

# THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE

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

### EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT at 14th February showed a slight improvement as compared with 17th January.

*Insured Persons in work.*—It is provisionally estimated that at 14th February, 1938, the number of insured persons, aged 16-64, in employment in Great Britain, exclusive of persons within the agricultural scheme, was approximately 11,324,000. This was 15,000 more than at 17th January, 1938. On a comparable basis there was an increase of about 20,000 as compared with 22nd February, 1937.

*Numbers Unemployed (excluding Persons normally in Casual Employment).*—At 14th February, 1938, there were 1,404,912 persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain who were out of a situation. This was 13,783 less than at 17th January, 1938. On a comparable basis there was an increase of about 48,000 as compared with 22nd February, 1937.

*Numbers Temporarily Stopped.*—At 14th February, 1938, there were registered as unemployed in Great Britain, 335,084 persons who were on short time or otherwise temporarily suspended from work. This was 10,050 less than at 17th January, 1938. On a comparable basis there was an increase of about 183,000 as compared with 22nd February, 1937.

*Numbers unemployed normally in Casual Employment.*—At 14th February, 1938, there were on the registers in Great Britain 70,425 unemployed persons who normally seek a livelihood by means of jobs of short duration. This was 6,647 more than at 17th January, 1938. On a comparable basis there was an increase of about 7,000 as compared with 22nd February, 1937.

*Applicants for Benefit or Allowances.*—The total of 1,810,421 persons on the registers at 14th February, 1938, included 1,034,324 persons with claims admitted for insurance benefit, 557,708 persons with applications authorised for unemployment allowances, 52,459 persons with applications for benefit or allowances under consideration, and 165,930 other persons, of whom 42,319 were under 16 years of age.

*Percentages Unemployed.*—Among persons, aged 16-64, insured under the general scheme of unemployment insurance (including the special schemes for the banking and insurance industries), the percentage unemployed in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 14th February, 1938, was 13.2, as compared with 13.3 at 17th January, 1938. Among persons within the agricultural scheme, the percentages were 8.4 at 14th February, 1938, and 9.0 at 17th January, 1938. For the two schemes combined the percentage for 14th February, 1938, was 13.0, as compared with 13.1 for 17th January, 1938. On a comparable basis, there was an increase at 14th February, 1938, as compared with 22nd February, 1937, of about 1.6 in the percentage unemployed among persons within the general scheme, and of about 3.6 among persons within the agricultural scheme. For the two schemes combined the percentage rose by about 1.7 between these two dates.

*Industries in which the Principal Variations occurred.*—There was an improvement in employment, between 17th January and 14th February, in building and public works contracting, in the clothing, boot and shoe, wool textile, pottery and furniture industries, in shipping service, and in agriculture. On the other hand, employment declined in the cotton industry, the silk and artificial silk industries, tinplate, metal goods and electrical apparatus manufacture, the motor vehicle and cycle industry, general engineering, the distributive trades, and dock and harbour service.

### WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in February resulted in an increase estimated at £109,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 1,233,000 workpeople, and in a decrease of £550 in those of over 42,000 workpeople.

The principal groups of workpeople affected by increases in rates of wages were building trade operatives in England, Wales and Northern Ireland; workpeople employed in the shipbuilding and ship-repairing industry; coal miners in Northumberland, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, South Derbyshire, Cannock Chase, Warwickshire and Scotland; workers employed in steel melting shops and iron and steel rolling mills in various districts; tinplate makers in South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire; skilled craftsmen employed in heating, ventilating and domestic engineering in England and Wales; and journeymen employed by electrical contractors in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The decreases affected mainly coal miners in North Derbyshire.

The changes so far reported in the two completed months of 1938 are estimated to have resulted in a net increase of £191,000 per week in the full-time rates of wages of over 1,960,000 workpeople, and in a net decrease of £50 in those of about 1,500 workpeople.

### COST OF LIVING.

At 1st March the average level of retail prices of the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and miscellaneous items) was approximately 56 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, as compared with 57 per cent. at 1st February, 1938, and 51 per cent. at 1st March, 1937. For food only the percentages were 40, 42 and 35, respectively.

### TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work reported to the Department as beginning in February, was 78. In addition 17 disputes which began before February were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of workpeople involved in these 95 disputes, including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, was about 31,000, and the aggregate duration of the disputes in February is estimated at about 133,000 working days.

COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS PROVIDING FOR PAYMENT OF WAGES FOR HOLIDAYS.

In the issue of this GAZETTE for April, 1936, particulars were given of the provisions regarding payment for annual holidays contained in a number of collective agreements...

The Table below gives a list of the industries or occupations in which general or district agreements, containing such provisions, are known to have been in operation at the beginning of March...

The majority of the agreements provide that payment shall be made for public holidays and for a certain additional period, varying in different cases, usually from three to twelve days in each year.

Table with 3 columns: Industries or Occupations, Holidays paid for per annum apart from Public Holidays (a), and Qualifying Service in Months. Includes sections for A.—GENERAL AGREEMENTS and B.—DISTRICT AGREEMENTS.

For footnotes see page 88.

For footnotes see page 88.

Table with 3 columns: Industries or Occupations, Holidays paid for per annum apart from Public Holidays (a), and Qualifying Service in Months. Includes sections for B.—DISTRICT AGREEMENTS—continued, Food and Drink Industries—continued, and B.—DISTRICT AGREEMENTS—continued.

For footnotes see page 88.

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The first proposal is that the waiting period for benefit should be reduced from six days to three, thus bringing the Agricultural Scheme into line with the General Scheme. The second proposal is that the weekly rates of contribution by employed persons and by employers in respect of men, women, young men and young women should all be reduced by 3d. The third proposal is that the benefit for young men of 18 and less than 21 should be raised from 10s. 6d. to 12s. a week. The fourth proposal is that the requirement of ten fresh contributions since exhausting benefit should apply, under the Agricultural Scheme, only where a man has exhausted his benefit through drawing 300 days in a benefit year, and not where he has exhausted benefit under the rule proportioning benefit to unexhausted contributions. The Committee estimate that their recommendations will increase the expenditure of the fund on the Agricultural Account by approximately £42,500 a year and will decrease its income by approximately £180,000 a year.

The Government have adopted the recommendations of the majority of the Committee in regard to the General Account, and the unanimous recommendations of the Committee in regard to the Agricultural Account, and draft Orders to give effect to the recommendations were laid before both Houses of Parliament on 2nd March, 1938.\*

II.—UNEMPLOYMENT FUND ACCOUNTS, 1936-37.

The Report of the Unemployment Insurance Statutory Committee referred to above includes a formal account of the working of the General and Agricultural Accounts of the Unemployment Fund in the calendar year 1937. The account was prepared for the Committee by the Accountant General for the Ministry of Labour, and included figures taken from accounting and other records which had not been subjected to examination and audit. Audited accounts of the Unemployment Fund relating to the financial year ended 31st March, 1937, together with the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon, have now been published.† The accounts are presented in three sections—the General Account, the Agricultural Account and the Transitional Payments Account. The Transitional Payments Account includes certain final expenditure in connection with transitional payments, the cost of allowances under the Unemployment Assistance Scheme and the relative expenses of administration (excluding expenses borne on the Vote for the Unemployment Assistance Board). The Agricultural Account shows the amounts determined by the Minister of Labour with the concurrence of the Treasury to be approximately equivalent to the contributions, agricultural benefit and other receipts and payments, including administrative expenses, properly attributable to the insurance of persons employed in agriculture. The General Account includes all receipts and payments of the Fund other than those included in the other two accounts.

**General Account.**—The receipts during 1936-7 amounted to £64,095,675, of which £63,832,332 represented contributions from employers and employed persons, the Exchequer and the Defence Departments. Although the improvement in employment among the insured population continued, the income from contributions decreased by £1,971,115 owing to the reduction as from 6th July, 1936, in the rates of contributions payable in respect of persons aged 18 years and over. The total expenditure during the year was £45,407,868, as compared with £52,670,047 in the previous year. As a result of the continued improvement in employment, expenditure on benefit decreased by £7,600,786.

The income for the year exceeded expenditure by £18,687,807. There was a balance at the beginning of the year of £24,241,006 and accordingly the accumulated balance at the end of the year amounted to £42,928,813.

**Agricultural Account.**—This account includes contributions paid from 4th May, 1936, in respect of employment in agriculture (including horticulture and forestry) which became insurable at that date, and benefit paid to agricultural workers from 5th November, 1936, that being the first day for which agricultural benefit could be paid. Contributions paid in respect of private gardeners are included as from 1st February, 1937, when they first became insurable. The receipts up to the end of March, 1937, amounted to £1,183,523, of which the whole except £3,199 represented contributions by employers, employed persons and the Exchequer. The total expenditure during the year was £366,368, the amount paid in agricultural benefit being £217,086. Provision is made in the agricultural scheme for the repayment, under certain conditions, of a proportion of the contributions paid during a period of yearly or half-yearly hiring, and the amount repaid during the period covered by the Accounts was £566. The accumulated balance at the end of the year was £817,155.

**Transitional Payments Account.**—The total amount paid in transitional payments and unemployment allowances during the year under review was £37,440,929, as compared with £42,422,598 in the preceding year. Administrative expenses chargeable to the Fund amounted to £2,633,507. Reimbursement is made to the Fund by the Exchequer in respect of the total amount of expenditure incurred under this Account.

As from the Second Appointed Day (1st April, 1937) the cost of unemployment allowances is defrayed out of the Unemployment Assistance Fund, and the Transitional Payments Account of the Unemployment Fund was therefore closed at the end of the year under review.

\* H.C. 70 and 71 of Session 1937-8. H.M. Stationery Office; Price 1d. each net.  
† H.C. 49 of Session 1937-8. H.M. Stationery Office; price 2d. net (2½d. post free).

THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT, 1938.

The Unemployment Insurance Act, 1938, received the Royal Assent on 17th February. A summary of the Bill, which has thus become an Act, appeared in the issue of the GAZETTE for December, 1937 (page 469), and that summary may be read as a summary of the Act.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE: EXTENSION TO OUTDOOR DOMESTIC SERVANTS.

The Minister of Labour has made Regulations, under the title "Unemployment Insurance (Insurable Employments) (Agriculture) Regulations, 1938," to include among the classes of persons employed in insurable employment, and insurable under the Agricultural Scheme of unemployment insurance, boatmen, coachmen, gate keepers, hunt servants, kennel men, lodge keepers, rabbit trappers and rangers employed in domestic service, except where the employed person is employed in any trade or business carried on for the purposes of gain. The Regulations are to come into force on 4th April, 1938.

CHARTS ILLUSTRATING LABOUR STATISTICS.

A SPECIAL Supplement which is included with the present issue of this GAZETTE contains a selection of charts, etc., illustrating some of the principal official statistics relating to labour conditions. Explanatory notes are given below:—

Changes in Working-Class Cost of Living.

The first chart shows the general movement of working-class cost of living and retail prices of food in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, at monthly intervals from 1914 onwards, as indicated by the index-numbers published each month in this GAZETTE (see, e.g. page 116 of the present issue).

Employment, Rates of Wages and Cost of Living.

This chart provides an indication of the relative changes, since 1929, in the estimated numbers of insured persons in employment, the average level of full-time rates of wages, and the average level of retail food prices and of working-class cost of living. The figures serving as a basis for the charts are quarterly averages, expressed as index numbers with the average for the year 1929 taken as 100. The index numbers of insured persons in employment, weekly rates of wages and cost of living have been calculated from the statistics regularly published in the quarterly supplements to this GAZETTE (see, e.g., the issue for February, 1938).

Trade Disputes.

The diagram shows the aggregate number of working days lost in strikes and lock-outs in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during each year from 1906 to 1937. It is based on statistics published in the issues of this GAZETTE for June, 1937 (page 216), and January, 1938 (page 6).

Numbers of Unemployed Persons on the Registers of Employment Exchanges.

This chart is based on the numbers of unemployed persons, males and females, whether insured or uninsured, and including those temporarily stopped as well as those wholly unemployed, registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain in the years 1921 to 1937 inclusive. The figures are published monthly in this GAZETTE (see, e.g., page 93 of the present issue).\*

Percentages Unemployed among Insured Persons.

This chart shows the fluctuations from 1921 to 1937 in the percentages unemployed among persons, aged 16-64, insured against unemployment in Great Britain, excluding those within the agricultural scheme, as published regularly in this GAZETTE (see, e.g., page 105 of the present issue). Separate curves are given for the percentages wholly unemployed (including casuals), and temporarily stopped.\*

Applicants for Unemployment Benefit and Assistance, and Insured Non-Claimants.

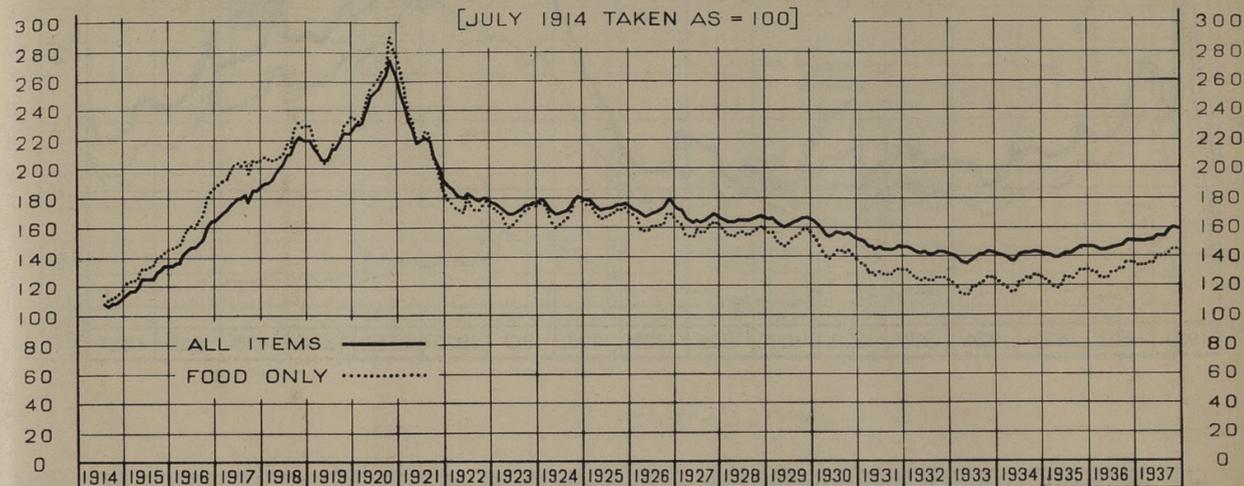
For the period October, 1929, to October, 1931, this chart indicates separately the number of claimants for standard and transitional benefit, respectively, included in the numbers of unemployed persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges. From November, 1931, to December, 1934, the curves relate to the number of claimants for "insurance benefit," and "transitional payments," respectively. From 7th January, 1935, transitional payments were replaced by unemployment allowances. A separate curve is given for insured non-claimants on the registers. All the curves have been affected by legislative and administrative changes, which have been made at various dates. The classes in receipt of the various types of payment have been defined from time to time in this GAZETTE (see, e.g., page 440 of the issue for November, 1931, page 480 of the issue for December, 1931).

\* The procedure for counting the unemployed was altered in September, 1937 (see article on page 379 of the October, 1937, issue of this GAZETTE). The effect of the change, where appreciable, is indicated by the two points for that month for each curve shown in the diagrams.

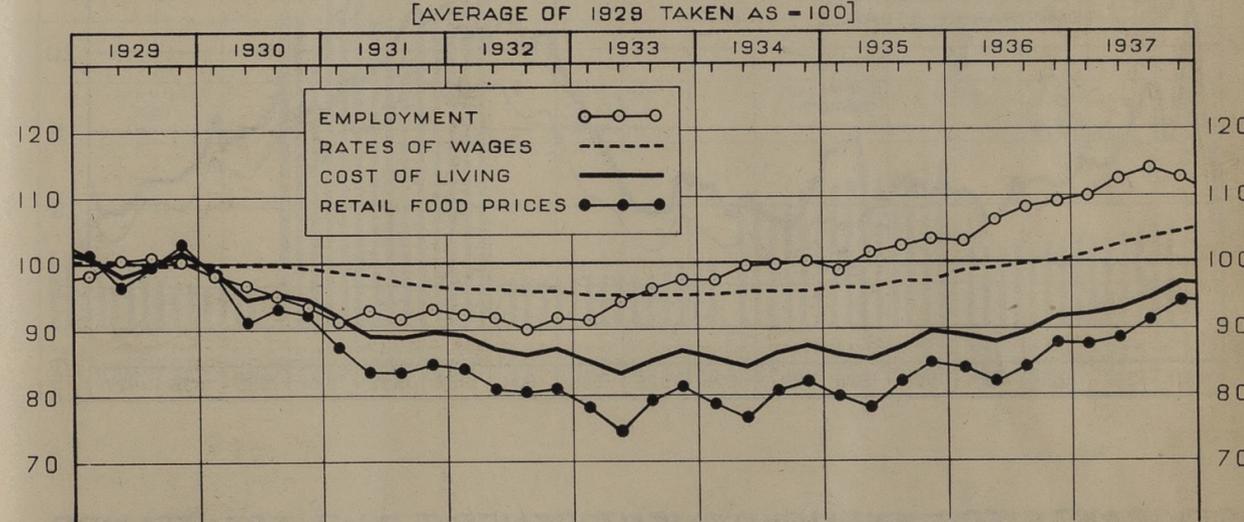
SUPPLEMENT TO THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE FOR MARCH, 1938

[FOR NOTES AND EXPLANATIONS SEE "MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE" FOR MARCH, 1938]

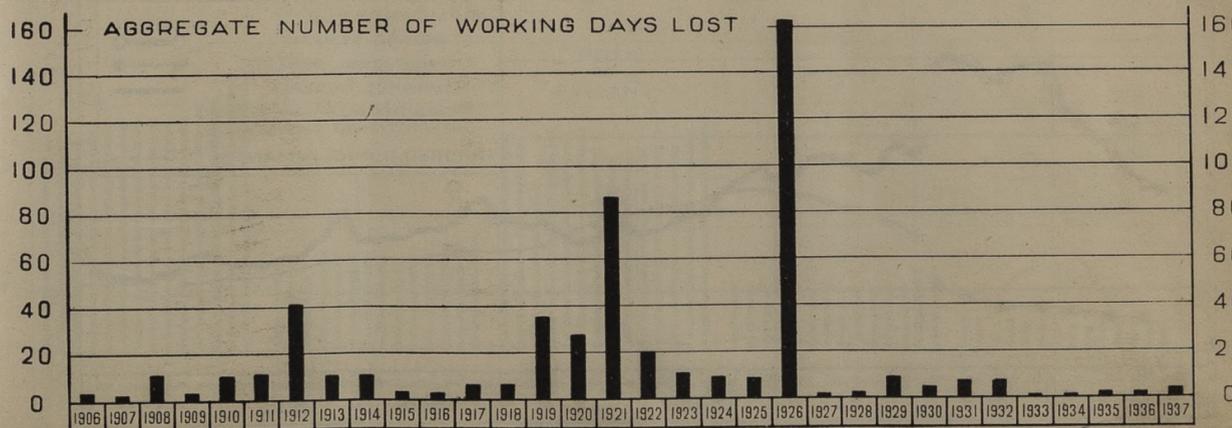
CHANGES IN WORKING-CLASS COST OF LIVING



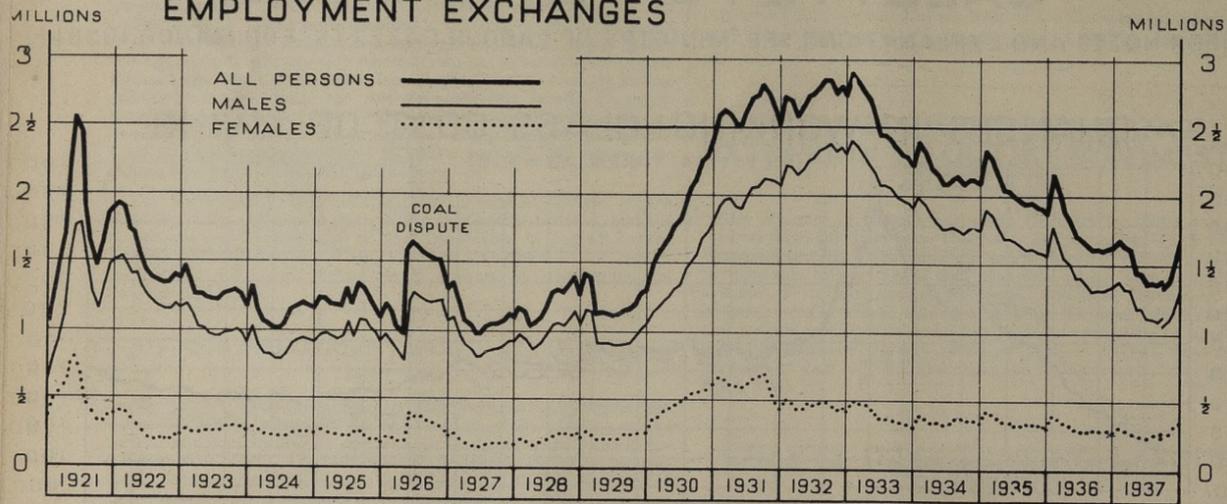
EMPLOYMENT, RATES OF WAGES AND COST OF LIVING



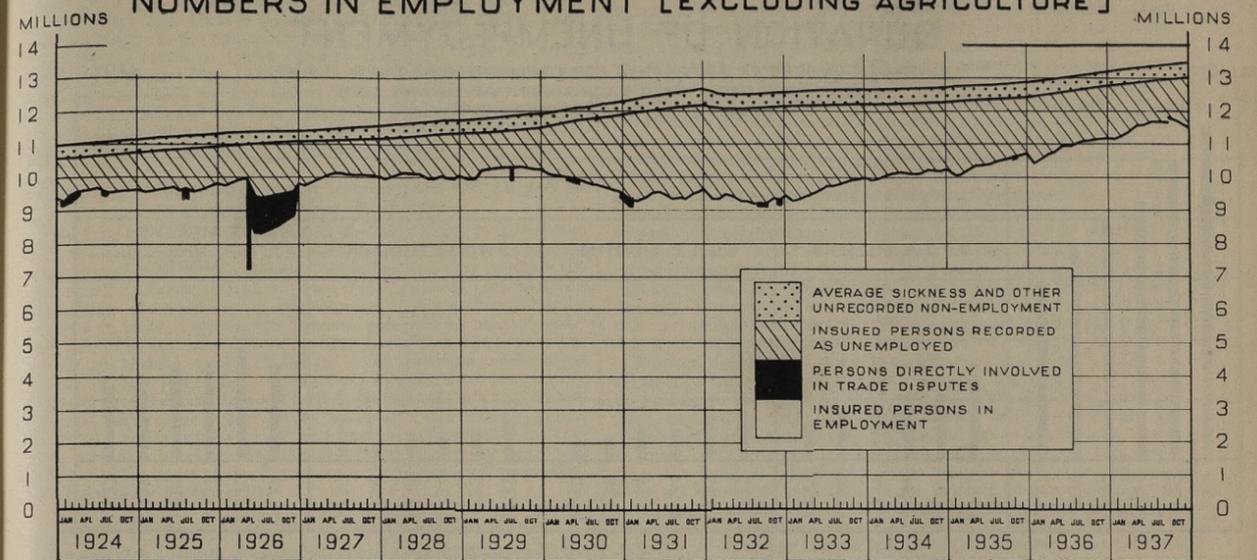
TRADE DISPUTES



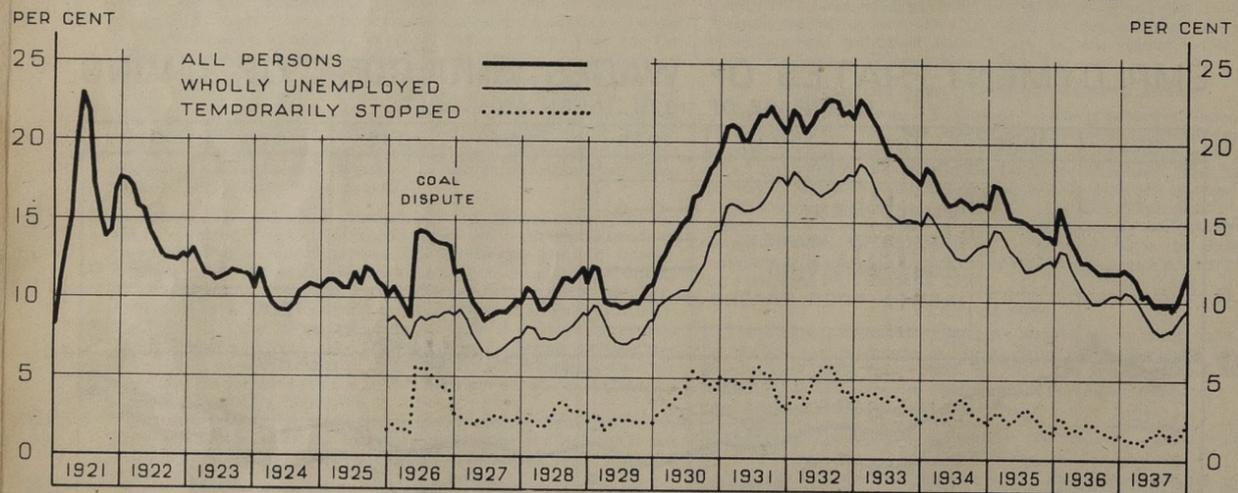
### NUMBERS OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS ON THE REGISTERS OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES



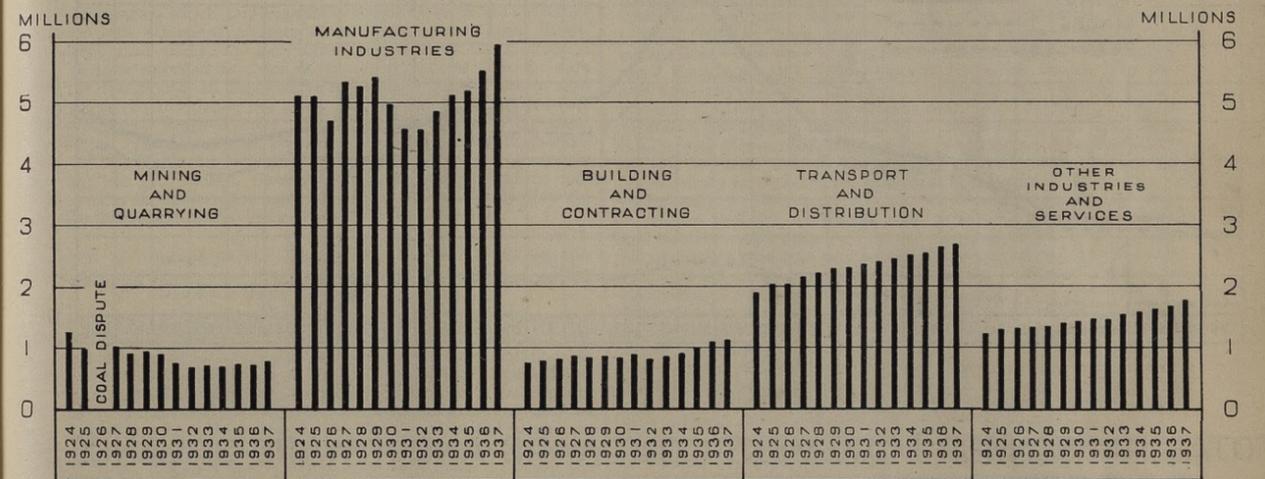
### PERSONS AGED 16-64 INSURED AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT AND NUMBERS IN EMPLOYMENT [EXCLUDING AGRICULTURE]



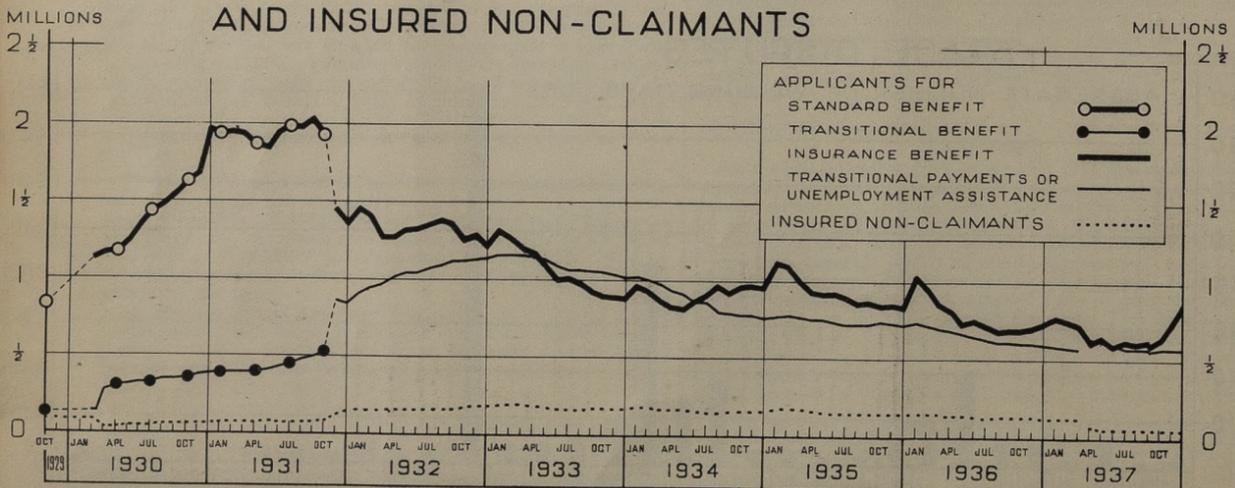
### PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED AMONG INSURED PERSONS



### INSURED PERSONS IN EMPLOYMENT IN MAIN INDUSTRY GROUPS



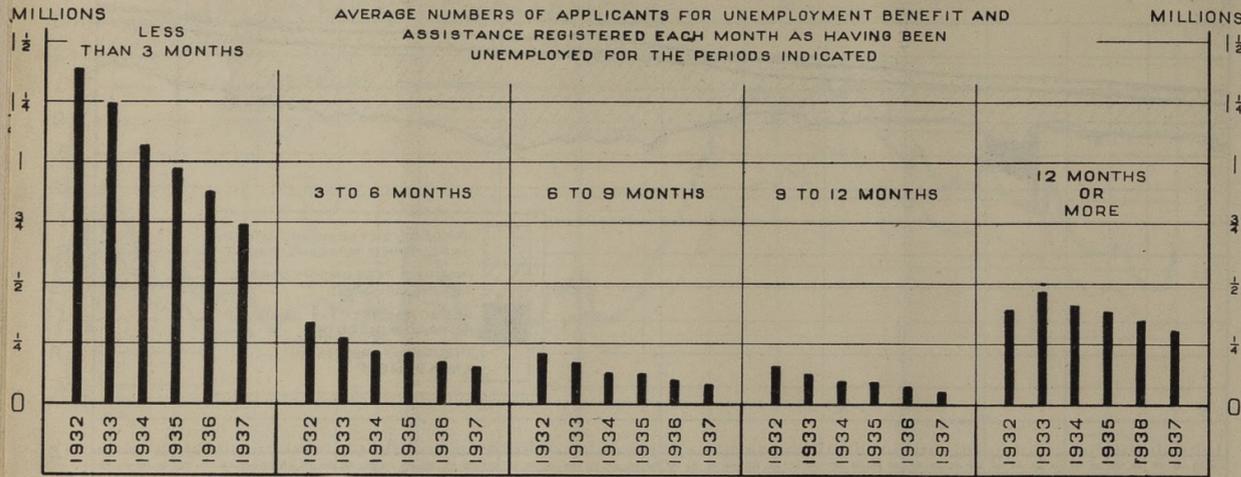
### APPLICANTS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT AND ASSISTANCE, AND INSURED NON-CLAIMANTS



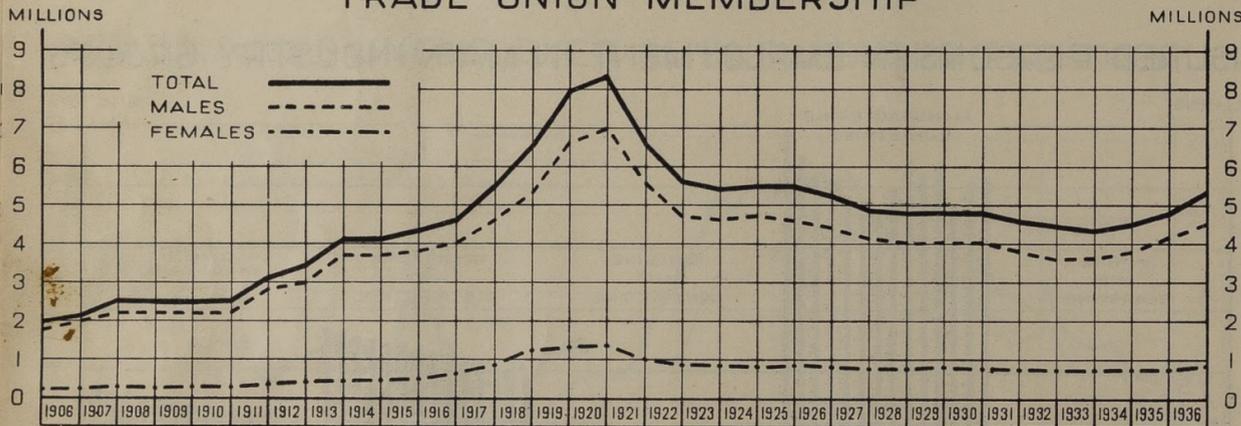
### INSURED PERSONS IN EMPLOYMENT IN DIFFERENT AREAS



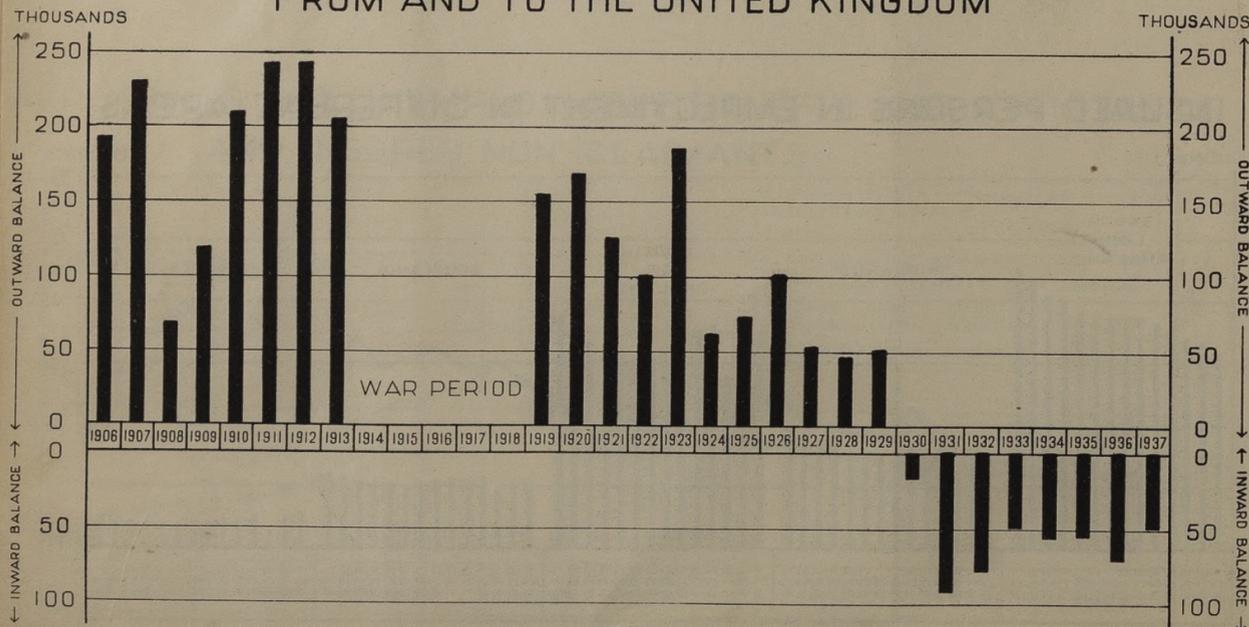
### DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT



### TRADE UNION MEMBERSHIP



### TOTAL PASSENGER MOVEMENT - OUTWARD AND INWARD BALANCES FROM AND TO THE UNITED KINGDOM



ber, 1931, page 28 of the issue for January, 1935, and page 192 of the issue for May, 1937).

Claimants for unemployment benefit under the agricultural scheme, which first became payable as from 5th November, 1936, are excluded from the figures on which the chart is based.

The figures relate to Great Britain. Those for October, 1929, February, 1930, and May, 1930, were obtained from sample inquiries, the results of which were published in the issues of this GAZETTE for January, 1930, and October, 1930 (pages 9 and 358 respectively). For subsequent dates the figures have been published regularly in this GAZETTE (see, e.g., page 101 of the present issue).\*

*Persons, aged 16-64, Insured against Unemployment and Numbers in Employment (excluding Agriculture).*

This diagram shows for the period January, 1924, to December, 1937, the estimated numbers of persons, aged 16-64, insured against unemployment in Great Britain, excluding persons within the agricultural scheme, divided into four sections representing respectively the numbers in employment, the numbers directly involved in trade disputes, the numbers recorded as unemployed,\* and the numbers absent from work through sickness or other temporary reasons except holidays. The numbers unemployed include not only those wholly unemployed but also those temporarily stopped. The diagram does not include persons employed in private domestic service, or other classes excepted from unemployment insurance; agricultural workers, who first became insurable in May, 1936, are also excluded. The detailed figures for recent years will be found in the issues of this GAZETTE for November, 1937 (page 424), and January, 1938 (page 10).

*Insured Persons in Employment in the main Industry Groups.*

This diagram indicates the numbers of insured persons, aged 16-64 in Great Britain and Northern Ireland in employment in five main industry groups at June of each year from 1924 to 1937, inclusive. Agriculture is excluded. The diagram is based on the figures used for the Table published on pages 488 and 489 of the December, 1937, issue of this GAZETTE, representing the differences between the estimated numbers insured and the numbers recorded as unemployed.

*Insured Persons in Employment in different Areas.*

The figures on which this diagram is based represent the difference between the estimated number of insured persons, aged 16-64, excluding those within the agricultural scheme, and the number of such persons recorded as unemployed at the end of June in each year, in the South of England (the London, South-Eastern and South-Western Divisions), the Midlands, the North of England (the North-Eastern, North-Western and Northern Divisions), Scotland, and Wales. The figures used are compiled on the same basis as those given in the Table on page 469 of the December, 1937, GAZETTE, showing the geographical distribution of insured persons in employment in the main areas into which the country is divided for the administration of the Unemployment Insurance Acts.

*Duration of Unemployment.—Average Numbers of Applicants for Unemployment Benefit and Assistance registered each month as having been unemployed for the periods stated.*

This diagram shows, for each year from 1932 to 1937, the average numbers of applicants for insurance benefit and unemployment allowances on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain, who, at the date of each monthly count, had been registered as unemployed for various periods. The figures on which the diagram is based relate only to the duration of the last spell of registered unemployment as recorded at the date of the count. The diagram does not furnish an analysis according to the total amount of unemployment experienced in each year. Detailed figures comparable with those on which the diagram is based are given each month in this GAZETTE (see, e.g., page 101 of this issue).

The comparison between 1937 and earlier years as shown in the diagram is affected by (i) the extension of the Unemployment Assistance Scheme as from 1st April, 1937, and the consequent increase in the number of persons on the register included in the analysis, and (ii) the introduction in September, 1937, of the revised procedure for counting the unemployed (see the May, and October, 1937, issues of this GAZETTE, pages 192 and 400, respectively).

*Trade Union Membership.*

The curves of this chart illustrate the changes in the membership of trade unions, registered and unregistered, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as shown by the statistics given in the October, 1937, issue of this GAZETTE (page 380).

*Total Passenger Movement—Outward and Inward Balances from and to the United Kingdom.*

This diagram is based on statistics prepared by the Board of Trade and shows the net balance of passengers travelling between the United Kingdom and the rest of the world, i.e., the difference between the total number of passengers leaving the United Kingdom and the total number entering in each year. The diagram provides a rough indication of the balance of migration from or into the United Kingdom. Prior to April, 1923, the figures on which the diagram is based relate to passengers between ports in Great Britain and Ireland and ports in other countries. For 1924 onwards the figures relate to passengers between ports in Great Britain and Northern Ireland and ports in other countries (including Eire); passengers over the land frontier between Northern Ireland and Eire are not included in the returns.

\* See footnote \* in second column on previous page.

### LABOUR REGULATION IN GERMANY.

In view of the increasingly acute shortage of labour in a number of industrial occupations and in agriculture and domestic service, further measures have recently been taken in Germany to control and direct the utilisation of labour in accordance with considerations of the national economic policy.\* These measures are reviewed below.

In the exercise of powers conferred by the Distribution of Labour Order, dated 10th August, 1934 (see this GAZETTE for October, 1934), the President of the Federal Employment Exchanges and Unemployment Insurance Board, by Regulations dated 1st March, 1938, has authorised the Chairmen of Divisional Employment Offices to require employers in individual undertakings to secure the approval of the locally competent employment exchange for the engagement of labour. This obligation may be restricted to engagements of workers belonging to particular occupations, and certain conditions may be attached to the approval. Under earlier Regulations such official approval is already required for the engagement of metal workers, chemical and building workers in prescribed areas, and, except in agriculture and forestry, domestic service and shipping and air services, all manual and non-manual workers under 25 years of age (including, as from 4th April, 1938, apprentices, probationers and voluntary workers).

Further Regulations, which took effect on 14th March, 1938, are designed to provide information regarding the number of young persons up to the age of 21 years who, since leaving school, have not been engaged in any regular occupation. All school-leavers are required, through their legally responsible representatives, to report to their locally competent employment exchange within two weeks from the date on which they leave school. A similar obligation to report before 1st April, 1938, is also imposed on young persons who left school after the end of 1933, and who so far have not taken up regular employment in respect of which an employment book is required, or have not entered upon a regular course of occupational training.

Special regulations affecting girls and women are contained in an Order, dated 15th February, 1938, of the Four-Year Plan Commissioner, the object of which is to overcome the existing shortage of female labour in agriculture and domestic service. The Order prescribes that unmarried female persons under 25 years of age may be engaged for employment as manual or non-manual workers in public and private undertakings and offices only if they have completed at least one year's service, as attested in their employment book, in agriculture or domestic service. This restriction is, however, to apply only to those persons, branches of economic activity and occupations which may be specified by the President of the Employment Exchanges and Unemployment Insurance Board, who may also take any necessary measures for giving effect to and supplementing the Order. In Regulations dated 16th February, 1938, the President has applied the Order to (i) undertakings in the clothing, textile, and tobacco industries, so far as concerns the engagement of manual workers, and (ii) all private and public undertakings and offices, so far as concerns the engagement of non-manual workers for commercial or office work; in both cases the Order is to apply only to women and girls concerned, who, prior to 1st March, 1938, had not been in employment. For the purposes of the period of employment in agriculture or domestic service prescribed by the Order, participation in labour service and certain recognised schemes of agricultural and domestic assistance, attendance at agricultural and domestic service training courses organised or promoted by employment exchange authorities, and also service in the household of the worker's parents or relatives, in cases where the household comprises four or more children under 14 years of age, may be assimilated to employment in agriculture or domestic service. Similarly, two years' recognised service in the nursing and social welfare services may count as one year's service in agriculture or domestic service.

A further Order issued on 14th December, 1937, makes the issue of licences to itinerant craftsmen and pedlars conditional upon the approval of the employment exchange authorities, and requires the latter to withhold or withdraw approval in cases where considerations of national or economic policy necessitate the more effective employment of the person concerned.

### WAGES AND HOURS MOVEMENTS OVERSEAS.

#### BELGIUM.

*Reduced Working Hours for Shift Workers in the Flemish Textile Industry.*—Prior to 1st March, 1938, workers employed on the shift system in the textile industry of East and West Flanders were working 48 hours a week in some undertakings and 46 hours 30 minutes in others. As from the date mentioned, the working time of all textile workers employed on the two-shift system in Flanders was fixed at 7 hours 45 minutes a day or 46 hours 30 minutes a week, and, except in undertakings in which shift-working had already been taken into account in fixing wage rates, the existing supplements to hourly wage rates and list rates of 3 or 6 per cent. were raised to 9 per cent. in all cases. These changes were carried out in accordance with an agreement concluded on 27th November, 1937, by the Joint Committee for the Flemish textile industry. Under the same agreement, night workers had received considerable increases in wage rates, which made it possible for them to earn in 40 hours, spread over five nights, the equivalent of the weekly wage of day workers. The agreement relates exclusively to work organised in shifts, and no general reduction in working hours in the textile industry is contemplated, both employers' and workers' representatives recognising that the possibility of such general reduction is limited by international factors.

\* Earlier measures were reviewed in the issues of this GAZETTE for December, 1936, and February, 1937.









1937. In harbour, river and canal service, the percentage unemployed was 11.5 at 14th February, 1938, as compared with 10.9 at 17th January, 1938; in dock, wharf and lighterage (port transport service) the corresponding figures were 30.9 and 27.7 respectively.

London.—Employment again declined, but was fair. The following Table shows the average daily number of dock labourers employed at docks and wharves in respect of which returns were received:—

Table showing Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London. Columns include Period, In Docks (By the Port of London Authority, By Ship-owners, etc.), At Wharves making Returns, and Total Docks and Principal Wharves.

Tilbury.—The average daily number of dock labourers employed during February was 896, as compared with 1,046 in January, 1938, and with 843 in February, 1937.

North-East Coast.—Employment showed little change, except for seasonal decline at some ports, and was fair generally.

Mersey.—Employment at Liverpool and Garston showed a seasonal decline, but was fair on the whole; at Salford it declined further, and was moderate.

The average weekly number of dock labourers registered at the clearing houses under the Liverpool Docks Scheme as employed in the four weeks ended 25th February, 1938, was 12,169, compared with 12,543 in January, 1938, and with 12,060 in February, 1937.

Other Ports in England and Wales.—Employment at Cardiff improved, particularly with coal trimmers; at Swansea it showed little change and remained fairly good. At Bristol and Avonmouth employment was quiet. At Plymouth there was a temporary improvement, mainly with casual workers; at Southampton, employment remained fair generally.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—Employment at Glasgow showed little change, and was fair; at Leith it fluctuated, but was generally moderate. At Dundee employment continued fair; at Grangemouth it declined slightly, but was moderate. At Belfast it was good.

SEAMEN.

EMPLOYMENT among seamen was slightly better at 14th February than at 17th January, but was still slack on the whole. The percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, in shipping service was 24.9 at 14th February, 1938, as compared with 26.3 at 17th January, 1938. On a comparable basis there was an increase of about 2.7% in the percentage as compared with 22nd February, 1937.

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

Table showing Number of Seamen shipped in British registered foreign-going vessels at the undermentioned ports of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Columns include Principal Ports, February 1938, and Two Months ended (February 1938, February 1937).

\* See footnote \* on page 93. † It will be understood that the numbers given are the numbers of separate engagements, and not of separate individuals. ‡ Including Birkenhead and Garston. § Including Avonmouth and Portishead. ¶ Including Barry and Penarth.

NUMBERS ON THE REGISTERS IN THE PRINCIPAL TOWNS.

THE Table below shows for each of the Employment Exchange administrative areas in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and for the principal towns therein, the number of unemployed persons registered at Employment Exchanges on 14th February, 1938:—

Large table showing Number of Persons on Register at 14th February, 1938, broken down by Area (London Division, South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands Division, North-Eastern, North-Western, Scotland, Wales, etc.) and Principal Towns. Includes columns for Men, Women, Juveniles, Total, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in totals as compared with 17th Jan. 1938 and 22nd Feb. 1937.

\* See footnote \* on page 93. † The figures for Rutherglen are included. ‡ Comparable figures are not available. § Percentage rates of unemployment for about 760 Towns in Great Britain are given in the monthly "Local Unemployment Index."

COMPOSITION OF UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

ANALYSIS FOR 14TH FEBRUARY, 1938.

Table showing Composition of Unemployment Statistics: Great Britain. Columns include Men (18 years and over), Boys (under 18 years), Women (18 years and over), Girls (under 18 years), and Total. Rows include Insured on Register, Claims admitted for insurance benefit, Unemployment allowances authorised, etc.

APPLICANTS FOR INSURANCE BENEFIT AND UNEMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCES.

DIVISIONAL ANALYSIS—14TH FEBRUARY, 1938:

CLAIMS ADMITTED FOR INSURANCE BENEFIT:†

Table showing Divisional Analysis—14th February, 1938: Claims Admitted for Insurance Benefit. Columns include Division, Men 18-64, Boys 16 & 17, Women 18-64, Girls 16 & 17, Total 16-64. Rows include London, South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Northern, Scotland, Wales, and Great Britain.

APPLICATIONS AUTHORISED FOR UNEMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCES:‡

Table showing Applications Authorised for Unemployment Allowances. Columns include Division, Men aged 18-64, Boys aged 16 & 17, Women aged 18-64, Girls aged 16 & 17, Total aged 16-64. Rows include London, South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Northern, Scotland, Wales, and Great Britain.

\* These exclusions represent (a) insurance benefit claimants in receipt of unemployment allowances in supplementation of benefit (numbering 8,688 at 14th February, 1938); and (b) persons disqualified for short periods from receiving benefit, who are shown in line 2 (b) of the Table.

† See explanation on page 102. ‡ The persons with claims admitted for insurance benefit included 8,688 for whom payment of unemployment allowances in supplementation of benefit had been authorised. § Including 5,931 persons, disqualified for short periods from receiving unemployment benefit, who had applications authorised for unemployment allowances.

PERIODS OF REGISTERED UNEMPLOYMENT.

ANALYSIS IN RESPECT OF PERSONS APPLYING FOR INSURANCE BENEFIT OR UNEMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCES.

THE following Table gives an analysis, according to the length of their last spell of registered unemployment, of persons aged 16-64 applying for insurance benefit or unemployment allowances (including those applicants whose position in relation to insurance benefit and unemployment allowances had not been determined), who were registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain as unemployed on 14th February, 1938. Corresponding particulars are not available in respect of persons, registered as unemployed, who were not applicants for insurance benefit or unemployment allowances.

Of the persons who had been on the register for extended periods a proportion, which will increase as the period on the register increases, will have had one or more short spells of employment, lasting not more than three days each, during such periods.

Table showing Periods of Registered Unemployment. Columns include Less than 3 months, 3 months but less than 6 months, 6 months but less than 9 months, 9 months but less than 12 months, 12 months or more, and Totals. Rows include Applicants, aged 16-64, who had been on Register, and Percentages.

Of the 1,041,474 applicants who had been on the register for less than three months, approximately 763,800, or 45.8 per cent. of the total number of applicants, had been on the register for less than six weeks.

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND. GREAT BRITAIN.

THE following Table shows, approximately, the income and expenditure of the Unemployment Fund\* for the periods stated:—

Table showing Unemployment Fund: Great Britain. Columns include Four weeks ended 26th Feb., 1938, Four weeks ended 29th Jan., 1938, Four weeks ended 27th Feb., 1937. Rows include (1) General Account, (2) Agricultural Account, and Total Income and Expenditure.

UNEMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCES (GREAT BRITAIN).

AS from 1st April, 1937, the cost of unemployment allowances is met from the Unemployment Assistance Fund which is reimbursed by the Exchequer. For the period of four weeks ended 26th February, 1938, expenditure on these allowances (excluding the cost of administration) amounted to approximately £2,822,000 as compared with £2,807,000 during the four weeks ended 29th January, 1938, and £2,825,000 during the four weeks ended 27th February, 1937.

\* A detailed account of the Fund is presented to Parliament annually. (See H.C. 49 of 1938, for the period ended 31st March, 1937. A summary of this Return appears on page 90 of this GAZETTE. † Provision is made in the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1935, for the repayment (including interest) of the debt outstanding on 1st July, 1934 (amounting to £105,780,000) by half-yearly payments of £2,500,000. The first of these payments was made on 30th September, 1934, under the authority of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1934.



GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS, AGED 16-64, AT JULY, 1937. (Males, Females, Total), PERCENTAGES AT 14TH FEBRUARY, 1938. (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total), INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH 17TH JAN., 1938., 22ND FEB., 1937.\*. Section I: PERSONS INSURED UNDER THE GENERAL SCHEME.

\* For the purpose of comparison with 22nd February, 1937, an estimate has been made of the effect of the change in the procedure for counting the unemployed, introduced in September, 1937 (see page 379 of the Gazette for October, 1937, last of this GAZETTE).

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS, AGED 16-64, AT JULY, 1937. (Males, Females, Total), PERCENTAGES AT 14TH FEBRUARY, 1938. (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total), INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH 17TH JAN., 1938., 22ND FEB., 1937.\*. Section II: PERSONS INSURED UNDER THE AGRICULTURAL SCHEME.

Table with columns: FARMING, FORESTRY, ETC., MARKET GARDENING, HORTICULTURE, ETC., PRIVATE GARDENING, OTHER GARDENING, TOTAL (AGED 16-64).

\* See footnote \* on page 104. † For 22nd February, 1937, separate figures are not available. ‡ See footnote † on page 104. § The percentage for all industries and services combined for February, 1937, used for this comparison, is the revised figure based on the estimated number insured at that date—see the issue of the GAZETTE for November, 1937, page 424 (see also footnote\* on page 104). ¶ Comparable figures are not available. †† For the purpose of comparison with 22nd February, 1937, private gardening is excluded.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED. GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

Table with columns: Industries, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in numbers insured, aged 16-64, recorded as unemployed at 14th February, 1938, compared with 17th January, 1938. (Males, Females, Total).

NEW ENTRANTS INTO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE. FEBRUARY, 1938.

Table with columns: Division, Men aged 18-64, Boys, Aged 16 & 17, Aged 14 & 15, Women aged 18-64, Girls, Aged 16 & 17, Aged 14 & 15, Total.





















