. 5d., 1s. 4½d. and 1s. 4d.; Lancashire and Cheshire, 68s. 8d., 66s. 9d., 64s. 9d., 62s. 10d., 58s. 11d., and 55s. a week; East Midlands Area, 1s. 6½d., 1s. 5½d., 1s. 5d., 1s. 4½d., 1s. 4d., and 1s. 3½d. an hour; West Midlands Area, 68s. 8d., 67s. 2½d., 64s. 2d., 61s. 3½d., 58s. 3½d., 54s. 4½d., and 50s. 5½d. a week; Eastern Area, 69s., 67s., 64s., 62s. and 59s.; South Midlands Area, 66s. 9d., 62s., and 58s.; Middlesex, 72s., and 69s. 9d.; London Area, 63s. and 66s. (according to class of worker), plus in each case a bonus of 14s. a week; Gloucestershire Somersetshire and Wiltshire, 69s., 66s., 64s., 61s., and 59s.; Devonshire, Dorsetshire and Cornwall, 54s. 11d., 54s. 6d., 52s. 6d., 50s., 48s., 46s., 44s., 42s., and 40s., plus in each case a bonus of 14s. a week; North Wales, 66s., 64s., and 61s.

¶ These rates took effect as the result of Agreements made by the National Joint Industrial Councils for the Hairdressing and the Retail Bookselling, Newsagency, Stationery, Tobacco and Confectionery Trades. The rates quoted are minima and do not prevent the payment of higher rates or the operation of better conditions of employment (see this GAZETTE for April, 1942, page 85, and May, 1942, page 107).

CHANGES IN RETAIL PRICES AND COST OF LIVING.

Summary of Index Figures for 1st June, 1942.

	Food	All Items
Increase since July, 1914..	59%	99%
Change since { Index Points ..	-1	-1
1st May, 1942 { Per cent. ..	-½*	-½*

FOOD.

In many areas the price of milk on 1st June was lower than a month earlier. Apart from this, the retail prices of the articles of food included within the scope of these statistics showed no appreciable change at 1st June as compared with 1st May.

The following Table compares the average retail prices in the United Kingdom at 1st June, 1942, with the corresponding prices at 1st May, 1942, and 1st September, 1939:—

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated) to the nearest ½d., at—			Percentage Increase or Decrease (—) at 1st June, 1942, compared with	
	1st June, 1942.	1st May, 1942.	1st Sept., 1939.	1st May, 1942.	1st Sept., 1939.
Beef, British—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Ribs	1 3½	1 3½	1 2½	..	11
Thin Flank ..	0 9½	0 9½	0 7½	..	27
Beef, Chilled or Frozen					
Ribs	1 1	1 1	0 9½	..	35
Thin Flank ..	0 6	0 6	0 4½	..	23
Mutton, British—					
Legs	1 5½	1 5½	1 3½	..	13
Breast	0 8	0 8	0 7½	..	8
Mutton, Frozen—					
Legs	1 0	1 0	0 10½	..	16
Breast	0 4	0 4	0 4	..	..
Bacon†	1 8½	1 8½	1 3	..	37
Fish .. ..	..	..	..	..	42
Flour .. per 7 lb.	1 3½	1 3½	1 1½	..	14
Bread .. per 4 lb.	0 8	0 8	0 8½	..	-3
Tea	2 6	2 6	2 4	..	7
Sugar (granulated) ..	0 3	0 3	0 3	..	-1
Milk .. per quart	0 8½	0 8½	0 6½	-4	24
Butter—					
Fresh	1 7	1 7	1 4½	..	15
Salt .. ..	..	..	1 3½	..	24
Cheese	1 1	1 1	0 10	..	30
Margarine†—					
Special	0 9	0 9	0 6½	..	12
Standard	0 5	0 5	..	..	..
Eggs (fresh)§ .. each	0 2	0 2	..	..	1
Potatoes .. per 7 lb.	0 1½	0 1½	0 6½	..	28

The following Table shows the average percentage changes in prices at 1st September, 1939, 1st May, 1942, and 1st June, 1942, respectively, as compared with July, 1914:—

Article.	Average Percentage Increase or Decrease (—) since July, 1914, at—		
	1st Sept., 1939.	1st May, 1942.	1st June, 1942.
Beef, British—	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Ribs	44	59	59
Thin Flank	15	46	46
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—			
Ribs	32	78	78
Thin Flank	1	24	24
Mutton, British—			
Legs	48	67	67
Breast	14	24	24
Mutton, Frozen—			
Legs	51	74	74
Breast	-3	-3	-3
Bacon†	35	84	84
Fish	116	206	206
Flour	26	45	44
Bread	42	38	38
Tea	52	63	63
Sugar (granulated) ..	46	45	45
Milk	92	148	139
Butter—			
Fresh	13	30	30
Salt	7	34	34
Cheese	16	51	51
Margarine†	-8	3	3
Eggs (fresh)§	58	59	59
Potatoes	33	71	71
All above articles (Weighted Average on July, 1914, basis)	38	60	59

On the basis of the figures given in the foregoing Tables the average level of retail food prices at 1st June, 1942, was about one-half of one per cent. lower than at 1st May, about 15 per cent. higher than at the beginning of September, 1939, and about 59 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

ITEMS OTHER THAN FOOD.

The average level of working-class rents (including rates) at 1st June showed no appreciable change as compared with 1st May, being about 1 per cent. above the level of 1st September, 1939, and about 64 per cent. above that in July, 1914.

* A fall of 1 point on a total of 160 for "food" (the figure for July, 1914, being 100) is equivalent to about one-half of one per cent. Similarly, a fall of 1 point on a total of 200 for "all items" is equivalent to one-half of one per cent.

† The description of bacon specified for quotation is streaky, but where this kind was seldom being sold the returns relate to another kind, locally representative.

‡ On 1st May and 1st June, 1942, two brands of margarine, "special" and "standard," were on sale at 9d. and 5d. per lb., respectively. The figures for 1st September, 1939, and July, 1914, are averages calculated from the prices of various brands on sale at those dates.

§ Of the two prices shown for eggs at 1st May and 1st June, 1942, 2d. was for large eggs (in Ministry of Food category I) and 1½d. for small eggs (in category II). At 1st September, 1939, the average price for fresh eggs, as shown by the returns received, was between 1½d. and 2d.

As regards clothing, information collected from representative retailers in a number of the principal towns indicates that at 1st June the retail prices of clothing of the kinds generally bought by working-class families averaged about the same as at 1st May, and about 95 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939. During May there was a slight increase, averaging about one-half of 1 per cent., in the prices of boots and shoes, but in the remaining groups of items included in the figures (viz., men's suits and overcoats; woollen materials, underclothing and hosiery; and cotton materials and hosiery) there was, on balance, a slight decline, some increases in the prices of "non-utility" articles having been more than offset by increasing sales of "utility" cloth and apparel, at prices controlled by the Board of Trade. Owing to the wide range of quotations, to changes in qualities, and to the variations in the extent to which different articles have been affected by price changes, it is not possible to make an exact comparison over a long period of years, but such information as is available indicates that at 1st June the average rise over the level of July, 1914, was about 305 per cent.

In the fuel and light group, the average level of prices of coal and of gas was about the same at 1st June as a month earlier. Prices of coal averaged about 22 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 136 per cent. above the level of July, 1914; prices of gas averaged about 27 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 97 per cent. higher than in July, 1914. There was little change during the month in the prices of lamp oil, candles and matches. In the fuel and light group as a whole, the average level of prices at 1st June was approximately the same as at 1st May, about 27 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 132 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

As regards other items* included in these statistics, there were increases, averaging about 2 per cent., in the prices of domestic ironmongery, brushes and pottery during May, but the remaining items showed little change. In the group as a whole, the average level of prices at 1st June was about the same as at 1st May, about 47 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 163 per cent. above the level of July, 1914.

ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance in working-class family expenditure prior to August, 1914, the resultant general average increase at 1st June, 1942, is approximately **99 per cent. over the level of July, 1914**, as compared with 100 per cent. at 1st May and with 55 per cent. at 1st September, 1939. The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken at each date) is to show the average percentage increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the standard of living prevailing in working-class families prior to August, 1914, *no allowance being made for any changes in the standard of living since that date, or for any economies or readjustments in consumption and expenditure since the outbreak of the war.*

The rise of 44 points since the beginning of September, 1939, is equivalent to about 28 per cent. Of these 44 points, about 4 points represent the effect of the increases, since that date, in the taxes on sugar, tobacco and cigarettes, and matches; and approximately 6 points are due to increases resulting from the Purchase Tax.

SUMMARY TABLE: ALL ITEMS.

Average percentage increases as compared with July, 1914.

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	47	46	44	43	42	43	41	41	43	43	43
1933 ..	42	41	39	37	36	36	38	39	41	41	43	44
1934 ..	42	41	40	39	37	38	41	42	43	43	44	44
1935 ..	43	42	41	39	39	40	43	43	43	45	47	47
1936 ..	47	47	46	44	44	44	46	46	47	48	51	51
1937 ..	51	51	51	51	52	52	55	55	55	58	60	60
1938 ..	59	57	56	54	56	55	59	56	55	55	56	56
1939 ..	55	55	53	53	53	53	56	55	55	65	69	73
1940 ..	74	77	79	78	80	81	87	85	87	89	92	95
1941 ..	96	97	97	98	100	100	99	99	99	99	100	101
1942 ..	100	100	100	99	100	99	..	..	..	..	..	..

A detailed account of the method of compilation of these statistics, "The Cost of Living Index Number: Method of Compilation," is obtainable, price 3d. net, from H.M. Stationery Office at any of the addresses shown on the last page of this GAZETTE.

* Soap, soda, domestic ironmongery, brushes, pottery, tobacco and cigarettes, fares and newspapers.

TRADE DISPUTES IN MAY.*

Number, Magnitude, and Duration.—The number of disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in May in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 174, as compared with 83 in the previous month and 113 in May, 1941. In these 174 new disputes about 54,500 workpeople were directly involved, and 29,700 workpeople indirectly involved (*i.e.*, thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes). In addition, about 10,200 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 5 disputes which began before May, and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 179, involving about 94,400 workpeople, and resulting in a loss, during May, estimated at 306,000 working days.

In the following Table an analysis is given, by groups of industries, of all disputes in progress in May :—

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	2	93	95	75,100	250,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ..	1	50	51	10,400	27,000
Clothing ..	..	4	4	1,500	7,000
Building, etc. ..	1	7	8	3,100	9,000
Other ..	1	20	21	4,300	13,000
Total, May, 1942 ..	5	174	179	94,400	306,000
Total, April, 1942 ..	5	83	88	33,800	63,000
Total, May, 1941 ..	11	113	124	31,700	74,000

Causes.—Of the 174 disputes beginning in May, 80, directly involving 28,300 workpeople, arose out of demands for advances in wages, 5, directly involving 4,200 workpeople, out of proposed reductions in wages, and 48, directly involving 8,600 workpeople, on other wage questions; 6, directly involving 1,100 workpeople, on questions as to working hours; 17, directly involving 5,400 workpeople, on questions respecting the employ-

ment of particular classes of persons; 15, directly involving 5,500 workpeople, on other questions respecting working arrangements; and 1, directly involving 300 workpeople, on a question of trade union principle. Two stoppages, directly involving 1,100 workpeople, were in support of workers involved in other disputes.

Results.—Final settlements of disputes which terminated during May have been effected in the case of 130 disputes, directly involving 39,500 workpeople. Of these disputes, 22, directly involving 10,700 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 75, directly involving 20,600 workpeople, were settled in favour of the employers; and 33, directly involving 8,200 workpeople, resulted in a compromise. In the case of 28 other disputes, directly involving 13,300 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

TOTALS FOR THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1942 AND 1941.†

Industry Group.	January to May, 1942.			January to May, 1941.		
	Number of Disputes beginning in period.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.	Number of Disputes beginning in period.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.
Coal Mining ..	234	112,900†	372,000	212	70,800†	177,000
Other Mining and Quarrying ..	10	2,000	12,000	4	100	1,000
Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc. ..	7	600	1,000	17	1,400	4,000
Engineering ..	45	16,200	18,000	64	39,000	211,000
Shipbuilding ..	34	6,100	15,000	39	12,700	68,000
Other Metal ..	44	7,400	26,000	52	13,800	88,000
Textile ..	13	1,200	3,000	12	600	1,000
Clothing ..	6	3,700	16,000	10	2,000	8,000
Food, Drink and Tobacco ..	6	1,000	3,000	5	200	1,000
Building, etc. ..	30	7,200	17,000	27	5,000	12,000
Transport ..	16	4,200	15,000	24	3,700	10,000
Other ..	12	4,200	7,000	21	3,800	13,000
Total ..	457	166,700†	505,000	487	153,100†	594,000

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING MAY.

Occupations‡ and Locality.	Approximate Number of Workpeople involved.		Date when Dispute		Cause or Object.	Result.
	Directly.	In-directly.‡	Began.	Ended.		
COAL MINING :—						
Colliery workpeople—Co. Durham (one colliery).	1,276	100	1 May	9 May	Dispute respecting piecework prices.	Work resumed to permit of settlement of grievance by constitutional procedure.
Underground and surface workers—Yorkshire (one colliery).	1,257	268	5 May§	7 May§	Against proposed operation of a new price-list for fillers, alleged to involve reduction in earnings.	Dispute referred to arbitration.
Colliery workpeople—Co. Durham (one colliery).	1,447	101	11 May	20 May||	Demand by putters for an increase in piece-work rates.	Work resumed pending negotiations.
Colliery workpeople—Co. Durham (one colliery).	1,187	67	15 May	22 May	Fillers' dissatisfaction with wages.	Dispute referred to arbitration.
Colliery workpeople—Lancashire ..	1,400¶	13,600¶	20 May	6 June	Haulage workers' dissatisfaction with wages.	Work resumed on terms in operation prior to stoppage, pending result of national negotiations.
Underground and surface workers—Yorkshire (one colliery).	1,790	317	21 May**	30 May**	Dissatisfaction of daywagmen and boys with wages.	Work resumed on advice of trade union officials, pending result of national negotiations.
Haulage workers, colliers, rippers, datallers and surface workers—Yorkshire (one colliery).	288	986	23 May	30 May	Demand by haulage workers for an increase in wages.	Work resumed on advice of trade union officials.
Colliery workpeople—Co. Durham (one colliery).	1,260	177	26 May	30 May	Putters' demand for an increase in wages.	Work resumed, increase subsequently conceded.
Colliery workpeople—South Wales.	8,500¶	..	27 May	4 June	Demands by colliery boys and youths for increased wages.	Work resumed pending negotiations.
SHIPBUILDING :—						
Electricians and other shipbuilding operatives—East Scotland.	1,255	..	19 May††	30 May††	Against proposed transfer to other work of a shop steward, and other grievances.	Work resumed pending investigation of matters in dispute.
NUT, BOLT, ETC., MANUFACTURE :—						
Workpeople employed in rivet, bolt and nut manufacture—Lanarkshire (one firm).	300	..	18 May	23 May	For retrospective payment of a recent wages increase.	Dispute referred to arbitration.
CLOTHING :—						
Workpeople employed in wholesale tailoring—Yorkshire (one firm).	1,418	..	4 May	8 May‡‡	For payment at double time rate in respect of work done by cutters after normal finishing time on a Saturday.	Workpeople's demand conceded.
WHOLESALE DEALING :—						
General warehousemen, packers and motor drivers—London (one firm).	910	200	21 May	22 May	For reinstatement of an employee, dismissed for refusing to carry out orders.	Employee reinstated pending enquiry.

* 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, etc.), exceeded 100 days.

† In making up these totals the figures have been amended in accordance with the most recent information. Workpeople involved in more than one dispute are counted more than once in the totals, the amount of such duplication, however, is slight, except in coal mining, in which the *net* number of workpeople involved was approximately 88,000 in 1942, and 45,000 in 1941. For all industries combined the *net* totals were approximately 139,000 in 1942, and 124,000 in 1941.

‡ The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople indirectly involved, *i.e.*, thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes.

§ The stoppage began with the night-shift of 4th/5th May; work was resumed on the night-shift of 7th/8th May.

|| Work was resumed on the night-shift of 25th/26th May.

¶ Approximate number.

** Work was resumed on 26th May, but ceased again next day.

†† Only about 150 electricians were involved in the first few days.

‡‡ Work was resumed on 11th May.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

IN the following paragraphs a summary is given of the latest information contained in official publications received since last month's issue of this GAZETTE was prepared, relating to changes in retail prices and the cost of living in overseas countries.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

In the middle of March, 1942, the official cost-of-living index figure was 1.2 per cent. above the figure for the previous month and 15.9 per cent. above that for June, 1939. For food alone, the official index figure for the middle of March, 1942, showed a rise of 1.5 per cent., as compared with the figure for the previous month, and of 26.8 per cent. as compared with that for August, 1939.

CANADA.

At the beginning of April, 1942, the official cost-of-living index figure showed no change as compared with the figure for March, 1942, and an increase of 15.0 per cent. as compared with that for 1st September, 1939. For food alone, the official index for 1st April, 1942, showed no change as compared with the figure for the previous month and an increase of 24.4 per cent. above that for 1st September, 1939.

NEW ZEALAND.

In January, 1942, the official cost-of-living index figure showed a decrease of 0.5 per cent. as compared with the figure for December, 1941, and an increase of 9.9 per cent. over the figure for August, 1939. For food alone, the official index figure for January, 1942, was 1.2 per cent. below the figure for December, 1941, but 8.1 per cent. above that for August, 1939.

EGYPT.

In January, 1942, the official cost-of-living index figure for Cairo was 2.0 per cent. above the figure for December, 1941, and 56.3 per cent. above that for August, 1939. For food, fuel and light combined the official index figure for January, 1942, showed no change as compared with that for December, 1941, and an increase of 39.1 per cent. over the figure for August, 1939.

SWITZERLAND.

At the end of December, 1941, the official cost-of-living index figure was 0.3 per cent. above the figure for November, 1941, and 34.3 per cent. over that for August, 1939. For food alone, the corresponding percentage increases were 0.5 and 44.3.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

Factories Act 1937, SECTION 14—ABSOLUTE LIABILITY.

In *Davis v. Reeves and Sons Ltd.*, the Court of Appeal remitted to a Bench of Magistrates a case raised under Section 14 of the Factories Act 1937. The Magistrates had found as a fact that the machine in question was a dangerous part of the machinery in the factory and that at the material time it was not fenced. The Bench, however, refused to convict on the ground that at the time of the accident the machinery was unfenced whilst in motion because it was being cleaned by an employee who caught his fingers in the rollers. As a result of the accident he was injured. The Court of Appeal held that it was quite clear that the mere fact that a machine was being cleaned did not justify any relaxation of the provisions of Section 14; the language of that Section was clear and the requirements were absolute. Therefore the Magistrates were wrong in dismissing the summons and the offence charged was clearly established by the facts found by the Magistrates. Costs were awarded against the respondents.—*Davis v. Reeves and Sons Limited*, Divisional Court, 23rd April, 1942.

FACTORY—BREACH OF REGULATIONS—RECEIVER AND MANAGER LIABLE AS "OCCUPIER."

In *Meigh v. Wickenden*, an accountant was appointed receiver and manager of a company under the terms of a debenture under which he had power to carry on the company's business. During the receivership a contravention of the Factories Act 1937 occurred and the receiver was charged with the offence as being the occupier. He was convicted and appealed against the conviction. It was held that although the company continued to exist after the receiver's appointment, and although he took the place of the directors, who could not as such be convicted as occupiers, yet by virtue of the condition of the debenture the receiver was the "occupier" for the purpose of the Act of 1937. The Lord Chief Justice said that the law was drastic in order to secure that someone should be before the Court when the Factory Acts were contravened. In order to escape blame, the occupier would have to prove responsibility by some other person. The receiver was complete master of the company's affairs, with absolute power to manage the property. In the Act there is no definition of "occupier."—*Meigh v. Wickenden*, Divisional Court, 4th May, 1942.

SCHEDULE OF RESERVED OCCUPATIONS—NO STATUTORY FORCE.

The Court of Appeal has decided that the Schedule of Reserved Occupations has no statutory force. A man called up for military service must obey even if covered by the Schedule of Reserved Occupations. The Court dismissed an appeal against an order of Croom-Johnson, J., refusing to grant an interim injunction to the plaintiff against the Minister of Labour and National

Service to restrain the Minister from causing or permitting an enlistment notice under the Armed Forces Order to be enforced against the plaintiff. The plaintiff alleged that the notice was invalid because the terms of the Schedule of Reserved Occupations and a supplementary memorandum had not been complied with. The Court held that the documents were only a statement by the Minister of the principles on which he proposed to proceed. With regard to the calling up of men in reserved occupations, they had no legal force and imposed no statutory obligation on the Minister or any one else.—*Roeder v. Ministry of Labour and National Service*, Court of Appeal, 2nd June, 1942.

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

INDUSTRIAL COURT AWARDS.

During May, 1942, the Industrial Court issued two awards, Nos. 1859 and 1860. One of these related to an individual firm. The following is a summary of the other award.

Award No. 1860 (22nd May). Parties: Staff Side and Employers' Side, National Joint Board of Employers and Members of Staff (Electricity Supply Industry). *Claim:* That the shift charge engineers in Class F stations and upwards be graded with allocation to Grade 7 as set out in the national agreement covering the industry. *Award:* All shift charge engineers in Class J, K, L and M stations be graded with allocation to Grade 7.

SINGLE ARBITRATORS AND AD HOC BOARDS OF ARBITRATION.

Four awards relating to individual undertakings, including one under the Conditions of Employment and National Arbitration Order, 1940, were issued during May, by Single Arbitrators appointed under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, and awards relating to two individual firms were also issued by a neutral Chairman appointed under the Conciliation Act, 1896, at the request of the two sides of the Boards of Conciliation for the Cumberland Iron Ore Trade, and the Cumberland Coal Trade (Miners).

COURT OF INQUIRY.

COAL MINING: NORTH WALES.

On 15th April, 1942, the Minister of Labour and National Service appointed Sir John Forster to constitute a Court of Inquiry regarding matters in dispute between the North Wales and Border Counties Mineworkers' Association and the Point of Ayr Colliery Limited. The dispute arose upon a claim by the Association that it should be granted in respect of its members employed at Point of Ayr Colliery, facilities already enjoyed by it at all other collieries operating in the North Wales Colliery district. The inquiry was opened on 17th April; but on 20th April, after discussions with the Court and between themselves, the parties agreed on terms of settlement. These were approved by the Court and adopted as part of the Report of the Court, issued on 11th May, 1942.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT AND NATIONAL ARBITRATION ORDERS, 1940 and 1941.*

NATIONAL ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL AWARDS.

DURING May, 1942, the National Arbitration Tribunal issued seven awards, Nos. 208-214. In three cases the award relates to the whole or a substantial part of an industry and the following is a summary of these awards. The other four awards relate to cases affecting individual firms.

Award No. 208 (1st May, 1942).—Parties: All Members of the constituent Associations of the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations Ltd. and such of their employees as are members of the constituent Associations of the Amalgamated Association of Card, Blowing and Ring Room Operatives and the Amalgamated Association of Operative Cotton Spinners and Twiners. *Claim:* For an increase of 16½ per cent. on current wages. *Award:* The Tribunal found that the claim had not been established.

Award No. 213 (18th May, 1942).—Parties: The Members of the Associations federated with the Engineering and Allied Employers' National Federation and members of the Iron, Steel and Metal Dressers' Trade Society employed by them. *Claim:* That the rates for metal dressers in certain districts shall be not less than 10s. per week below the appropriate district rate for moulders. *Award:* The Tribunal awarded minimum basic rates for "dressers" as defined, in each of the sixteen districts specified.

* One case referred under Article 2 of the Order was decided under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, and is included among the cases of awards by Single Arbitrators and ad hoc Boards of Arbitration reported above.

Award No. 214 (26th May, 1942).—Parties: The Members of the Brassfounders' Employers' Association and members of the National Society of Brass and Metal Mechanics employed by them. *Claim:* For an increase in wage rates, the payment of a lieu rate to day workers and a revision of the method of apportioning piece-work earnings. *Award:* The Tribunal found against the claim.

Further details of these cases and full particulars of the awards which are not summarised above may be obtained from the awards themselves, copies of which may be obtained, price 1d. net, from H.M. Stationery Office.

NATIONAL ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL (NORTHERN IRELAND) AWARDS.

During May, 1942, the Tribunal issued twelve awards, Nos. 107–118. Seven of the awards are of significance for the whole or a substantial part of the industry or occupation concerned, either throughout Northern Ireland or in a particular locality, and these awards are summarised below. The other five awards relate to cases affecting individual firms or local authorities.

Awards Nos. 107 and 108 (1st May, 1942).—Parties: The Amalgamated Transport and General Workers' Union on behalf of breadservers employed by (1) the Members of the Belfast Master Bakers' Association, the Provincial Association of Master Bakers, and the North of Ireland Bakers' Alliance, and (2) the Belfast Co-operative Society Ltd. *Claim:* For an increase in wages of 5s. per week. *Awards:* The Tribunals found, in each case, that the claim had not been established.

Award No. 109 (8th May, 1942).—Parties: The Members of the Belfast and North of Ireland Carriers' Association and carters and certain motor-drivers employed by them. *Claim:* For certain improved conditions of employment and rates of wages. *Award:* The Tribunal awarded that (1) with effect as from the first full pay period following 8th May, 1942, (a) the present weekly rate of wages of drivers of light horse-drawn vehicles be increased by 1s. 6d. and (b) the present weekly rate of wages of drivers of motors of over two tons carrying capacity be increased to £3 18s. 6d., and no lesser rate should be payable, and (2) the other parts of the claim had not been established.

Awards Nos. 115 and 116 (22nd May, 1942).—Parties: The Belfast Members of the Northern Ireland Coal Importers' Association and certain of their employees. *Claims:* For (1) certain improved conditions with regard to wages and overtime pay, and (2) the restoration of "twenty-four available hours a day for coal discharge, as provided for by the Agreement between the Committee and the Amalgamated Transport and General Workers' Union, dated 19th August, 1940, which Agreement is still operative, subject to the Awards of the Tribunal dated 29th May, 1941, and 6th October, 1941." *Awards:* As regards (1) the Tribunal found that the claim had not been established. As regards (2) the Tribunal awarded that, with effect as from 1st June, 1942, the above-mentioned Agreement dated 19th August, 1940, as extended by the Supplemental Agreement for week-end discharge during the period of the present war in regard to the hours of work, should be restored and continue in force until 30th September, 1942. (As from 1st June, 1942, this Award cancels Awards Nos. 47 and 65, dated 29th May, 1941, and 6th October, 1941, respectively, particulars of which were given on pages 128 and 227 of the June, 1941, and November, 1941, issues of this GAZETTE.)

Awards Nos. 117 and 118 (27th May, 1942).—Parties: A Portadown Member and the Ballymena Members of the Northern Ireland Country Master Bakers' Association and certain of their employees. *Claims:* For an increase of 3s. 6d. per week on the present rates of wages of bakers. *Awards:* The Tribunals found, in each case, that the claim had not been established.

Further details of the above cases and full particulars of the awards which are not summarised may be obtained from the awards themselves, copies of which may be obtained by making written application to the Ministry of Labour, Stormont, Belfast.

TRADE BOARDS ACTS.

NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

No proposals to vary minimum rates of wages have been issued since last month's issue of this GAZETTE was prepared.

CONFIRMING ORDERS.

In pursuance of the powers conferred by the Trade Boards Acts, the Minister of Labour and National Service in Great Britain and the Ministry of Labour in Northern Ireland, have made Orders confirming minimum rates of wages as varied by the Trade Boards indicated below. Copies of the Orders may be purchased from H.M. Stationery Office, either directly or through any bookseller:—

Baking Trade Board (Scotland).—Order BKS. (9), dated 13th May, 1942, confirming a variation of minimum rates of wages for male and female workers in certain specified areas and specifying 27th May, 1942, as the date from which such rates became effective.

Rubber Manufacturing Trade Board (Great Britain).—Order RU. (12), dated 14th May, 1942, confirming a variation of minimum rates of wages and specifying 22nd May, 1942, as the date from which such rates became effective.

Aerated Waters Trade Board (England and Wales).—Order A. (21), dated 21st May, 1942, confirming a variation of minimum rates of wages and specifying 1st June, 1942, as the date from which such rates became effective.

Wholesale Mantle and Costume Trade Board (Northern Ireland).—Order N.I.W.M. (19), dated 11th May, 1942, confirming the variation of general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and general overtime rates for male and female workers and specifying 16th May, 1942, as the date from which these rates became effective.

Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Trade Board (Northern Ireland).—Order N.I.W.D. (37), dated 12th May, 1942, confirming the variation of general minimum time-rates, piece-work basis time-rates and general overtime rates for male and female workers and the general minimum piece-rates for certain female workers in the Factory Branch of the said trade, and specifying 18th May, 1942, as the date from which these rates became effective.

SUPERANNUATION SCHEMES (WAR SERVICE) ACT.

On 13th May, 1942, the Minister of Labour and National Service certified the following employment to be such as, in his opinion, may properly be treated for the purposes of the Superannuation Schemes (War Service) Act, 1940*, in the same manner as service in the Forces of the Crown:—Employment in the Electricity Supply Industry, being employment with an authorised undertaker within the meaning of the Electricity (Supply) Acts, 1882 to 1936.

STATUTORY RULES AND ORDERS.

In the list below, the full titles, the serial numbers and the prices are given of Orders made by the Minister of Labour and National Service which have been published in the series of *Statutory Rules and Orders* since the last issue of this GAZETTE was prepared, as well as of other Orders relating to matters with which the Ministry is concerned, either directly or indirectly.

Copies of Statutory Rules and Orders may be purchased directly from H.M. Stationery Office at the addresses shown at the foot of this page. The prices quoted are all net, those in brackets including postage at Inland Postal rates.—

S.R. & O. 1942, No.	Title and Price.
961	Order in Council amending Regulations 18, 27A, 58AB and 62 of, and the Third Schedule to, the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939, adding Regulations 1c, 20AB, 45AB, 47AB, 50A, 55s, 73A and 74A thereto and revoking Regulation 18E thereof. 4d. (5d.)
962	Order in Council extending the Defence (Home Guard) Regulations, 1940, to the Isle of Man. 1d. (2d.)
1073	The Conditions of Employment and National Arbitration Tribunal (Amendment) Order, 1942, dated May 29, 1942, made by the Minister of Labour and National Service under Regulations 58AA and 98 of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939. 1d. (2d.) [This Order provides that in cases where trade disputes or any question relating to the observance of recognised terms and conditions are reported to the Minister under Articles 2 and 5 of the principal Order, the reports must be in writing and must contain such particulars as the Minister may require.]

* See the issue of this GAZETTE for July, 1940, page 185.

LONDON: PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses: York House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120 George Street, Edinburgh 2; 39–41 King Street, Manchester 2; 1 St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff; 80 Chichester Street, Belfast; or through any bookseller.

PRICE SIXPENCE NET.

Annual Subscription, 7s. 6d. net, post free.

All communications concerning subscriptions and sales should be addressed to H.M. Stationery Office at one of the addresses shown above.

PRINTED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE BY C. NICHOLLS & CO. LTD., MANCHESTER, LONDON AND READING.

S.O. Code No. 72–3–6–42