

THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

VOL. XXXVIII.—No. 1.]

JANUARY, 1930.

[PRICE SIXPENCE NET.

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

EMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT continued to decline during the first half of December, but in the third week of the month there was a slight net improvement. The influence of increased employment in connection with the Christmas trade and traffic had a relatively smaller effect on the numbers unemployed in all industries taken together than in other recent years, and this appears to have been due largely to the very inclement weather of November and early December, which affected most outdoor occupations, and to a decline in some other important industries, notably the textile trades. In the last week of the month there was the usual heavy increase in unemployment, due to the discharge of temporary Christmas workers and the extension of holidays in a number of industries.

A comparison of the figures for 25th November and 16th December shows that there was a general decline in the mining group of industries, in building and public works contracting, and in the cement, pottery, glass, pig iron, leather, and chocolate and confectionery industries and most of the textile trades. On the other hand, there was some improvement in the iron and steel trades (except pig iron), in the shipbuilding, and distributive industries, and also in hotel and boarding-house and dock and harbour services.

Among the workpeople, numbering approximately 12,100,000, insured against unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed in all industries taken together was 11.1 at 16th December, as compared with 11.0 at 25th November, 1929, and 11.1 at 17th December, 1928. The percentage wholly unemployed at 16th December, 1929, was 8.9, as compared with 8.8 at 25th November, 1929; while the percentage temporarily stopped remained at 2.2. For males alone the percentage at 16th December, 1929, was 12.3, and for females 8.1. At 25th November, 1929, the corresponding percentages were 12.1 and 7.9. The total number of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 16th December, 1929, was approximately 1,341,000, of whom 1,037,000 were men and 245,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls. At 25th November, 1929, it was 1,323,000, of whom 1,018,000 were men and 241,000 were women; and at 17th December, 1928, it was 1,312,000, of whom 1,036,000 were men and 216,000 were women. At 30th December, 1929, the total number registered had risen to 1,552,000, as compared with 1,565,000 at 31st December, 1928.

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 December resulted in an increase of about £1,200 in the weekly full-time wages of about 19,000 workpeople, and in a decrease of £1,635 in those of 8,500 workpeople.

The principal groups of workpeople whose rates of wages were changed during the month were those employed in brush and broom manufacture, for whom the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts were increased by $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in the case of piece-workers and by $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per hour in the case of certain classes of timeworkers; and slate quarrymen in North Wales, who sustained reductions of 8d. per day in their standard rates of pay and of 3d. per day in their minimum wage. Other workpeople whose wages were increased during the month included iron puddlers and millmen in Scotland, penmakers in the Birmingham district, and switchboard and sub-station attendants employed in the electricity supply industry in various districts.

The changes in wages so far reported to the Department for the year 1929, in the industries for which statistics are compiled, are estimated to have resulted in net increases of £12,150 in the weekly full-time wages of 137,500 workpeople, and in net decreases of £91,650 in those of 915,500 workpeople. In 1928 there were net increases of £21,800 in the weekly full-time wages of 217,000 workpeople, and net decreases of £163,800 in those of 1,615,000 workpeople.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st January, 1930, 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 66 per cent. above that of July, 1914; for food alone the percentage was 57. The corresponding figures for both a month ago and a year ago were 67 and 59 respectively. The fall in the percentages since a month ago was mainly due to lower prices for eggs.

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

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in December, was 17. In addition, 15 disputes which began before December were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in December (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 5,900, and the aggregate duration of all disputes during December was about 41,000 working days.

The aggregate duration of all disputes in progress in 1929 was about 8,283,000 working days, and the total number of workpeople involved in these disputes was about 532,000. The figures for 1928 were 1,388,000 days and 124,000 workpeople, respectively.

EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, COST OF LIVING, AND TRADE DISPUTES IN 1929.

EMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT in 1929 was rather better, on the whole, than in 1928. The number of insured persons aged 16 to 64 in employment reached an estimated average of 10,191,000, as compared with 10,007,000 in 1928 and 10,003,000 in 1927. The average rate of unemployment among insured persons was 10.5 per cent. in 1929 (wholly unemployed 8.2 per cent. and temporarily stopped 2.3 per cent.) as compared with 10.8 per cent. in 1928 (wholly unemployed 8.2 per cent. and temporarily stopped 2.6 per cent.).

The average percentages of insured persons recorded as unemployed in Great Britain and Northern Ireland from 1921 to 1929 have been as follows:—

1921	...	17.0*	1926*	...	12.5
1922	...	14.3	1927	...	9.7
1923	...	11.7	1928	...	10.8
1924	...	10.3	1929	...	10.5
1925	...	11.3			

The corresponding percentages for each month of 1929, together with the numbers (insured and uninsured) registered at Employment Exchanges at or near the end of each month, are given in a Table on page 16.

In the first five months of the year unemployment was at a higher level than in the corresponding period of the previous year, but was rather lower than the mean of the six years 1922-25 and 1927-28. The seasonal improvement was delayed in the latter part of February and the early part of March by the very severe weather of that period, which particularly affected the building industry and other out-door occupations, including the mining industries other than coalmining. There was a rapid improvement, however, in the second half of March, and from the end of that month the figures followed a comparatively normal seasonal trend until the end of November. As compared with 1928, unemployment was less severe in the second half of the year, mainly due to the fact that in 1928 there was a setback, between the end of April and the end of June, in six important industries, viz.: coalmining, shipbuilding and ship repairing, the cotton, woollen and worsted, and linen textile industries, and boot and shoe manufacture; and this continued until the end of November. In 1929, however, there was no serious fluctuation of this kind. The percentage rate of unemployment fell from 12.2 in January to 9.6 in June, and rose to 11.0 in November. The increase in the second half of the year was therefore slightly less than in 1928, when the percentage rose between June and November from 10.7 to 12.2, but rather greater than in 1927, when it rose from 8.8 to 10.0 per cent.

During the five months May to September inclusive, there was little change in the rate of unemployment; but the close of the summer season, coupled with the inclement weather of November and early December, led to a substantial increase in the numbers unemployed. This increase continued during the first two weeks of December, and the improvement in employment, which usually occurs immediately before Christmas, had a much smaller effect on the numbers unemployed than in other recent years.

An important feature of the statistics for 1929 was the improvement in the coal mining industry. Between 21st January and 16th December the number of insured persons recorded as wholly unemployed fell steadily from 171,200 to 115,322. There were fluctuations in the numbers temporarily stopped, and at 16th December the figures differed only slightly from those for 21st January. At 16th December the rate of unemployment among insured persons in the industry was 14.6 per cent., as compared with 19.1 per cent. at 21st January. In this connection it should be borne in mind that between July, 1928, and July, 1929, the numbers of insured persons classified as belonging to the industry decreased by 41,200, and part of this decline occurred in the first half of the year.

There was also some improvement in shipbuilding and ship-repairing; but there was a decline in the cotton industry.

These movements are reflected in the comparative figures for the various administrative divisions.

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

Division.	Average percentage rates of unemployment among insured persons.			Division.	Average percentage rates for unemployment among insured persons.		
	1927.	1928.	1929.		1927.	1928.	1929.
London	5.8	5.6	5.6	Scotland	10.6	11.7	12.1
South-Eastern	5.0	5.4	5.6	Wales	19.5	22.0	19.3
South-Western	7.3	8.1	8.1	Northern Ireland	13.0	17.1	14.9
Midlands	8.4	9.9	9.3	Great Britain and Northern Ireland	9.7	10.8	10.5
North-Eastern	13.7	15.1	13.7				
North-Western	10.6	12.4	13.3				

There was thus a recovery in the Midlands, North-Eastern, Wales and Northern Ireland Divisions, but a decline in the North-Western and Scotland Divisions. There was little change in the Southern Divisions of the country.

* Exclusive of persons in the coalmining industry disqualified for unemployment benefit by reason of trade disputes.

PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

A summary of the course of employment in some of the principal industries in 1929 is given below:—

Mining.—In the coal mining industry employment was slack or bad, but showed considerable improvement as compared with 1928. The percentage of insured workpeople wholly unemployed in January was 15.3—the highest recorded in any month of the year—as compared with 11.9 in January, 1928. In March, however, the percentage fell to 12.1, and each succeeding month of 1929 showed an improvement as compared with the corresponding month of the previous year. At 16th December, 1929, the percentage wholly unemployed was 10.7, as compared with 15.7 at 17th December, 1928. The percentage of workpeople temporarily stopped fluctuated considerably; it fell from 3.8 in January to 1.1 in March, and, after rising to 7.2 in June and July, dropped to 3.4 in November. It rose to 3.9 at 16th December. On the average of the 12 months it was 4.3, as compared with 7.6 in 1928. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books was 898,500 in the first week of January, 1929—the lowest in any week of the year—but the number increased in each successive week, and had risen to 934,700 by the end of March. The numbers fluctuated in subsequent weeks, the normal seasonal decline bringing it down to 925,200 in the week ending 10th August; but at 14th December the total had risen to 948,600—the highest in any week of the year—as compared with 898,100 at 15th December, 1928. At iron mines employment was slack at the beginning of the year. It improved appreciably in March and, the improvement being maintained in subsequent months, employment was fair in May, and good generally from June to November, when some decline was reported. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed fell from 14.1 in February to 9.6 in March, 7.0 in May, and 4.8 in October. At the 16th December, 1929, the percentage was 7.9, as compared with 12.9 at 17th December, 1928.

Metal Trades.—In pig iron manufacture employment was slack in January and February, but improved in March and was moderate during the rest of the year. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed was 18.7 in January—the highest percentage in any month of the year—but fell to 12.5 in March, 10.6 in June, and 9.9 in September. At 16th December, 1929, it was 12.2, as compared with 19.1 at 17th December, 1928. Of 410 furnaces, the number in blast at the end of December was 162, as compared with 139 in January. The average of the numbers in blast at the end of each month of 1929 was 158, as compared with 140 in 1928, and with 168 in 1927. The average monthly production of pig iron was 631,600 tons in 1929, as compared with 550,900 tons in 1928, with 607,700 tons in 1927, with 669,500 tons in 1920, and with 855,000 tons in 1913. At iron and steel works employment was bad; there was some improvement in March, when the percentage of insured workpeople unemployed fell to 17.6 as compared with 20.2 in January; but the improvement was not maintained. There was a further decline towards the close of the year, and at the end of November the percentage unemployed was 22.9—the highest recorded in any month of the year. The average monthly production of steel ingots and castings in 1929 was 804,600 tons, as compared with 710,400 tons in 1928, and with 753,100 tons in 1927; in 1920 it was 755,600 tons, and in 1913, 638,600 tons. In the tinplate industry employment fluctuated considerably, but was generally slack. The arrangement, resumed in November, 1928, for stoppages of the mills to control output was in operation throughout the year. In the steel sheet trade employment was fair during the first quarter of the year, but declined in succeeding months and was bad in June. There was some recovery in July, and in September employment was again reported to be fair; but towards the close of the year there was a further decline, and at the end of December the number of mills in operation at works from which information is available was 104, compared with 131 in January. The average number of mills working at the end of each month of 1929 was 116, as compared with 125 in 1928.

Employment in engineering generally was slack or quiet throughout the year, but showed an improvement as compared with 1928. In the electrical section of the industry, however, it was fairly good, and in the motor vehicle section fairly good to fair. At railway works a curtailed working week was in operation at some of the works, but employment improved during the last quarter of the year. In marine engineering employment was bad in January, when the percentage of insured workpeople unemployed was 13.4, but it improved continuously until June, when the percentage had fallen to 8.7; some decline, however, occurred during succeeding months, and at 16th December the percentage unemployed had risen to 10.2. Employment on textile machinery work was bad, and short-time working was general. In shipbuilding and ship repairing employment was still very bad. It improved slightly during the first half of the year, the percentage of insured workpeople unemployed falling from 27.6 in January to 22.5 in June, but in July a further decline occurred, which was not checked until November; and at 16th December the proportion of insured workpeople unemployed was 23.3, as compared with 30.3 at 17th December, 1928. The gross tonnage of merchant vessels under construction in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at the end of December, 1929, amounted to 1,560,254, as compared with 1,242,794 at the end of December, 1928, and with 1,579,713 at the end of December, 1927; this last figure, it may be noted, was the highest recorded since September, 1922. In the other metal trades employment was moderate to fair, on the whole. It was fairly good in the hollow-ware and nut and bolt trades; fair to fairly good with brass-workers and sheet metal workers; and fair to moderate in the file and in the needle and fishing tackle trades. With stove and grate workers employment was slack or bad at the beginning of the year, but improved and was fair during the last quarter.

Textile Industries.—In the cotton industry employment was depressed throughout the year. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed rose from 11.3 in January—the lowest percentage in any month of the year—to 13.7 in June; in September it was 12.6, and on 16th December, 14.4. The average of the twelve monthly percentages was 13.2, as compared with 12.0 in 1928. From 29th July till 15th August a trade dispute led to a stoppage of work which affected almost the whole industry. In the section spinning American cotton employment was very slack, and much unorganised short time was worked. The section spinning Egyptian cotton was better employed than the American, but suffered a marked decline, and in February the recommendation of the Bolton Cotton Spinners' Association to curtail production in the Bolton district by 33½ per cent. for 8 weeks was put into effect, and later was extended until 11th May. In the weaving section employment varied, but there was much under-employment generally, especially with manufacturers of the coarser types of cloth.

In the wool textile industry employment was slack generally. During the early months of the year the depression was slightly relieved, and the percentage of insured workpeople unemployed fell from 15.1 in January to 10.5 in April; but employment again declined, and by July the percentage unemployed had risen to 15.8, and at 16th December it was 14.8. The average of the 12 monthly unemployed percentages was 13.9, as compared with 11.7 in 1928. In carpet manufacture employment was fairly good throughout the year.

Among the other textile industries employment in the hosiery trade was fair in January and improved to fairly good and good as the year progressed; the percentage of insured workers unemployed was 8.1 in January and 5.8 on 16th December. In the jute industry employment was moderate to slack; in the linen industry it was also slack, but showed some improvement towards the end of the year. In the silk and artificial silk trades, taken together, employment was slack in January, when 13.4 per cent. of the insured workpeople were unemployed, but improved in each successive month until the end of July, when the percentage unemployed had fallen to 7.7. In August, however, there was a marked decline; and though some recovery was made in September, a further decline occurred, and at 16th December the percentage unemployed was 13.4. In the lace trade employment was moderate, on the whole; in the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing etc., industry employment was slack or bad, and showed a decline during the latter half of the year.

Clothing Industries.—In the retail bespoke and in the ready-made and wholesale bespoke branches of the tailoring trade employment was moderate to slack at the beginning of the year, but seasonal improvement set in during the first quarter and employment was good or fairly good until the end of July, when, with the seasonal decline, it became moderate until October, and slack for the remainder of the year. In dressmaking and millinery, and in the corset, shirt and collar, and felt hat trades, employment, apart from seasonal fluctuations, was fairly good to good on the whole. In the boot and shoe industry employment was slack in January but improved in subsequent months, a movement in direct contrast to that of the previous year. On the whole, however, employment was moderate; much short time was worked and the usual holidays were extended in many cases. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed was 16.9 in January, 14.5 in March, 13.5 in June, 11.2 in September, and 11.5 on 16th December. The mean for the twelve months was 13.1, the same percentage as in 1928.

Building and Woodworking.—In the building trades employment showed the usual seasonal variations. At the beginning of the year the severe weather resulted in the suspension of outdoor operations throughout the country, and at the end of February the percentage of insured workers unemployed was 24.8. With skilled workers, generally, excluding plumbers, it was slack or bad during the first two months of the year; moderate to fair in March; fairly good to good until October, when it declined to moderate, and again to slack in November and December. With plumbers it was fairly good for most of the year. With unskilled workers it was moderate in the summer and slack in the winter months. With brickmakers employment was hindered by bad weather in the early part of the year, but there was a marked improvement in March, and employment during the summer months was fairly good. A decline set in during October, and on 16th December 12.1 per cent. of the insured workpeople classified as belonging to the industry were unemployed, as compared with 8.0 per cent. in July, and 19.6 in February. The mean percentage unemployed for the twelve months was 11.3, as compared with 12.4 in 1928. In the furnishing trades employment was good or fairly good generally; with mill sawyers it was moderate to fair.

Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.—Employment in paper manufacture continued fairly good throughout the year. In the printing trade it was good or fairly good in the letterpress branch, and good generally with electrotypers and stereotypers. With lithographic printers it was fair from January until April, and good in the later months of the year. With bookbinders employment, though moderate in April and May, was fairly good on the whole.

Pottery and Glass.—In the pottery trade in North Staffordshire employment on the whole was slack, with much unemployment and short-time working; but in the best chinaware and sanitary-ware sections it was fairly good or good, and in the decorative earthenware section it was fair. With the seasonal fluctuation the percentage of insured workpeople unemployed fell from 19.0 in January to 11.0 in October; at 16th December it was 17.2. In the glass trade there was much unemployment and short-time working, especially in the

glass-bottle making branch, where the proportion of insured workpeople unemployed ranged from 19.9 per cent. in January to 14.1 per cent. in November.

RATES OF WAGES.*

As in the previous year, rates of wages showed little movement in 1929, the great majority of workpeople being unaffected by any changes in rates during the year.

In all the industries and services for which statistics are available the changes in rates of wages during 1929 resulted in an aggregate net decrease of about £31,650 in the weekly full-time rates of wages of 915,500 workpeople and in a net increase of about £12,150 in those of 137,500 workpeople. The net result of all the changes reported was, therefore, a decrease of approximately £79,500 in the weekly full-time wages of the workpeople in the industries covered by the statistics, of which over £59,000 occurred in the cotton industry. As, however, the rates of wages of the great majority of workpeople remained unchanged throughout the year, the effect of this reduction on the general level of wages was relatively small, the average decrease for all industries combined being equivalent to less than one-half per cent. of the wage rates in operation at the beginning of the year. When account is taken of all the information in the possession of the Department, it is estimated that the average increase between July, 1914, and the end of 1929, in the weekly full-time rates of wages of those classes of workpeople for whom particulars are available, was between 70 and 75 per cent.† As the number of hours constituting a full working week was reduced in nearly all industries in 1919 or 1920, the percentage increase in hourly rates of wages between 1914 and 1929 is greater than the increase in weekly rates.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople affected by the changes in rates of wages reported to the Department in 1928 and 1929, and the net amount of the change in their weekly rates of wages in each of the principal groups of industries for which statistics are available:—

Industry Group.	Approximate Number of separate Individuals reported as affected by Net Increases or Net Decreases, respectively, in Rates of Wages.				Estimated net Weekly Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in Rates of Wages of all Workpeople affected.	
	1928.		1929.*		1928.	1929.*
	Net Increases.	Net Decreases.	Net Increases.	Net Decreases.	£	£
Coal Mining	550	386,000	15,500	74,500	− 59,700	− 3,275
Other Mining and Quarrying	650	17,000	18,900	9,600	− 1,450	− 300
Bricks, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc.	200	4,250	9,350	500	− 685	+ 615
Iron and Steel	39,000	45,500	32,000	3,000	− 4,600	+ 2,350
Engineering	2,000	107,000	700	...	− 9,125	+ 215
Shipbuilding	53,000	...	1,550	...	+ 6,500	+ 125
Other Metal	2,350	49,750	10,850	15,500	− 3,250	− 1,050
Textile	56,500	71,750	3,550	589,000	+ 2,400	− 64,500
Clothing...	1,000	900	150	3,250	+ 10	− 535
Food, Drink and Tobacco	350	1,250	12,500	1,750	− 80	+ 500
Woodworking, Furniture, etc.	3,200	4,300	950	11,000	− 240	− 1,400
Paper, Printing, etc.	100	...	...	150	+ 10	− 35
Building, Public Works, Contracting, &c.	7,000	422,000	12,000	56,000	− 38,200	− 6,075
Gas, Water and Electricity Supply	31,250	900	6,500	2,000	+ 5,725	+ 775
Transport	5,400	485,000	3,650	131,000	− 38,600	− 6,475
Public Administration Services	14,200	12,600	9,500	4,250	− 240	+ 500
Other	250	6,800	250	14,000	− 475	− 935
Total	217,000	1,615,000	137,500	915,500	− 142,000	− 79,500

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

Principal Decreases in Wages in 1929.—The most important movement in wages in 1929 was the reduction in the wages of workpeople in the cotton industry in Lancashire and adjoining counties which took effect in September, and resulted in an aggregate weekly decrease estimated at over £59,000. Other workpeople in the textile industries whose wages were reduced during the year included bleaching, dyeing, printing and finishing operatives

* The figures given for 1929 are preliminary and subject to revision. † The statistics are exclusive of changes affecting agricultural labourers, Government employees, domestic servants, shop assistants, and clerks. They relate to rates of wages for a full week, assuming full employment, and do not take account of variations in actual earnings resulting from changes in the state of employment. In many cases changes arranged by individual employers, and affecting unorganised workers, are not reported to the Department.

‡ This calculation of the increase since 1914 includes rates of wages of agricultural labourers, which are excluded from the Tables given elsewhere in this article, the available particulars being insufficient for their inclusion in the detailed statistics. The percentage increase quoted relates to workpeople of unchanged grade, without any allowance for changes between 1914 and the present time in the proportion of workpeople in different industries and occupations, or for other factors (apart from increases in rates of wages) which may have affected actual earnings. § The reductions shown in wages in the engineering industry in 1928 were almost wholly in railway engineering shops.

In Yorkshire and Lancashire, carpet makers, asbestos workers, and woollen and worsted operatives employed by certain firms in Yorkshire. In the building and public works contracting group there was a reduction in the wages of employees of civil engineering contractors, and also in those of building trade workers at Liverpool and Birkenhead. In the transport group the principal reduction was one of 1s. a week under a cost-of-living sliding scale affecting such of the railway traffic workers (principally the lower-paid classes) as were still in receipt of a bonus. The reduction in the coal mining group was mainly accounted for by a decrease in the subsistence wage payable to the lower-paid workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire. Other bodies of workpeople whose wages were reduced included bobbin makers, lock, latch and key makers in the Midlands, slate quarrymen in North Wales, coopers, and wholesale warehouse workers at Manchester.

Principal Increases in Wages in 1929.—The principal classes of workpeople whose rates of wages were increased in 1929 included coal miners in Warwickshire, iron miners in Cumberland and Cleveland, shale miners and oil workers in Scotland, blastfurnace workers in most of the principal districts in England and Scotland, Siemens steel makers in South-West Wales, electrical cable makers, workpeople employed in the seed crushing and oil milling industry, men employed by electrical contractors in London, and building trade operatives at Portsmouth and certain other towns in the South of England.

Industries in which wages were at the same level at the end of 1929 as at the end of 1928.—In many branches of industry the general level of rates of wages remained unchanged throughout the year. These included coal mining in most of the principal districts, brick, pottery and chemical manufacture, engineering, shipbuilding,* most of the other metal trades (tinplate, cutlery, tubes, brass, wire, hollow-ware, etc.), linen and jute manufacture, boot and shoe manufacture and the clothing trades generally, flour milling, tobacco manufacture, vehicle building, paper manufacture and printing, building (with the exception of a few towns), gas and electricity supply, dock labour, shipping, tramway services, and leather tanning. In the wool textile industry there was no general change in wage rates, though reductions were made by certain firms in Yorkshire. There were also a number of workpeople—about 290,000 in various industries—who received increases and also sustained decreases in 1929 which left their wages at the same level at the end as at the beginning of the year. Among these were coal miners in the Cannock Chase district, iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen in the Midlands, steel smelters in England and Scotland, chain makers, hosiery workers in the Midlands, boot and shoe repairers, paper bag and paper box makers, and brush and broom makers.

It may be observed that in the case of agriculture, which is not covered by the above statistics, the minimum rates fixed by the Agricultural Wages Board for adult male labourers remained unchanged, except in the North and East Ridings of Yorkshire and in Cornwall, in which areas the minimum was increased by 1s. per week.

METHODS BY WHICH CHANGES IN WAGES WERE ARRANGED.

As indicated above, some workpeople obtained increases in wages during 1929, and others sustained decreases, and in a number of cases the same workpeople obtained increases and sustained decreases at different dates in the year. The total of all the decreases was equivalent to about £127,000 per week, and the total of all the increases to £47,500 per week, the net effect being a reduction of £79,500 per week.

Of the total reduction of £127,000 per week, over £63,000 took effect under arbitration awards; over £43,500 took effect under cost-of-living sliding scales, including £17,600 under scales arranged by Joint Industrial Councils or other joint standing bodies of employers and workpeople, and £7,300 under scales embodied in Trade Board Orders; £6,100 took effect under scales based on selling prices of manufactured iron, steel, etc., or on proceeds of the industry (coal mining); and the remaining sum was chiefly the result of direct negotiation between employers and workpeople, or of independent action on the part of employers. Reductions preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work accounted for £61,000 of the total, nearly the whole of which was due to the reduction in wages following the cotton dispute of July–August.

Of the total increase of £47,500 per week, over £27,000 took effect under cost-of-living sliding scales, including £12,400 under scales arranged by Joint Industrial Councils or other joint standing bodies of employers and workpeople, and £5,800 under scales embodied in Trade Board Orders; other increases arranged by joint standing bodies or Trade Boards accounted for £4,000; £9,600 of the total took effect under sliding scales based on selling prices or on the proceeds of the industry; nearly £2,000 followed arbitration or mediation; and the remainder was the result of direct negotiation between employers and workpeople or of independent action by employers. Increases preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work accounted for about £300.

CHANGES IN WAGES IN THE YEARS 1919-1929.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople in the industries and services for which statistics are available† whose rates of wages were increased or reduced (so far as reported) in each of the years 1919-1929, and the net amount of increase or decrease in their weekly rates of wages:—

* Except ship joiners and some other classes at Belfast, who received an increase.
† See footnote † on page 3.

Year.	Approximate Number of separate Individuals* reported as affected by		Estimated Net Weekly Amount of Change in Rates of Wages		Estimated Net Weekly Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Rates of Wages of all Workpeople affected.
	Net Increases.	Net Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.	
1919 ...	6,240,000	100	£ 2,547,200	£ 60	+ 2,547,140
1920 ...	7,867,000	500	4,793,200	180	+ 4,793,020
1921 ...	78,000	7,244,000	13,600	6,074,600	- 6,061,000
1922 ...	73,700	7,633,000	11,450	4,221,500	- 4,210,050
1923 ...	1,202,000	3,079,000	169,000	486,000	- 317,000
1924 ...	3,019,000	481,500	616,000	62,100	+ 553,900
1925 ...	875,000	851,000	80,900	159,000	+ 78,100†
1926 ...	420,000	740,000	133,000	83,700	+ 49,300†
1927 ...	282,000	1,855,000	30,700	388,500	- 357,800
1928 ...	217,000	1,615,000	21,800	163,800	- 142,000
1929† ...	137,500	915,500	12,150	91,650	- 79,500

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

HOURS OF LABOUR.‡

The total number of workers whose normal hours of labour were reported to the Department as having been changed in 1929 was about 5,000. Of these, 4,000 had an average increase of about 3½ hours per week, and 1,000 an average reduction of about 5½ hours per week. The principal change was an increase affecting iron puddlers and millmen employed by certain firms in Scotland, following the introduction of a two-shift system.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople whose hours of labour were reported as changed in each of the years 1919-1929, together with the aggregate net amount of the change in weekly hours:—

Year.	Approximate Number of Workpeople whose Hours of Labour were		Aggregate Net Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Weekly Hours.
	Increased.	Reduced.	
1919 ...	1,150	6,305,000	- 40,651,000
1920 ...	2,000	570,000	- 2,114,000
1921 ...	31,500	12,900	+ 14,500
1922 ...	16,000	302,700	+ 93,900
1923 ...	325,000	9,600	+ 108,750
1924 ...	13,150	15,150	+ 12,500
1925 ...	1,300	3,925	- 11,750
1926 ...	934,200	340	+ 3,985,000
1927 ...	18,700	1,700	+ 59,000
1928 ...	1,400	2,000	+ 200
1929† ...	4,000	1,000	+ 8,800

From these figures it is seen that, since the widespread reductions in hours of labour in 1919-1920, hours generally have remained practically unchanged, apart from the increase in 1926, which was almost entirely the result of the longer working-day for coal miners.

COST OF LIVING.

Apart from an exceptional rise at 1st March, owing to the influence of abnormal weather conditions upon the cost of food, fluctuations in the general level of the cost of living followed the normal post-war course during 1929, the index figure falling by stages from 67 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, at 1st January to 60 per cent. at 1st June. After that date the figure rose by one or two points each month until by 1st November it again reached 67. No change was recorded at 30th November, but a fall at 1st January, 1930, left the figure at 66, one point below the figure at the beginning of 1929.

With two exceptions, viz., 1st March, when it was higher, and 1st November, when it was the same, the index figure at every date during 1929 was lower than at the corresponding date in the previous year, and the figure for 1st June, 60 per cent. above the pre-war level, was the lowest recorded since 1st November, 1916.

The Table below shows, month by month, during the period under review, the average percentage increase over the level of July, 1914, in the retail prices of each of the five groups of items (food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and miscellaneous other items) included in the figures. The particulars given relate to the changes in the prices of those articles, and those descriptions of each article, most generally bought by working-class families. In computing the final percentage for "All Items included" the percentages for the various groups are combined in the following proportions: food 7½, rent 2, clothing 1½, fuel and light 1, other items included ½. Details of the separate articles included within these groups, and the methods adopted in compiling these index numbers, were published in the issues of this GAZETTE for February, 1921, and July, 1923.

* In addition to the workpeople for whom figures are given in this Table there have been considerable numbers in most years since 1920 whose wages were increased and decreased by equal amounts.
† If agricultural labourers were included, the net reduction of £78,100 shown for 1925 would be converted into a slight increase.
‡ The figures given for 1929 are preliminary and subject to revision.

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

Date.	Food.	Rent (including Rates).	Clothing.	Fuel and Light.	Other Items included.	All Items included.
1929.						
January 1st	59	52	120	70	80	67
February 1st	56	52	120	70-75	80	65
March 1st ...	57	52	120	70-75	80	66
April 2nd ...	50	52	120	70-75	80	62
May 1st ...	49	53	115-120	70	80	61
June 1st ...	47	53	115-120	70	80	60
July 1st ...	49	53	115-120	70	80	61
August 1st ...	53	53	115-120	70	80	63
August 31st	54	53	115-120	70	80	64
October 1st	56	53	115	70-75	80	65
November 1st	59	52	115	75	80	67
November 30th	59	52	115	75	80	67
1930.						
January 1st	57	52	115	75	80	66

As is usually the case, the fluctuations during 1929 in the "All Items" figure largely corresponded with movements in the average level of food prices.

Food.—The average level of food prices as recorded by these statistics was throughout the year, with the exceptions noted above in the case of the general index figure, lower than at the corresponding period a year earlier. At 1st January, 1929, the "Food" figure was 59 per cent. above pre-war, falling to 56 at 1st February. An unusual rise to 57 was recorded at 1st March, owing to the widespread severe frost, which restricted the movement into consumption of a number of commodities. The break-up of the frost, allowing the free operation of the usual seasonal influences, resulted in a sharp fall to 50 at 2nd April. Further falls during the following two months brought the figure at 1st June to 47. Not since 1st February, 1916, has the "Food" figure been at so low a level. From 1st July the figure rose each month, until the level of 59 was reached at 1st and 30th November. The usual seasonal fall during December brought the figure to 57 at 1st January, 1930. Seasonal changes in the prices of eggs, milk and potatoes were, as usual, the principal factor in the fluctuations of the "Food" figure during the year, but other price-movements also exerted an important influence.

The following Table shows the average prices of the articles of food included in these statistics in July, 1914, and at 1st January, 1929 and 1930, together with the average percentage increase at the latter dates over the level of July, 1914:—

Article.	Average price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated to the nearest ¼d).			Average Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.		
	July, 1914.	1st Jan., 1929.	1st Jan., 1930.	1st Jan., 1929.	1st Jan., 1930.	
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Beef, British—						
Ribs ...	0 10	1 4½	1 4½	68	69	
Thin Flank ...	0 6½	0 9½	0 9½	38	38	
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—						
Ribs ...	0 7½	0 10½	0 10½	43	49	
Thin Flank ...	0 4½	0 5½	0 5½	13	20	
Mutton, British—						
Legs ...	0 10½	1 6	1 6	74	74	
Breast ...	0 6½	0 10	0 10	54	53	
Mutton, Frozen—						
Legs ...	0 6½	0 11½	0 11½	69	69	
Breast ...	0 4	0 5	0 5½	27	29	
Bacon (streaky)†	0 11½	1 4	1 5½	43	54	
Fish ...				118	138	
Flour ...	0 10½	1 3½	1 4	46	53	
Bread ...	per 4 lbs.	0 5½	0 8½	0 9	49	58
Tea ...	per 7 lbs.	1 6½	2 4½	2 0	55	30
Sugar (granulated) ...	per 2	0 3	0 3	24	49	41
Milk ...	per quart	0 2½	0 6½	0 6½	89	88
Butter—						
Fresh ...	1 2½	2 1	2 0	72	64	
Salt ...	1 2½	1 11½	1 10	66	55	
Cheese (Canadian)†	0 8½	1 3	1 2	72	63	
Margarine ...	0 7	0 7½	0 7½	6	5	
Eggs (fresh) ...	each	0 1½	0 2½	131	133	
Potatoes ...	per 7 lbs.	0 4½	0 6½	0 5½	36	13

The most important reduction during the year was one of 4½d. per lb. in the average price of tea, very largely accounted for by the abolition of the import duty. The average price of potatoes, which was at a low level throughout the year, was reduced by about 1d. per 7 lbs. during the year, and at 1st January, 1930, was lower than at any time since the middle of 1923. Butter and cheese were about 1d. per lb. cheaper at the end than at the beginning of the year, and sugar also was slightly lower in price. On the other hand bacon, fish, flour and bread, and imported beef were somewhat at the later date.

Rents.—At the beginning of 1929 the rise in working-class rents (including rates) since 1914 averaged approximately 52 per cent. This figure takes account, not only of dwellings subject to the control of the Rent Restriction Acts, but also of those which have ceased to be subject to control. The increasing numbers of the latter, though still a relatively small proportion of all working-class dwellings, resulted in the rent-increase rising to 53 per cent. for the summer half-year, decreases in rates in many towns subsequently lowering the figure again to 52.

Clothing.—Very little change was recorded in the prices of most of the articles of clothing and clothing materials taken into consideration in compiling the index number. In the case of boots,

* The average change in price between 1st January, 1929, and 1st January, 1930, was very small, but sufficient to lower the average price as expressed to the nearest farthing.
† If this kind is seldom dealt with in a locality, the returns quote the price of another kind locally representative.

however, the upward movement of 1928 was reversed, and prices were generally lower at the end of 1929. For the clothing group as a whole the average increase fell during the year from about 120 per cent. to about 115 per cent. above pre-war.

Fuel and Light.—The prices of coal, which averaged between 75 and 80 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, at the beginning of the year, rose slightly to an average of 80 per cent. above pre-war during late winter and early spring, falling again gradually until during the summer months they averaged between 70 and 75 per cent. above pre-war. At 1st October a rise to 80 per cent. was recorded, and further increases brought the figure at 1st January, 1930, to nearly 85 per cent. above the pre-war level. The prices of gas averaged between 45 and 50 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, throughout the year.

At the end of the year lamp oil was dearer and candles (cheap wax) were slightly cheaper than at the beginning, and on 1st January, 1930, averaged 45 per cent., and 40 per cent. respectively above the level of July, 1914. Prices of matches were practically unchanged during the year. For the fuel and light group as a whole the average increase over pre-war at the end of the year was 75 per cent., as compared with 70 per cent. at the beginning of the year.

Other items included.—No changes worthy of note were recorded in the prices of any of the articles in this group, which averaged about 80 per cent. above the pre-war level throughout the year.

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS.

The following Table compares the averages of the percentage increases recorded for the beginning of each of the twelve months of 1929 with the corresponding averages for all complete years since the inception of this series of index numbers:—

Average Percentage Increase over the level of July, 1914.

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

The figures in this Table serve to indicate the rapid rise in the cost of living to a maximum average level in 1920, the subsequent rapid fall to 1923, and the gradual fall since 1925.

TRADE DISPUTES.*

The number of trade disputes causing stoppages of work, so far as reported to the Department as beginning in 1929 in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 420. The number of workpeople directly involved (i.e., on strike or locked out) in these disputes was about 491,500; the number indirectly involved (i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 40,100. In addition, about 500 workpeople were involved, directly or indirectly, in 8 disputes, which began in 1928 and continued into 1929. The total number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress in 1929 was thus approximately 532,100. The aggregate number of working days lost in 1929 by workpeople involved in all the disputes in progress during the year, whether beginning in 1929 or in 1928, was about 8,283,000.

The dispute in the cotton industry in Lancashire and adjoining counties in July and August contributed largely to the total numbers of workpeople involved and days lost in 1929; apart from this, the figures for 1929 were somewhat higher than those for 1928, as will be seen from the following summary:—

	1928.		1929.	
	All Disputes.	All Disputes except Cotton Dispute.	Cotton Dispute.	All Disputes.
No. of disputes beginning in period ...	302	419	1	420
No. of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress ...	124,400	144,100	388,000	532,100
No. of working days lost by such workpeople ...	1,388,000	1,687,000	6,596,000	8,283,000

Principal Disputes.—By far the largest dispute in 1929 was that which began in July in the cotton spinning and manufacturing industry of Lancashire and the adjoining counties; in this dispute 388,000 workpeople were involved in a loss of over 6½ million working days. Two brief stoppages occurred in the motor car manufacturing industry of Birmingham, involving about 7,000 and 11,000 workpeople respectively. A protracted dispute involving 3,800 colliery workpeople at Seaham Harbour resulted in a loss of over 300,000 working days; and one involving about 3,300 joiners and other shipyard workers at Belfast had an aggregate duration of nearly half a million working days. No other disputes occurred in 1929 which involved more than 5,000 workpeople or caused a loss of more than 100,000 working days.

* Disputes involving less than ten workpeople and those which lasted less than one day are omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration (i.e., number of workpeople multiplied by number of working days, allowing for workpeople replaced by others, etc.) exceeded 100 days. The figures for 1929 are preliminary and subject to correction.

The following Table summarises by industries the number of disputes reported as beginning in 1928 and 1929 in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the number of workpeople involved in and the aggregate duration of all disputes in progress in each of these years:—

Industry Group.	1928.			1929.		
	No. of Disputes beginning in 1928.	Number of Work-people involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.	No. of Disputes beginning in 1929.	Number of Work-people involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.
Coal Mining ...	97	82,200	452,000	151	77,700	575,000
Other Mining and Quarrying ...	3	300	9,000	9	1,200	90,000
Brick, Pottery, Glass, etc. ...	11	800	21,000	10	500	6,000
Iron and Steel ...	6	800	5,000	6	2,500	53,000
Engineering ...	10	600	4,000	18	20,000	52,000
Shipbuilding ...	23	4,100	15,000	25	8,100	530,000
Other Metal ...	12	2,700	35,000	30	7,700	120,000
Textile ...	33	24,500	695,000	58	400,000	6,757,000
Clothing ...	9	1,100	25,000	17	1,600	11,000
Woodworking, Furniture, etc. ...	26	1,100	13,000	15	1,300	14,000
Paper, Printing, etc. ...	3	600	4,000	2	400	20,000
Building, Public Works Contracting, etc. ...	38	3,000	83,000	36	3,000	23,000
Transport ...	16	2,000	11,000	21	7,200	13,000
Commerce, Distribution and Finance ...	6	300	8,000	5	300	3,000
Other ...	9	300	7,000	17	600	6,000
Total ...	302	124,400*	1,388,000	420	532,100*	8,283,000

Causes or Objects.—Of the 420 disputes beginning in 1929, 39, directly involving 3,900 workpeople, arose out of demands for advances on wages; 81, directly involving 411,300 workpeople, out of proposed reductions in wages; 100, directly involving 25,100 workpeople, on other wages questions; 12, directly involving 3,500 workpeople, on questions as to working hours; 104, directly involving 24,300 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; 38, directly involving 14,500 workpeople, on questions of Trade Union principle; and 43, directly involving 6,900 workpeople, on other questions; while 3 disputes, directly involving 2,000 workpeople, were sympathetic strikes.

Comparative Figures for 1919-1929.—The following Table shows the total number of disputes, involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in each of the years 1919-1929, together with the approximate number of workpeople involved in these disputes, and the aggregate number of working days lost in all disputes in progress during the year (irrespective of the date of commencement), at the establishments where the disputes occurred. It should be observed, in comparing these figures with the figures relating to 1928 and 1929 given in the foregoing Table, that in the Table below the particulars of numbers involved relate to persons involved in disputes beginning in each year, whilst in the previous Table they relate to the total numbers involved in all disputes in progress, including those beginning earlier which were still unsettled at the beginning of the year:—

Year.	Number of Disputes beginning in Year.	Number of Workpeople involved in Disputes beginning in Year.†			Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress during Year (to nearest 10,000)
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.	
1919 ...	1,352	2,401,000	190,000	2,591,000	34,970,000
1920 ...	1,607	1,779,000	153,000	1,932,000	26,570,000
1921 ...	763	1,770,000	31,000	1,801,000	85,870,000
1922 ...	576	512,000	40,000	552,000	19,850,000
1923 ...	628	343,000	62,000	405,000	10,670,000
1924 ...	710	558,000	55,000	613,000	8,420,000
1925 ...	603	401,000	40,000	441,000	7,950,000
1926 ...	323	2,724,000	10,000	2,734,000	162,230,000
1927 ...	308	90,000	18,000	108,000	1,170,000
1928 ...	302	80,000	44,000	124,000	1,390,000
1929 ...	420	492,000	40,000	532,000	8,280,000

Analysis by industry-groups of the figures for 1928 and 1929 has been given above. As regards 1926 the magnitude of the figures of workpeople involved and of aggregate duration is due to the general strike occurring in that year and the prolonged general dispute in the coal-mining industry. The large figures for 1920 and 1921 were also due in great part to general coal-mining stoppages, while those for 1919 were due to stoppages of exceptional importance in several industries.

* Of the total number shown, approximately 44,100 in 1928 and 40,400 in 1929 were indirectly involved—i.e., thrown out of work in consequence of the disputes at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not actually on strike or locked out.

† Including 380,000 workpeople directly involved in the cotton dispute specially referred to in the preceding paragraph.

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

CHARTS, etc., ILLUSTRATING LABOUR STATISTICS.

The February issue of this GAZETTE will include a special free supplement, containing a series of charts, diagrams, etc., illustrating the principal official statistics relating to labour conditions (employment, cost of living, wages, industrial disputes, etc.) in recent years.

ANALYSIS OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT RECORD OF CLAIMANTS AGED 18 TO 64 ON THE REGISTERS OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.

The unemployed persons on the Registers of Employment Exchanges on any given date may be divided into three classes, viz., (a) insured persons with current claims to benefit (including those whose claims have been authorised for payment, those whose claims are under consideration and a number (approximately 30,000) whose claims have been disallowed on grounds other than the first statutory condition and transitional conditions*); (b) insured persons without current claims (including those who have not lodged claims and those whose claims have been disallowed under the first statutory condition and transitional conditions); and (c) uninsured persons.

A complete record of unemployment for each day of the week is available only in respect of the insured claimants included in class (a) above. Generally speaking, classes (b) and (c) are required to attend at Exchanges once a week only. On 18th March, 1929, and again on 16th September, 1929, samples representing one per cent. of the numbers, aged 18 to 64 inclusive, in class (a) on the registers of each Employment Exchange were taken in order that the record of unemployment over the previous twelve months might be analysed.

The information required for the analysis was obtained from the claim to benefit and included, for each claimant within the sample, particulars as to age, industry, and the number of days of unemployment recorded in each week of the previous twelve months, and the number of days for which unemployment benefit was paid.

From this information it has been possible to prepare Tables showing for various age groups and industries analyses according to—

- total amount of unemployment in the twelve months;
- the length of the last unbroken spell of unemployment;
- the number of spells of unemployment in the year and the average length of each spell; and
- the proportion of the recorded unemployment for which benefit was paid.

The claimants aged 18 to 64 on the Registers at the two dates in question were made up as follows:—

	18th March, 1929.		16th September, 1929.	
	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.
Wholly unemployed ...	630,034	98,866	546,218	100,383
Temporarily stopped ...	129,277	66,041	166,935	78,917
Casuals ...	80,892	1,241	72,983	1,373
Total ...	840,203	166,148	786,136	180,673

The sample included 8,322 men and 1,784 women at 18th March, and 7,861 men and 1,807 women at 16th September.

The more important results of the analyses were as follows:—

Unemployment in the Complete Period of Twelve Months:—

(1) About 30 per cent. of the men and about 50 per cent. of the women had had less than three months of unemployment in the year; about 30 per cent. of both men and women were unemployed between 3 months and 6 months; and about 40 per cent. of the men and 20 per cent. of the women had had more than six months of unemployment in the year.

(2) The amount of unemployment experienced increases steadily with advancing age. In the age group 60-64 the amount experienced in the year is over 50 per cent. greater than in the age group 18-24. The average occurs in the age group 35 to 44.

(3) The average number of days of unemployment recorded in the year was, in the March enquiry, 140 for men and 93 for women, and, in the September enquiry, 141 for men and 95 for women. In coal mining the corresponding figures for men were 214 in March and 185 in September, thus bringing out the improvement in employment in that industry during 1929.

* The transitional conditions for the receipt of benefit are contained in Section 14 (2) Unemployment Insurance Act, 1927 and are as follows:— (a) that the applicant has paid not less than 3 contributions during the previous two years or 30 contributions at any time; (b) that he is normally insurable and seeking to obtain a livelihood by means of insurable employment; and (c) that he has had a reasonable period of insurable employment during the previous two years, having regard to the circumstances of the case and in particular to the opportunities for obtaining insurable employment during that period.

(4) The proportion of the sample who had been unemployed continuously for twelve months or more rose from 4.5 per cent. in March to 5.5 per cent. in September in the case of men, and from 0.4 per cent. to 1.2 per cent. in the case of women.

(5) In the Southern Divisions the record of unemployment both for men and for women was distinctly better than in the Northern Divisions, but this divergence was relatively smaller in September than in March.

Last Unbroken Spell of Unemployment.—This analysis could only be based on the number of complete weeks of continuous unemployment, since in the absence of a record on the schedules for each day it was impossible to determine whether the unemployment in any week which contained less than six days of unemployment was continuous with that of an adjacent complete week or not.

(6) About 60 per cent. of the men and nearly 70 per cent. of the women had been continuously unemployed for not more than four complete weeks; 77 per cent. of the men and 84 per cent. of the women had been continuously unemployed for not more than 12 complete weeks. In coal mining just over 40 per cent. of the men had been continuously unemployed for not more than four complete weeks and 57 per cent. for not more than 12 weeks.

(7) The average number of days of continuous unemployment represented by complete weeks in the last spell were, for men, 63 in March and 55 in September (coal mining 148 and 109, respectively). These figures, of course, reflect the improvement in employment during the summer months as compared with the winter months covered by the March analysis. For women the averages were 38 in March and 36 in September.

(8) The effect of increasing age on the length of continuous unemployment is even greater than on the amount experienced in the whole year. In the age group 18 to 24 for men, the last spell of continuous unemployment in September had lasted on the average 7 complete weeks, as compared with 15 weeks in the age group 60 to 64. In coal mining the corresponding figures were 10 and 28, respectively. That is to say, not only does advancing age tend to increase the total amount of unemployment experienced, but there is also less prospect of securing employment and each spell of unemployment is therefore longer.

Number of Unbroken Spells of Unemployment in the Year.—Here again any week showing less than six days of unemployment was ignored in the analysis.

(9) Both in the March enquiry, and in that of September, spells of unemployment lasting from one to three complete weeks were found to be by far the most common. They represent just over 50 per cent. of the total number of spells, except in coal mining.

(10) In all industries taken together the men experienced on the average 2.4 spells in the year, each having an average duration of 8 weeks. In coal mining the corresponding figures were 1.7 spells, each with an average duration of 16 weeks. Women experienced on the average 2 spells of unemployment, of 6 weeks duration.

Days of Unemployment for which Benefit was paid.—It must be remembered that the section of the Live Register included in the sample consisted almost entirely of persons who had been, or would be, successful in their claims for benefit. In the case of men, benefit was paid for 93.4 per cent. of the days of unemployment, and in the case of women for 88.9 per cent.

These proportions vary, of course, according to the total amount of unemployment experienced, because, when spells of unemployment are short and infrequent, a larger proportion is occupied by waiting periods. Thus, in cases where the total amount of unemployment experienced in the year was less than 26 days, the proportion for which benefit was paid was as low as 48.1 per cent. in the case of men, and 49.2 per cent. in the case of women.

DETAILED TABLES.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN PREVIOUS TWELVE MONTHS.

Period.	MEN.							
	All Industries.				All except Coalmining.			
	18th March, 1929.		16th Sept., 1929.		18th March, 1929.		16th Sept., 1929.	
Less than 3 months	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	2,537	30.5	2,442	31.1	2,405	34.0	2,135	33.0
3 months-6 months	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	2,509	30.2	2,266	28.8	2,280	32.3	1,960	30.3
6 months-9 months	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	1,730	20.7	1,551	19.7	1,468	20.8	1,359	21.1
9 months, but less than 12 months	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	1,169	14.1	1,172	14.9	763	10.8	846	13.1
12 months or more	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	377	4.5	430	5.5	148	2.1	164	2.5
Totals ...	8,322	100.0	7,861	100.0	7,064	100.0	6,464	100.0

Period.	MEN.				WOMEN.			
	Coal Mining.		All Industries.		Coal Mining.		All Industries.	
	18th March, 1929.		16th Sept., 1929.		18th March, 1929.		16th Sept., 1929.	
Less than 3 months	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	132	10.5	307	22.0	923	51.7	912	50.5
3 months-6 months	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	229	18.2	306	21.9	556	31.3	551	30.5
6 months-9 months	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	262	20.9	192	13.7	203	11.3	218	12.0
9 months, but less than 12 months	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	406	32.2	326	23.4	94	5.3	105	5.8
12 months or more	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	229	18.2	266	19.0	8	0.4	21	1.2
Totals ...	1,258	100.0	1,397	100.0	1,784	100.0	1,807	100.0

The important feature of this Table is the improvement in coal-mining in the six months March to September, 1929, while industries other than coal have a slightly worse record. Thus in coalmining the percentage unemployed for less than three months improved from 10.5 to 22.0, while in industries other than coal the percentage fell from 34.0 to 33.0. On the other hand, in all industries, including coal, the Register at 16th September included a slightly higher proportion than at 18th March of men and women who had been unemployed for twelve months or more. Among men the percentage of such cases in coalmining rose from 13.2 to 19.0 and in other industries from 2.1 to 2.5 per cent. Among women the percentage unemployed for twelve months or more rose from 0.4 to 1.2. The net result is shown in the fact that while in March the average number of days of unemployment in the year for men in the sample was for coalmining 214 days, in September it had fallen to 185 days. For other industries the average for men in March was 127 days, and in September 132 days. For women, the average in March was 93 days, and in September 95 days. The decline in the case of women was due, no doubt, largely to continued depression in the textile trades.

Age Groups.—An analysis for men in various age groups in respect of 16th September is shown in the following Table:—

UNEMPLOYMENT IN PREVIOUS TWELVE MONTHS. Men only—All Industries by Age Groups. Inquiry of 16th September, 1929.

Period of Unemployment.	Ages 18-24.		Ages 25-34.		Ages 35-44.		Ages 45-54.		Ages 55-59.		Ages 60-64.	
	No.	% of Total.	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Days.												
0-75	622	39.7	610	32.7	486	31.0	421	26.4	146	20.3	93	16.9
76-150	450	28.8	557	29.9	429	27.4	441	27.6	191	26.7	134	24.4
151-225	280	17.8	356	19.0	319	20.4	336	21.0	163	22.8	118	21.5
226-300	149	9.5	217	11.6	202	12.9	235	14.7	117	16.4	109	19.8
301-311	37	2.4	47	2.5	48	3.1	57	3.6	34	4.7	27	4.9
312 ...	28	1.8	80	4.3	81	5.2	107	6.7	65	9.1	69	12.5
Totals	1,566	100.0	1,867	100.0	1,565	100.0	1,597	100.0	716	100.0	550	100.0
Average number of days of unemployment in the year.	117		133		139		150		183		182	

Coalmining. Inquiry of 16th September, 1929.

Period of Unemployment.	Ages 18-24.		Ages 25-34.		Ages 35-44.		Ages 45-54.		Ages 55-59.		Ages 60-64.	
	No.	% of Total.	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0-75 days	65	30.8	77	22.2	67	21.9	58	19.8	16	11.8	12	11.2
76-150	64	30.3	92	26.6	67	21.9	47	16.1	24	17.6	14	13.1
151-225	24	11.4	52	15.0	38	12.5	45	15.5	19	14.0	9	8.3
226-300	32	15.2	56	16.2	59	19.4	59	20.1	23	16.9	26	24.4
301-311	12	5.7	20	5.8	17	5.6	18	6.2	11	8.1	8	7.5
312	14	6.6	49	14.2	57	18.7	65	22.3	43	31.6	38	35.5
Totals	211	100.0	346	100.0	305	100.0	292	100.0	136	100.0	107	100.0
Average number of days of unemployment in the year.	144		174									

LAST SPELL OF CONTINUOUS UNEMPLOYMENT.
Numbers and percentages continuously* unemployed at 16th September for various periods

Number of complete weeks in the last unbroken spell of unemployment.	Men						Women.	
	Number.		Per cent. of Total.				Number.	Per cent. of Total.
	Total.	Coal-mining.	Total.	Coal-mining.	All except Coal.	All except Coal.		
Nil ...	2,834	401	2,433	36.0	28.7	37.7	715	39.6
1-4 ...	1,828	177	1,651	23.2	12.6	25.6	503	27.8
5-8 ...	892	117	775	11.3	8.4	12.0	196	10.8
9-12 ...	508	100	408	6.5	7.2	6.3	112	6.2
13-16 ...	399	68	331	5.1	4.9	5.1	90	5.0
17-20 ...	218	55	163	2.8	3.9	2.5	56	3.1
21-24 ...	185	40	145	2.4	2.9	2.2	38	2.1
25-28 ...	150	36	114	1.9	2.6	1.8	22	1.2
29-32 ...	94	27	67	1.2	1.9	1.0	13	0.7
33-36 ...	87	25	62	1.1	1.8	1.0	9	0.5
37-40 ...	75	24	51	0.9	1.7	0.8	6	0.3
41-44 ...	61	21	40	0.8	1.5	0.6	10	0.6
45-48 ...	60	26	34	0.8	1.9	0.5	10	0.6
49-51 ...	40	14	26	0.5	1.0	0.4	6	0.3
Not less than 52	430	266	164	5.5	19.0	2.5	21	1.2
0-52 ...	7,861	1,397	6,464	100.0	100.0	100.0	1,807	100.0

All Industries. Coal. All except Coal.

Average number of days in unbroken spell ... Men 55 days 109 days 43 days
Women 36 ,, ,, ,,

In the following Table, these figures are further analysed so as to show the numbers and percentages falling within various age groups. It will be seen that even in the age group 18-24, there is a small proportion who had been continuously unemployed for twelve months or more, but half the number found in this category were in the coalmining industry. The proportion of such cases rises steadily as age increases. At the other end of the scale there is a fairly steady decline, with advancing age, in the proportions continuously unemployed for less than 13 weeks, while between 13 and 28 weeks of continuous unemployment there is little variation on account of age.

Numbers and percentages continuously* unemployed at 16th September for various periods tabulated according to age groups.

Men only.

Numbers of complete weeks in last unbroken spell of unemployment.	NUMBERS.									
	Ages 18-24.		Ages 25-34.		Ages 35-44.		Ages 45-54.		Ages 55-59.	
	Total.	Coal Min-ing.	Total.	Coal Min-ing.	Total.	Coal Min-ing.	Total.	Coal Min-ing.	Total.	Coal Min-ing.
Nil ...	540	81	687	99	608	100	601	81	239	26
1-4 ...	434	39	469	51	354	35	356	40	118	5
5-8 ...	206	23	231	39	165	20	157	15	73	12
9-12 ...	121	15	121	27	86	19	104	20	38	9
13-16 ...	81	14	86	13	88	18	76	12	44	8
17-20 ...	39	7	40	13	35	9	50	14	28	7
21-24 ...	35	2	41	12	39	9	35	12	21	2
25-28 ...	23	3	30	11	28	8	27	5	27	4
29-32 ...	11	5	22	14	6	22	3	11	6	6
33-36 ...	10	2	9	20	6	11	1	15	3	2
37-40 ...	11	2	16	6	15	5	15	6	9	2
41-44 ...	9	2	6	4	13	5	16	8	10	2
45-48 ...	11	3	12	5	10	4	13	7	8	5
49-51 ...	7	1	5	3	9	4	7	3	5	2
52 ...	28	14	80	49	81	57	107	65	65	43
0-52 ...	1,566	211	1,867	346	1,565	305	1,597	292	716	136

Numbers and percentages continuously* unemployed at 16th September for various periods tabulated according to age groups (continued).

	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL SAMPLE.							
	Ages 45-54.		Ages 55-59.		Ages 60-64.		All Ages.	
	Total.	Coal Min-ing.	Total.	Coal Min-ing.	Total.	Coal Min-ing.	Total.	Coal Min-ing.
Nil ...	37.7	27.8	33.4	19.1	28.9	13.1	36.0	28.7
1-4 ...	22.3	13.7	16.5	3.7	17.6	6.5	23.2	12.6
5-8 ...	9.8	5.1	13.9	8.8	10.0	7.5	11.3	8.4
9-12 ...	6.5	6.9	5.3	6.6	6.9	9.4	6.5	7.2
13-16 ...	4.8	4.1	6.1	5.9	4.4	2.8	5.1	4.9
17-20 ...	3.1	4.8	3.9	5.1	4.7	4.7	2.8	3.9
21-24 ...	2.2	4.1	2.9	1.5	2.6	2.8	2.4	2.9
25-28 ...	1.7	1.7	3.8	2.9	2.7	4.7	1.9	2.6
29-32 ...	1.4	1.0	1.5	4.4	2.6	3.7	1.2	1.9
33-36 ...	0.7	0.3	2.1	2.2	1.8	3.7	1.1	1.8
37-40 ...	0.9	2.1	1.3	1.5	1.6	2.8	0.9	1.7
41-44 ...	1.0	2.7	1.4	1.5	1.3	—	0.8	1.5
45-48 ...	0.8	2.4	1.1	3.7	1.1	1.9	0.8	1.9
49-51 ...	0.4	1.0	0.7	1.5	1.3	0.9	0.5	1.0
52 ...	6.7	22.3	9.1	31.6	12.5	35.5	5.5	19.0
0-52 ...	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

SEPARATE SPELLS OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

Number of unbroken spells of unemployment of various lengths (but not less than one week) in the 12 months before 16th September, 1929.

Number of Complete Weeks* in unbroken spell.	Number of Spells.			
	Men.			Women.
	Total.	Coal Mining.	All except Coal Mining.	
Nil ...	871	218	653	294
1-3 ...	9,221	674	8,547	1,874
4-6 ...	2,826	228	2,598	528
7-9 ...	1,667	194	1,473	266
10-12 ...	998	147	851	182
13-15 ...	776	107	669	157
16-18 ...	524	90	434	91
19-21 ...	366	86	280	68
22-24 ...	355	72	283	46
25-27 ...	279	65	214	33
28-30 ...	165	36	129	15
31-33 ...	142	47	95	20
34-36 ...	120	43	77	9
37-39 ...	124	47	77	5
40-42 ...	76	28	48	11
43-45 ...	86	30	56	14
46-48 ...	68	29	39	4
49-52 ...	485	285	200	28
Total number of spells	19,129	2,426	16,703	3,645
Average number per person	2.4	1.7	2.6	2.0

All Coal All other Industries. Mining. Industries.

Average duration of each spell in complete weeks { Men 8 weeks 16 weeks 7 weeks
Women 6 weeks

RELATION OF DAYS OF UNEMPLOYMENT TO DAYS ON BENEFIT.

Proportion of total days of unemployment for which benefit was paid analysed according to various amounts of unemployment in the year.

	NUMBERS.				PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL SAMPLE.					
	Ages 60-64.		All Ages.		Ages 18-24.		Ages 25-34.		Ages 35-44.	
	Total.	Coal Min-ing.	Total.	Coal Min-ing.	Total.	Coal Min-ing.	Total.	Coal Min-ing.	Total.	Coal Min-ing.
Nil ...	159	14	2,834	401	34.5	38.4	36.8	28.6	38.9	32.8
1-4 ...	97	7	1,828	177	27.7	18.5	25.1	14.7	22.6	11.5
5-8 ...	55	8	892	117	13.2	10.9	12.4	11.3	10.5	6.5
9-12 ...	38	10	508	100	7.7	7.1	6.5	7.8	5.5	6.2
13-16 ...	24	3	399	68	5.2	6.6	4.6	3.8	5.6	5.9
17-20 ...	26	5	218	55	2.5	3.3	2.1	3.8	2.2	3.0
21-24 ...	14	3	185	40	2.2	0.9	2.2	3.5	2.5	3.0
25-28 ...	15	5	150	36	1.5	1.4	1.6	3.2	1.8	2.6
29-32 ...	10	4	94	27	0.7	1.4	1.2	1.4	0.9	2.0
33-36 ...	14	4	87	25	0.6	1.0	1.1	2.6	1.3	2.0
37-40 ...	9	3	75	24	0.7	1.0	0.9	1.7	1.0	1.6
41-44 ...	7	2	61	21	0.6	1.0	0.3	1.1	0.8	1.6
45-48 ...	2	60	26	0.7	1.4	0.6	1.4	0.6	1.3	1.3
49-51 ...	7	1	40	14	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.9	0.6	1.3
52 ...	69	38	430	266	1.8	6.6	4.3	14.2	5.2	18.7
0-52 ...	550	107	7,861	1,397	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Any week which included less than six days' unemployment was excluded from the count.

Range of Days of Unemployment.	Men.				Women.			
	All Industries.				Total Days of Unemployment.		Total Days for which benefit was paid.	
	Total Days of Unemployment.	Total Days for which benefit was paid.	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Nil ...	10,016	4,819	48.1	3,938	1,938	49.2	...	...
1-25 ...	30,656	22,784	74.3	10,777	7,769	72.1	...	...
26-50 ...	52,309	43,550	82.9	18,526	15,476	83.5	...	...
51-75 ...	71,474	62,657	87.7	21,601	19,031	88.1	...	...
101-125 ...	81,290	73,604	90.5	19,520	17,588	90.1	...	...
126-150 ...	92,707	85,596	92.3	17,080	15,702	91.9	...	...
151-175 ...	97,593	91,353	93.6	17,869	16,348	91.5	...	...
176-200 ...	99,026	93,332	94.2	14,787	13,830	93.5	...	...
201-225 ...	94,491	90,593	95.9	9,151	8,516	93.0	...	...
226-250 ...	88,852	85,357	96.1	10,209	9,497	93.0	...	...
251-275 ...	90,931	88,426	97.2	8,428	7,981	94.7	...	...
276-300 ...	89,661	87,631	97.7	8,655	8,326	96.1	...	...
301-311 ...	76,801	74,533	97.1	4,620	4,401	95.2	...	...
312 ...	134,160	132,761	98.9	6,552	6,265	95.6	...	...
Total	1,109,967	1,036,796	93.4	171,723	152,666	88.9	...	...

* Any week which included less than six days' unemployment was excluded from the count.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFIT: 30 CONTRIBUTIONS QUALIFICATION.

RESULTS OF FURTHER SAMPLE INQUIRY.

In the issue of this GAZETTE for March, 1929 (page 81), the results were given of a sample analysis made on 28th January, 1929, of the persons aged 18 and over with claims authorised for benefit at that date, with reference to the application of the first statutory condition, which requires the payment of 30 contributions during the previous two years.

A further analysis on the basis of a ten per cent. sample was made in respect of 14th October, 1929. At that date there were on the registers of Employment Exchanges approximately 940,250 persons aged 18 to 64 with claims authorised for benefit. The results of the sample analysis showed that, of these, about 130,000 had paid less than 30 contributions in the previous two years, as compared with a total with authorised claims of 1,092,000 on 28th January, 1929, of whom about 120,000 did not fulfil the 30 contributions rule. The following Tables give detailed figures, based on the results of the sample analysis, for the seven administrative divisions of Great Britain, and for certain industries with large numbers of unemployed. The figures relate to insured persons aged 18 to 64 inclusive.

ANALYSIS BY DIVISIONS.

Division.	Total number of claims, authorised for benefit, current on 14th October, 1929.		Estimated number of cases in which less than 30 contributions had been paid in the previous two years.	
	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.
London & South-Eastern	104,810	14,930	5,110	350
South-Western	45,760	6,610	4,170	100
Midlands	101,300	27,760	14,200	1,680
North-Eastern	174,210	32,800	38,560	1,340
North-Western	163,450	62,570	18,760	5,020
Scotland	85,380	16,910	13,540	1,150
Wales	94,090	3,670	25,620	180
Total: Great Britain	775,000	165,250	119,960	9,820

THE NEW PENSIONS ACT.

The Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act, 1929, which recently became law, came into operation on 2nd January, 1930.

The Act brings in two large groups of new pensioners. The first group consists of wives of men who reached the age of 70 before 2nd January, 1928, and are entitled to full pensions under the Old Age Pensions Acts, of 1908 to 1924, free from the conditions as to means imposed by those Acts, by virtue of their insurance. The wives of these men have hitherto had to wait until they also reached the age of 70 before being given old age pensions in right of their husbands' insurance. Under the new Act, from 2nd January, 1930, these women are to be entitled to old age pensions between the ages of 65 and 70. Claims under this heading should be made on Form C.P.1, which can be obtained at any Post Office. Those who have already reached the age of 65 should submit claims as soon as possible.

The second group of new pensioners are widows of men who died (or attained the age of 70) before 4th January, 1926. They are to receive widows' pensions at the age of 55. The essential condition for the award of these pensions is that the claimant's husband must have been of the insurable class at some time within the three years before his death or his 70th birthday. The precise terms of this and other conditions are set out in an explanatory leaflet (W.P.5), which can also be had on application at any Post Office. For qualified widows who will have reached the age of 60 before 1st January, 1931, the new pensions are to begin from 2nd July, 1930, or the date of attaining the age of 60, whichever is the later; in all other cases the pension will begin from 1st January, 1931, or the date of attaining age 55, whichever is the later. Widows who will be 60 years of age or over on 1st July, 1930, and consider, after reading the explanatory leaflet, that they are eligible for pensions, are advised to send in claims as early as possible. The necessary form (W.P. 3) can be obtained at any Post Office.

The leaflet now available at Post Offices explaining the new pensions also gives full particulars, with appropriate instructions to persons affected, of the changes made by the Act in existing conditions. Among these it is to be noted that the Act provides for some extension of the period of payment of widows' pensions awarded under the original Act to widows whose husbands died before 4th January, 1926; modifies the "average number of contributions" test for widows' and old age pensions where the insured person had ten years' unbroken insurance up to the age of 60; repeals the provision of the original scheme whereby children's allowances and orphans' pensions were affected by awards under the Workmen's Compensation Acts; and amends the existing conditions relating to recipients of Service Dependents' Pensions in respect of stepsons. Provision is also made to enable persons who go to any part of the Empire to continue receiving their pensions or to maintain their insurance for pensions purposes.

The right to become voluntary contributors for all health insurance and pensions benefits is now given (subject to application within a prescribed time) to persons in excepted employments who are compulsorily insured for some or all pensions. A memorandum dealing with voluntary insurance, as extended by the new Act, will be supplied on application to the Ministry of Health, Whitehall, London, S.W.1.

DEATHS OF SEAMEN IN 1928.

A RETURN* which has recently been issued by the Board of Trade shows the number of deaths, during 1928, among the crews of vessels registered under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894.

The number of deaths among the crews of steam and motor vessels (other than fishing vessels) registered in the United Kingdom under Part I of the Merchant Shipping Act in the year 1928 was 1,205, distributed as shown in the following Table. The figures for 1927 are also given for comparison.

Cause.	Deaths at Sea.		Deaths in River or Harbour.		Total.	
	1928.	1927.	1928.	1927.	1928.	1927.
Casualty to Vessel ...	167	74	23	33	190	107
Other Accidents:—						
On Board ...	95	108	101	98	196	206
Ashore ...	106	106	106	125	106	125
Disease ...	217	216	434	459	651	675
Homicide and Suicide ...	41	59	21	22	62	81
Total (including Lascars)	520	457	685	737	1,205	1,194
Lascars (included above) ...	94	112	142	137	236	249

Among crews of sailing vessels (other than fishing vessels) the deaths totalled 16, including 7 due to casualties to vessels, 7 due to other accidents, and 2 due to disease.

It will be seen that the number of deaths among seamen during 1928 caused by casualties to vessels was greater, but the numbers due to disease, and to homicide and suicide, were smaller, than in 1927; both groups showed a reduction of 14 per cent. compared with the yearly average for the ten years since the war.

The number of persons forming the first crews of vessels actually employed during the year was approximately 1,600 in sailing vessels and 238,100 in steam and motor vessels; of those in steam and motor

vessels 162,700 were British subjects, 18,900 foreigners, and 56,500 Lascars (British subjects and foreigners).

Disease was more important than accidents as a cause of death among seamen. It was especially prominent as a cause of death among Lascars, about three-quarters of the deaths of Lascars being due to this cause; of these about 25 per cent. were caused by pneumonia and 14 per cent. by tuberculosis. Among seamen other than Lascars, almost exactly half the deaths were due to disease, the principal fatal diseases being pneumonia (11 per cent. of all fatal diseases), heart disease (10 per cent.) and tuberculosis (6 per cent.).

The principal causes of death due to injury were: missing vessels, 15 per cent.; foundering, 12 per cent.; falling overboard from or killed on decks of vessels, 9 per cent.; suicide or supposed suicide 9 per cent.; drowning in dock, etc., ashore, 8 per cent.; falling down hatchways, etc., 8 per cent.

Deaths among the crews of fishing vessels registered under Part IV of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, totalled 127. Of these, 50 were due to casualties to vessels, 47 to other accidents, and 30 to disease.

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

A STATISTICAL SUMMARY* of the output, and of the costs of production, proceeds and profits of the coal-mining industry for the quarter ended 30th September, 1929,† prepared by the Mines Department and based partly upon returns made for the purpose of wages ascertainment for certain districts and partly upon other returns supplied by individual colliery owners, shows that at undertakings which produced 60,497,604 tons of saleable coal, or about 97 per cent. of the total quantity raised in the quarter, 56,205,905 tons were disposable commercially.

The net costs, after deducting the proceeds of miners' coal, amounted to £38,639,048, equivalent to 13s. 8.99d. per ton. The proceeds of commercial disposals amounted to £38,587,740, equivalent to 13s. 8.77d. per ton. There was thus a debit balance of £51,308, or 0.22d. per ton. An analysis by districts shows that there were credit balances, ranging from 1.82d. to 6.04d. per ton, in Northumberland, Durham, Yorkshire, North Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, and South Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Cannock Chase and Warwickshire; and debit balances, ranging from 2.45d. to 1s. 1.96d. per ton, in the other districts.

The number of workpeople employed was 894,390, and the number of man-shifts worked was 56,548,782. The average output per man-shift worked was 21.40 cwt., the average for the districts ranging from 17.10 cwt. in Lancashire, Cheshire and North Staffordshire, to 24.16 cwt. in North Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. The average earnings per man-shift worked were 9s. 2.61d., ranging from 7s. 5.31d. in Northumberland to 10s. 4.39d. in North Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.

Information as to the value of allowances in kind is also given in the return, based, so far as Northumberland and Durham are concerned, on returns furnished for the purpose of the wages ascertainment, and, for other districts, on information supplied by the Mining Association of Great Britain. For Great Britain as a whole the average value of such allowances was 4.37d. per shift, the amounts ranging from 0.39d. in Scotland to 11.21d. in Northumberland and 1s. 0.13d. in Durham.

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

Quarter ended	Proportion of Industry covered.	Amount of Saleable Coal raised.	Credit (+) or Debt (-) balance per ton.‡	No. of Work-people employed.	Output per man-shift worked.	Earnings per man-shift worked.§
1924.	Per cent.	Tons.	s. d.		Cwts.	s. d.
31st Mar.	94	67,047,657	+ 2 9.63	1,111,280	17.79	10 2.82
30th June	93	61,552,868	+ 1 0.34	1,107,457	17.48	10 11.17
30th Sept.	92	59,163,976	+ 0 0.26	1,082,340	17.33	10 10.24
31st Dec.	94	62,428,185	+ 0 7.61	1,078,758	17.74	10 7.04
1925.						
31st Mar.	94	62,458,898	+ 0 6.13	1,074,079	17.98	10 7.58
30th June	95	54,982,191	- 0 11.81	1,032,216	17.85	10 6.77
30th Sept.	98	54,976,337	- 0 2.82‡	1,013,757	17.88	10 4.85
31st Dec.	98	62,662,455	+ 1 6.70‡	1,041,997	18.31	10 5.14
1926.						
31st Mar.	99	66,071,166	+ 1 4.99‡	1,074,395	18.46	10 4.79
1927.						
31st Mar.	96	63,329,641	+ 1 2.41	969,943	20.66	10 7.12
30th June	96	58,880,719	- 1 0.65	981,393	20.47	10 2.84
30th Sept.	96	58,585,249	- 1 2.00	946,487	20.47	9 9.53
31st Dec.	96	60,350,401	- 1 0.43	945,480	20.82	9 7.38
1928.						
31st Mar.	97	61,833,281	- 0 9.34	921,448	21.24	9 5.02
30th June	97	55,034,291	- 1 5.02	890,863	20.98	9 3.09
30th Sept.	96	53,552,053	- 1 4.11	859,259	21.13	9 3.25
31st Dec.	96	59,099,369	- 0 2.87	850,770	21.80	9 2.84
1929.						
31st Mar.	97	63,851,058	+ 0 9.15	880,941	22.13	9 2.69
30th June	96	59,422,734	- 0 3.43	894,282‡	21.45	9 2.59
30th Sept.	97	60,497,604	- 0 0.22	894,390	21.40	9 2.61

* Cmd. 3460. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net.
 † In the case of South Wales and Monmouthshire the period covered is the quarter ended 31st Oct., 1929.
 ‡ Calculated on the quantity of coal disposable commercially.
 § Excluding the value of allowances in kind.
 ¶ After crediting subvention.
 †† Revised figure.

POOR-LAW RELIEF IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Third Quarter of Year 1929.
ENGLAND AND WALES.

A STATEMENT* has been issued by the Ministry of Health showing the number of persons in receipt of poor-law relief in England and Wales in the quarter ending in September, 1929, with some particulars as to the number of "unemployed" persons in receipt of relief.

The total number of persons in receipt of poor-law relief (domiciliary and institutional) in England and Wales at the end of September, 1929, was 1,030,000, equivalent to 261 per 10,000 of the estimated population. This compares with 1,033,000 at the end of June, 1929; with 1,072,000 in September, 1928; and 611,000 in September, 1913.

These totals include large numbers who would ordinarily be employed; nearly all the relief given to these persons is domiciliary. The total number of persons in receipt of domiciliary relief on the last Saturday in September, 1929, was 817,000, as compared with 820,000 at the end of June, 1929, a decrease of 3,000, or 0.4 per cent. The corresponding total at the end of September, 1928, was 856,000.

The following Table gives comparative figures for persons in receipt of domiciliary relief in England and Wales for the months of May and August, 1929, and of August, 1928; the figures represent averages of the numbers in receipt of relief on each Saturday of the respective months:—

Classes of persons in receipt of domiciliary relief.†	England and Wales.	
	Numbers.	Numbers per 10,000 of the estimated population.
1. (a)—Unemployed persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts ...	55,000	14
(b)—Wives and dependent children of above persons ...	148,000	38
2. Unemployed persons not insured, but registered at an Employment Exchange, and their dependants ...	36,000	9
3. Other persons ordinarily engaged in some regular occupation, and their dependants...	108,000	27
4. Totals of above three classes:—		
August, 1929 ...	347,000	88
May, 1929 ...	358,000	91
August, 1928 ...	385,000	98
5. All other persons in receipt of domiciliary relief:—		
August, 1929 ...	477,000	121
May, 1929 ...	477,000	121
August, 1928 ...	469,000	119
6. Totals (all persons in receipt of domiciliary relief):—		
August, 1929 ...	824,000	209
May, 1929 ...	835,000	212
August, 1928 ...	854,000	217

It will be seen that the average number of persons ordinarily engaged in some regular occupation who were in receipt of domiciliary relief in August, 1929 (including dependants), was 347,000, of whom 89,000 were men, 81,000 women, and 177,000 children. The total included 239,000 persons who were registered at Employment Exchanges for employment, or were dependent upon persons so registered.

SCOTLAND.

Statistics of persons in receipt of outdoor relief compiled on a similar basis to those for England and Wales are now available in respect of Scotland; but they relate only to the numbers in receipt of relief on the 15th of the month, and do not give averages for the month as in the case of England and Wales.

The figures for the third quarter of 1929 are given in the following Table. Lunatics, mental defectives, vagrants, and persons in receipt of outdoor medical relief only are excluded from the figures.

Persons in receipt of Outdoor relief in Scotland.

Classes of persons in receipt of outdoor relief.	15th July, 1929.	15th August, 1929.	15th September, 1929.
1. (a) Unemployed persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts ...	17,789	18,073	17,810
(b)—Wives and dependent children of above persons ...	43,312	44,523	43,363
(a) Unemployed persons not insured but registered at Employment Exchanges ...	3,073	3,065	3,096
(b) Wives and dependent children of above persons ...	4,192	4,178	4,019
3. (a) Other unemployed persons ordinarily engaged in some regular occupation ...	1,093	1,119	1,155
(b) Wives and dependent children of above persons ...	1,375	1,332	1,365
4. All other persons in receipt of outdoor relief and their dependants ...	103,463	102,356	102,481
Totals ...	174,297	174,646	173,289

* H.M. Stationery Office; price 4d. net.
 † Excluding lunatics in county and borough asylums, persons in receipt of domiciliary medical relief only, and casuals, totalling to approximately 126,600.
 ‡ Excluding persons in receipt of domiciliary medical relief only.

CONFERENCE BETWEEN TRADES UNION CONGRESS GENERAL COUNCIL AND EMPLOYERS' ORGANISATIONS.

The issue of this GAZETTE for August, 1929, contained an account of the first meeting of the joint committee set up by the National Confederation of Employers' Organisations and the Federation of British Industries (representing the organised employers) and the Trades Union Congress General Council (representing the organised workers) to examine the best methods for consultation and co-operation between the three organisations. The meeting was held on 24th July, and adjourned after appointing a joint sub-committee "to allow of a further and more detailed examination of the matter."

The joint sub-committee met on 19th November and 5th December, and prepared a unanimous report containing certain proposals. These were presented to the joint committee which had appointed the sub-committee, and, after being adopted by them, were presented to the full Conference on 19th December.

The Conference unanimously adopted the proposals, on the motion of Mr. A. J. Cook (Trades Union Congress), seconded by Mr. Fred Holroyd (Confederation of Employers' Organisations) and Mr. J. Macle hose (Federation of British Industries). The proposals were as follows:—

(i) The Trades Union Congress (T.U.C.), Confederation, or Federation of British Industries (F.B.I.), can propose as subjects for discussion any matter within their respective provinces which is of common interest to British industry, it being understood that these discussions will not invade the provinces or trespass upon the functions of the individual constituents of the T.U.C., Confederation, or F.B.I.

(ii) Having regard to the separate spheres and functions of the Confederation and the F.B.I., and the necessity for the T.U.C. knowing which of these two organisations will be responsible for the employers' side of any question proposed for discussion, the Confederation and the F.B.I. will set up an Allocation Committee, whose sole function will be to say whether any given subject proposed by the T.U.C., or which the Confederation or F.B.I. proposes to raise with the T.U.C., is one which concerns the responsibility of the Confederation or the F.B.I., or both.

(iii) The question of allocation having been settled, the future procedure will be carried through direct between the T.U.C., on the one hand, and the Confederation or F.B.I., or both, on the other hand, without further reference to the Allocation Committee.

(iv) When the T.U.C., on the one hand, or the Confederation or F.B.I. (or both), on the other hand, accept a subject for discussion, the organisation so accepting shall take up with the organisation which proposed that subject the question of the size of the Committee for the purpose and the other arrangements of procedure for its discussion.

(v) If the T.U.C., on the one hand, or the Confederation or F.B.I., on the other hand, considers itself unable to discuss a subject, it is understood that the organisation declining will explain its reasons therefor to the organisation proposing.

(vi) All discussions at meetings, and correspondence arising out of the procedure proposed, shall, unless otherwise mutually agreed, be confidential to the T.U.C., Confederation, and F.B.I.; and when a subject proposed for discussion has been accepted and discussed, no action shall be taken on any conclusions reached until these conclusions have been specifically approved by the organisations concerned.

(vii) These proposals provide the practical machinery for the selection of subjects and their discussion, but the Joint Committee considers that, for the purpose of examining these proposals, they should be accompanied by way of illustration by some indication of the types of subjects in regard to which the machinery could operate; and the following list has been drawn up by the Joint Committee for that purpose:—

1. Unemployment.
2. Industry and Finance.—MacMillan Committee.
3. Taxation of Industry:—
 - (a) General effect of taxation on industry.
 - (b) Inadequate allowances for obsolescence and depreciation, taxation of wasting assets, taxation of moneys put to reserve, and similar points.
4. Social Services.—Co-ordination.
5. Education and Industry.—"Shaftesbury" and "Elgin" Councils.
6. Delegated Powers of Government Departments.—Donoughmore Committee.
7. Inter-Empire Trade.—Imperial Conference and Imperial Economic Conference.
8. International Trade:—
 - (a) Tariff Truce Proposals;
 - (b) Proposals for multilateral customs agreements;
 - (c) Most favoured nations treatment;
 - (d) Import and Export Restrictions Convention, and similar problems.
9. Trade facilities.
10. Insurance of export credits.
11. General international labour questions.
12. Industrial and commercial statistics.

These proposals were approved by the Trades Union Congress General Council on 18th December, by the Grand Council of the Federation of British Industries on 8th January, and by the Council of the Confederation of Employers' Organisations on 15th January.

WAGES AND HOURS IN THE METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRIES IN GERMANY.

The German Federal Statistical Office have published in their official journal* the general results of the inquiry in October, 1928, into wages and hours of labour in the metal working and engineering industry, and have included in their Report the results of a similar inquiry in January, 1929, in the ship yards of North Germany.

The inquiry covered a total of 281,919 workers employed by 411 undertakings in 23 collective agreement districts, i.e., rather more than one-fifth (21.3 per cent.) of all the workers (excluding juveniles) employed in the industry, or more than two-fifths (42.3 per cent.), if only the areas covered by the inquiry are considered. The inquiry was limited to male workers of 21 years and over, and female workers 18 years of age and over. Nearly half (48.4 per cent.) of the workers were skilled workmen, rather more than one-fifth (21.7 per cent.) were semi-skilled workmen, 13.8 per cent. were unskilled workmen and 16.1 per cent. were women. (For definitions of "skilled workmen," etc., see this GAZETTE for July, 1929, page 240.) The predominant method of wage payment was the piece-work system, only 37.6 per cent. of the workers covered being paid at time-rates, the majority of whom (72.7 per cent.) were unskilled workmen.

The following Table shows, for the four classes of workpeople in all branches of the industry covered by the inquiry, the percentage each bears to the total, the average hourly earnings (exclusive of payment for overtime proper and of family allowances) and the average agreed hourly minimum rate:—

Class of Worker.	Time-workers.			Piece-workers.		
	Per-centage of all workers covered.	Average hourly earnings.	Average agreed hourly rate.	Per-centage of all workers covered.	Average hourly earnings.	Average agreed hourly rate.
Skilled workmen ...	15.4	Rpf.† 107.4	Rpf.† 86.1	33.0	Rpf.† 117.8	Rpf.† 99.0
Semi-skilled workmen ...	7.6	87.7	75.5	14.1	107.9	87.4
Unskilled workmen ...	10.0	79.1	71.9	3.8	95.7	84.3
Women ...	4.6	55.7	50.7	11.5	66.7	60.7

The excess of earnings over agreed rates was most marked among the skilled and semi-skilled workmen, so that, while, for example, the difference between the agreed rates of skilled and unskilled men on time-work was only 20 per cent., the difference between their hourly earnings was 36 per cent. This excess, however, varied very much between one agreement area and another, according to the method of fixing the piece-rates.

The average weekly earnings, including payments for overtime and family allowances, amounted, in October, 1928, to the following:—

Class of Worker.	Average Weekly Earnings.	
	Time-workers.	Piece-workers.
Skilled workmen ...	R. Marks.† 53.61	R. Marks.† 56.16
Semi-skilled workmen ...	43.74	51.21
Unskilled workmen ...	39.19	45.34
Women ...	25.58	30.78

The following Table shows the average actual weekly hours of work, inclusive of extended hours and overtime proper, and taking into account time lost through illness, short-time, etc.; the extended hours and overtime† are also shown separately:—

Class of Worker.	Average actual hours of work.			
	Inclusive of extended hours and overtime.		Extended hours and overtime only.	
	Time-work.	Piece-work.	Time-work.	Piece-work.
Skilled workmen ...	49½	47½	2	1
Semi-skilled workmen ...	49	47	1½	1
Unskilled workmen ...	48½	47	1½	1
Women ...	45½	46	1½	2

The 48-hour week was most generally exceeded by workmen on time-work, of whom 11.3 per cent. worked over 48 up to 50 hours a week, 13.9 per cent. over 50 to 52 hours a week, and 11.5 per cent. over 52 up to 54 hours a week.

The following Table gives a percentage analysis of all the workers covered by the inquiry according to the length of their actual working week:—

* *Wirtschaft und Statistik*, No. 24, 1929. Earlier published results of the inquiry relating to Berlin and Rhineland-Westphalia were summarised in this GAZETTE, July, 1929, page 240; and December, 1929, page 443.
† 100 Reichspfennigs = 1 Reichsmark = 11.8d. approximately.
‡ "Extended hours" are regular hours beyond 48 a week worked by agreement between employers and employed; "overtime" is time worked beyond the regular hours. A higher rate is usually paid for both extended hours and overtime in the metal and engineering industry.

Class of Worker.	Percentage number of workers with an actual working week in October, 1928, of					
	Less than 48 hours.		48 hours.		More than 48 hours.	
	Time-work.	Piece-work.	Time-work.	Piece-work.	Time-work.	Piece-work.
Skilled workmen ...	24.0	31.0	27.1	27.0	48.9	42.0
Semi-skilled workmen ...	22.2	35.9	23.1	23.7	54.7	40.4
Unskilled workmen ...	22.4	31.2	26.9	30.6	50.7	38.2
Women ...	40.5	45.6	30.0	33.0	29.5	21.4
All workers ...	31.2		27.2		41.6	

An investigation into the pre-war wages and hours in the industry has been made, and, subject to a number of reservations, the following Table gives the purchasing power of weekly earnings (real wages) in October, 1928, as a percentage of the pre-war weekly earnings, both before and after allowance is made for wage tax and social insurance contributions. The figures must be regarded as approximations only.

Class of Worker.	Average real wages in October, 1928 (as compared with the average real wages in 1913-14 = 100).			
	Before		After	
	Time-work.	Piece-work.	Time-work.	Piece-work.
Skilled workmen ...	107	92	103	87
Semi-skilled workmen ...	107	97	102	93
Unskilled workmen ...	106	100	102	95

Subject to similar reservations, the Report also states that, since 1913-14, the actual working hours of male workers in the industry have been reduced on the average by 6½ hours a week for time-workers and by 8 hours a week for piece-workers.

Tables are given in the Report showing the distribution of gross weekly wages according to the hours worked by each class of worker covered by the inquiry. Separate figures of agreed rates, earnings, etc., are also given in tabulation and by diagram for each collective agreement area.

The following Table is extracted from a more extensive tabulation, which, for considerations of space, cannot be reproduced here:—

Branch of Industry and Class of Worker.	Average weekly hours worked including overtime.	Average weekly earnings including payment for overtime and family allowances.	Average hourly earnings excluding payment for overtime and family allowances.	Average agreed hourly minimum rate.
Engines and Machinery.				
Skilled workmen ... time	49	52.75	105.6	83.5
Skilled workmen ... piece	47½	56.00	116.8	93.3
Unskilled workmen ... time	48½	37.94	76.6	67.6
Unskilled workmen ... piece	47½	45.02	92.7	79.1
Women ... time	46	23.57	51.1	44.3
Women ... piece	49½	29.82	65.5	57.2
Boilers, Heating Apparatus, etc.				
Skilled workmen ... time	50	55.61	109.3	89.8
Skilled workmen ... piece	46½	57.20	121.3	103.4
Unskilled workmen ... time	49	39.11	78.5	72.4
Unskilled workmen ... piece	48½	44.89	91.9	77.6
Shipbuilding.				
Skilled workmen ... time	50½	56.31	108.7	85.8
Skilled workmen ... piece	47½	53.09	110.3	101.0
Unskilled workmen ... time	47½	37.83	78.8	72.2
Unskilled workmen ... piece	43½	36.40	81.8	82.4
Vehicles and Aircraft.				
Skilled workmen ... time	47	53.55	112.5	84.5
Skilled workmen ... piece	46	58.86	126.8	96.1
Unskilled workmen ... time	48	38.70	79.6	69.6
Unskilled workmen ... piece	45	45.17	93.7	79.3
Women ... time	43	24.92	57.5	49.0
Women ... piece	43½	31.47	72.6	55.3
Railway Rolling Stock.				
Skilled workmen ... time	49	52.28	104.6	82.9
Skilled workmen ... piece	47½	54.97	115.4	96.5
Unskilled workmen ... time	49½	37.36	74.3	67.8
Unskilled workmen ... piece	47	40.18	84.5	75.5
Electrical Apparatus.				
Skilled workmen ... time	49½	56.76	113.2	96.2
Skilled workmen ... piece	47½	59.23	124.0	109.8
Unskilled workmen ... time	49	40.31	81.5	77.8
Unskilled workmen ... piece	47½	45.31	95.3	89.6
Women ... time	45½	27.14	59.3	55.2
Women ... piece	46½	30.96	66.8	63.0
Scientific and Optical Instruments.				
Skilled workmen ... time	48½	55.06	112.4	82.3
Skilled workmen ... piece	47½	60.60	126.2	102.3
Unskilled workmen ... time	49	41.50	83.6	69.4
Unskilled workmen ... piece	47½	49.69	104.3	93.2
Women ... time	47	26.22	55.6	50.1
Women ... piece	45½	32.84	71.8	59.1

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE IN GERMANY: ACT TO INCREASE CONTRIBUTIONS.

By an Act of 27th December, 1929, with effect from 1st January, 1930, to 30th June, 1930, the rate of contribution payable under the German Employment Exchanges and Unemployment Insurance Act in the amended text of 12th October, 1929, is to be uniformly increased from 3 to 3½ per cent. of the worker's wage, half paid by the employer, and half by the worker.

As already indicated in the summary of the Amending Act of 12th October, 1929, contained in the last issue of this GAZETTE, the German Government's original proposal for an increase in the contribution rate was withdrawn from the general reform scheme in order to facilitate the adoption of the less controversial clauses; and accordingly, apart from its indebtedness to the Reich, amounting to some 265 million marks at June, 1929, the Federal Employment Exchanges and Unemployment Insurance Board was left to operate with an estimated annual deficit of 181 million marks. The present measure, which has been adopted as one of the more immediate items in the Government's programme for the general reform of the national finances, represents, however, only a partial restoration of the solvency of the unemployment insurance scheme, as it is estimated that the additional revenue which will result from the increased contribution rate will amount to only about 33 million marks up to the end of March next, or, on the basis of the total revenue from contributions in 1928 at the 3 per cent. rate, to some 70 million marks up to 30th June, 1930. In view, therefore, of the fact that, to meet the expenditure arising from the heavy unemployment during the present winter, further considerable loans from the Reich will be necessary, the Reichsrat, in agreeing to the present measure, passed the following resolution: "The increase in the contribution rate decided upon by the Reichstag is, even apart from the fact that it is to be operative only for a limited period, inadequate to secure the balancing of income and expenditure in the budget of the Federal Employment Exchanges and Unemployment Insurance Board. Accordingly, the provision of the benefits provided for under the Act will necessitate, particularly during the forthcoming winter months, the grant of further extensive loans by the Reich. The Reichsrat accordingly expresses the desire: (1) that the Federal Government will, at the earliest possible moment, take such steps as may be necessary to secure and maintain the complete balancing of expenditure and revenue; (2) that, until effect is given to such measures, steps shall be taken to ensure the discharge by the Federal Board of its financial obligations; and (3) that the Committees of the Reichsrat shall, in pursuance of Article 67 of the Federal Constitution, be kept continuously informed of all discussions relating to the introduction of the necessary measures. The Reichsrat will convene at the end of January a further session of its competent Committees for the purpose of again considering the position."

WAGES AND HOURS MOVEMENTS OVERSEAS.

GERMANY.

Boot and Shoe Industry.—Upon the expiry at 31st October, 1929, of the national wage agreement concluded in April, 1928, for the boot and shoe industry, demands were advanced by the workers for an increase of 20 per cent. in the tariff rates hitherto in operation. The rejection of the workers' demands by the employers resulted in a stoppage of work in a number of undertakings, and, as direct negotiations at the Federal Ministry of Labour failed to secure agreement between the parties, conciliation proceedings were instituted and an award issued, which was subsequently declared invalid on a technical point. Both employers and workers therefore undertook to be bound in advance by a new award to be pronounced and to become operative forthwith. The new award provided that the minimum hourly rate of male timeworkers of 21 years and over in the highest tariff area should be increased from 87 pfennigs to 92 pfennigs as from 2nd December, 1929, and further increased to 95 pfennigs as from 31st March, 1930, all other wage rates being adjusted in accordance with the provisions of the main agreement. The new agreement constituted by virtue of the binding award is to be operative until 31st March, 1931.

NORWAY.

Dockers.—A dispute, which at one time threatened to cause a stoppage of work in all important Norwegian ports, has been terminated by the acceptance by the dock workers of an agreement, which differs only slightly from that denounced by them in October last. Hourly time rates remain unchanged, at 1.18 kroner in Oslo and Stavanger and 1.15 kroner in most of the other ports; but workers who are paid a weekly wage have secured a 5 per cent. increase, which brings the wage up to 63 kroner a week in Oslo, and certain small increases have also been granted to piece workers. One of the new piece-rate provisions lays down that a ton shall be reckoned as 1,000 kilograms instead of 1,016 kilograms as hitherto, thus settling an old grievance of the workers. The agreement will remain in force until 31st October, 1931, but in the autumn of 1930 its terms may be automatically revised to conform with changes in the cost of living.

WAGES AND HOURS IN THE IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED STATES, 1929.

The United States Bureau of Labour Statistics has recently completed a survey of earnings and hours of all workers in representative establishments in ten branches of the iron and steel industry in the United States. The results of this inquiry have been published in the numbers of the "Monthly Labor Review" for September, October and November, 1929. For the most part the data refer to the first half of March, 1929, and cover a total of 71,009 workers, including a few boys and women, mainly in tinplate mills.

The following Table shows for each branch of the industry and for some of the chief occupations in each branch, the average full-time hours a week and the average hourly and full-time weekly earnings in March, 1929:—

Branch and Occupation.	Average Full-Time Hours a Week.	Average Earnings.	
		Hourly.	Full-Time Weekly.
Blastfurnaces*	60.7	Dollars. 0.528	Dollars. 32.05
Keepers ...	57.7	0.579	33.41
Blowers ...	58.7	0.918	53.89
Stove Tenders ...	57.7	0.557	32.14
Labourers ...	63.8	0.373	23.80
Bessemer Converters*	53.7	0.643	34.53
Blowers ...	50.7	1.301	65.96
Steel Regulators...	53.5	0.910	48.69
Steel Pourers ...	49.0	1.162	56.94
Labourers ...	57.6	0.452	26.04
Open Hearth Furnaces*	57.7	0.714	41.20
First Melters' Helpers ...	55.9	1.247	69.71
Steel Pourers ...	56.3	0.927	52.19
Labourers ...	60.5	0.433	26.20
Puddling Mills*	50.3	0.686	34.51
Puddlers, level handed ...	46.3	0.880	40.74
Labourers ...	54.5	0.389	21.20
Blooming Mills*	55.0	0.666	36.63
Heaters ...	54.9	1.358	74.55
Rollers ...	53.4	1.542	82.34
Shearmen...	53.5	0.864	46.22
Labourers ...	57.0	0.463	26.39
Plate Mills*	58.0	0.639	37.08
Rollers, sheared plate mills ...	61.0	1.595	97.30
Rollers, universal mills ...	56.7	1.323	75.01
Labourers ...	59.3	0.409	24.25
Bar Mills*	55.6	0.625	34.75
Rollers ...	55.0	1.822	100.21
Finishers ...	53.9	0.952	51.31
Labourers ...	56.0	0.399	22.34
Rail Mills*	56.0	0.628	35.17
Rollers ...	53.5	1.676	89.67
Straighteners, gag press ...	54.1	1.229	66.49
Labourers ...	59.8	0.400	23.92
Sheet Mills*	48.9	0.793	38.78
Rollers ...	43.4	1.979	85.89
Donblers ...	43.6	0.870	37.93
Labourers ...	60.7	0.429	26.04
Tinplate Mills*	47.4	0.732	34.70
Rollers ...	42.7	1.778	75.92
Catchers ...	42.7	0.926	39.54
Timers ...	43.7	0.907	39.64
Labourers ...	57.1	0.422	24.10
All Branches ...	54.6	0.674	36.48

OVERTIME IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN 1928.

REPORT No. 9 (1929) of the Czechoslovak Statistical Office gives particulars of the overtime permits granted and the total overtime hours worked in Czechoslovakia during 1928. In that year, 5,591 permits were issued, affecting 6,040 establishments, which employed 1,037,456 workers; these permits granted extensions, beyond the normal working day of 8 hours, of ½, 1, 1½ or 2 hours, 4,421 being for 2 hours' extension.

The total number of overtime hours actually worked in the year was 15,264,195, divided industrially as follows:—

Industry.	Overtime hours worked.		Industry.	Overtime hours worked.	
	Number.	Per centage.		Number.	Per centage.
Textiles ...	5,592,983	36.6	Metal ...	1,160,114	7.6
Stone, Pottery, and Glass ...	1,533,698	10.1	Food ...	1,144,364	7.5
Engineering ...	1,389,699	9.1	Woodworking ...	823,646	5.4
Building ...	1,269,256	8.3	Other ...	1,088,492	7.1
Clothing ...	1,261,943	8.3	All ...	15,264,195	100.0

The statistics show a decline of about 14 per cent. in the number of overtime hours as compared with 1927. The total overtime worked in 1928 represents full employment—8 hours a day, 300 days a year—for 5,388 persons; the corresponding number for 1927 was 7,411 persons.

The decline was greatest in the textile industry, where the amount of overtime in 1928, considerable as it was, represented only 58 per cent. of the overtime worked in the textile factories in 1927.

* The figures in italic type cover all classes of workers, including occupations not shown separately in this Table.

WAGES IN AUSTRALIA IN 1928.*

In the following Table, the minimum weekly rates of wages for adult male workers (unless otherwise stated) in various occupations in the six capital cities of Australia are quoted from the Award, Determination or Industrial Agreement in force at 31st December, 1928; they are for a normal working week of 44 hours, except in certain cases (indicated in the Table), when they are for a 48-hour working week.

Occupation.	Weekly Rates at 31st December, 1928.						
	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	
Bakers:							
Board Hands ...	128 6	128 4	103 0	107 6†	109 0	107 0†	
Single Hands ...	133 6	139 4	110 6	107 6†	114 0	107 0†	
Blacksmiths ...	114 6	110 6	110 11	109 0	109 0	107 0	
Boilermakers ...	119 6	110 6	107 3	114 0	109 0	105 6	
Bootmakers:							
Male ...	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0	101 3	100 0	
Female ...	51 0	51 0	53 9	51 0	52 0	51 0	
Bricklayers ...	126 6	129 3	120 6	121 0	117 4	106 4	
Brassfinishers ...	114 6	110 6	107 3	109 0	109 0	107 0	
Cabinet Makers ...	111 0	111 6†	110 11	111 6†	109 0	106 6†	
Carpenters ...	127 6	118 3	120 6	118 3	121 0	115 6	
Compositors (Jobbing) ...	113 0	113 0	112 0	113 0	115 0	113 0	
Fitters (Engineering) ...	114 6	110 6	107 3	109 0	109 0	107 0	
French Polishers ...	111 0	111 6†	110 11	111 6†	106 0	105 6†	
Laundries, General:							
Hands, female ...	46 0	42 6	44 0	42 6†	54 0†	24 0†	
Painters ...	118 4	113 8	120 6	113 8	119 2	106 4	
Pattern-makers ...	123 6	119 6	112 9	118 0	118 0	116 0	
Plasterers ...	108 4	123 9	120 6	121 0	117 4	106 4	
Plumbers ...	129 4	121 0	120 6	110 0	121 0	99 0	
Saddlers ...	110 0†	110 0†	110 0†	102 6†	104 0†	110 0†	
Tinsmiths ...	99 6	105 6†	101 2	102 0†	105 6†	108 0†	
Wharf Labourers... Wool Textile Workers:	2 11‡	2 11‡	2 11‡	2 11‡	2 11‡	2 11‡	
Male Spinners ...	89 0	87 6†	96 0	85 6†	79 0†	84 0†	
Female Weavers ...	60 0	49 6†	43 0	48 6†	45 0†	47 9†	

EIGHT-HOUR DAY IN SOUTH AMERICA.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

An Act, dated 12th September, 1929, which is to come into force six months after the date of promulgation (13th September, 1929), provides that the normal duration of labour of all persons employed in public or private undertakings in the Argentine Republic, including those not carried on for purposes of gain, is not to exceed 8 hours a day or 48 hours a week. The Act does not apply to agriculture, stock-breeding, domestic service or undertakings employing only members of the family of the head of the undertaking, whether owner or manager.

The limitation of the duration of labour to 8 hours a day or 48 hours a week does not apply: (a) to employment of a directive or supervisory nature; (b) to work done in shifts, provided that the average number of working hours over a period of not less than three weeks does not exceed 8 hours a day or 48 a week; (c) in the case of an actual or threatened accident or of urgent work in connection with tools or plant or in the case of *force majeure*, when it is necessary to avoid serious interference with the normal working of the undertaking and if the work cannot be done during the normal working day.

Regulations issued by the Executive Authority may determine for any industry, occupation or district: (a) the permanent exemptions permissible for preparatory or complementary work which has necessarily to be performed outside normal working hours and for certain categories of persons whose work is essentially intermittent; and (b) the temporary exemptions permissible in order to enable undertakings to cope with special pressure of work. In granting these exemptions, the extent of existing unemployment must be taken into account, and all the regulations and exemptions require previous consultation of the employers' and workers' organisations concerned, and must specify the maximum number of extra hours authorised in each case.

Rates of pay are to be increased by 50 per cent. for ordinary overtime and by 100 per cent. for overtime performed on public holidays.

Night work, i.e., work performed between the hours of 9 p.m. and 6 a.m., may not exceed 7 hours, and work which has to be performed in unhealthy places, to be determined by the Executive Authority, must not exceed 6 hours daily, or 36 hours weekly.

ECUADOR.

An Act of 6th October, 1928, which came into force on 1st January, 1929, provides for an 8-hour working day and a 6-day or 48-hour

* Labour Report, 1928, No. 19. Published by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, Melbourne, in August, 1929.
† Normal week 48 hours.
‡ Rate per hour for other than special cargo.

working week for all manual and non-manual workers in Ecuador, except domestic servants, home workers, casual workers, commission agents and commercial travellers, and persons engaged in work of a confidential, managerial or supervisory nature; the hours of work of excepted persons are to be governed by special regulations. Overtime may not exceed two hours daily or twelve hours weekly, and must be paid at a rate from 50 to 100 per cent. above the normal rate. The working of overtime is subject to a written agreement between the parties concerned, after previous consultation of the Labour Inspector. A weekly rest period of 36 consecutive hours on Sunday or some other day agreed upon between the parties is also provided for. No Sunday work is permitted except in unavoidable cases. Night work, i.e., work falling between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m., may not exceed 7 hours. Provision is made in the Act for the making up of lost time in certain circumstances.

HOURS IN COAL MINING IN 1927: INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON.

THE International Labour Office has published in the December, 1929, number of the "International Labour Review" the second part, dealing with hours of work, of their Report on the results of the inquiry into the European coal-mining industry in 1927. The first part, dealing with wages, was summarised in this GAZETTE for November, 1929, page 405.

The 1927 inquiry was carried out in the same way as the 1925 inquiry (see this GAZETTE for July, 1928, pages 244-5), the workers being divided into two main groups, underground workers and surface workers, for the purpose of the hours comparison. The following Table gives particulars of actual working hours, by the day or shift and by the week, extracted from the Report:—

Hours of Work in Coal Mines in 1927.

Country and District.	Underground Workers.				Surface Workers.			
	Individual time spent in the mine.		Total average daily travelling time underground plus breaks.	Hours spent at face, less travelling time and breaks.		Actual hours of work, excluding breaks.		
	Day or Shift.	Week.		Day or Shift.	Week.	Day.	Week.	
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	
Belgium	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	
Czechoslovakia	8 28	44 48	1 52*	6 20	38	7 45	48 30	
France:								
Whole country	7 47	46 42	1 22	6 25	38 30	7 59	47 54	
Nord, Pas de Calais ...	7 47	46 42	1 25†	6 21‡	38 9	7 59	47 54	
Lorraine ...	7 47	46 42	1 12	6 35	39 30	8 -	48 -	
Germany†:								
Ruhr ...	8 -	...	...	...	...	8 -	53 -
to						9 -	59 -	
Aix-la-Chapelle	8 15‡	...	...	...	...	8 -	53 -
to						10 -	60 -	
Upper Silesia	8 -§	...	...	...	...	8 -	58 -
to						10 -	60 -	
Lower Silesia	8 -	...	...	...	...	8 -	53 -
to						9 -	55 30	
Saxony ...	8 -	...	...	...	...	8 -	48 -
to						10 -	60 -	
Great Britain...	8 -	44 15	1 45	6 15	33 45	7 45	46 30	
to	8 30	50 -		6 45	40 30	8 35	51 30	
Weighted average	8 19	47 28		6 34	37 5	8 4	48 22	
Netherlands ...	8 10	47 -	2 -	6 10	35 -	...	...
Saturday:	6 10			4 10				
Poland:								
Upper Silesia	8 2	48 12	1 44	6 18	37 48	8 -	48 -	
Dombrowa and Cracow	8 30**	49 -	2 4	6 26	36 46	8 -	46 -	
Saturday:	6 30		1 54	4 36				
Saar ...	7 32	45 12	1 15	6 17	37 42	7 30	45 -	
to						7 45	46 30	

In the Report from which the figures shown in the above Table have been taken, an explanation is given of the method of calculation adopted by the International Labour Office in order to reduce the hours of labour of mining workers in the various countries to a common basis, as well as numerous notes on the reservations to which these statistics are subject.

* Includes average waiting period of 16 minutes at the pit bottom.
† The figures in the Table give the length of the shift as fixed by collective agreements or awards. It is stated that the adjustments that must be made to reduce these figures to the basis adopted by the International Labour Office for the purposes of international comparison are of little importance.
‡ Since 1st June, 1927.
§ Since 2nd May, 1927.
|| Since 1st September, 1927.
¶ Since 1st April, 1927.
** Includes a statutory break of 30 minutes introduced on 6th April, 1926, by the Polish Mines Department.

EMPLOYMENT IN DECEMBER.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

EMPLOYMENT continued to decline during the first half of December, but in the third week of the month there was a slight net improvement. The influence of increased employment in connection with the Christmas trade and traffic had a relatively smaller effect on the numbers unemployed in all industries taken together than in other recent years, and this appears to have been due largely to the very inclement weather of November and early December, which affected most outdoor occupations, and to a decline in some other important industries, notably the textile trades. In the last week of the month there was the usual heavy increase in unemployment due to the discharge of temporary Christmas workers, and the extension of holidays in a number of industries.

A comparison of the figures for 25th November and 16th December shows that there was a general decline in the mining group of industries, in building and public works contracting, and in the cement, pottery, glass, pig iron, leather, and chocolate and confectionery industries and most of the textile trades. On the other hand, there was some improvement in the iron and steel trades (except pig iron), in the shipbuilding, and distributive industries, and also in hotel and boarding house and dock and harbour services.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Among workpeople, numbering approximately 12,100,000, insured against unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and working in practically every industry except agriculture and private domestic service, the percentage unemployed at 16th December, 1929, (including those temporarily stopped as well as those wholly unemployed), was 11.1, as compared with 11.0 at 25th November, 1929, and with 11.1 at 17th December, 1928. For males alone the percentage at 16th December, 1929, was 12.3, and for females, 8.1; at 25th November, 1929, the percentages were 12.1 and 7.9. The percentage wholly unemployed at 16th December, 1929, was 8.9, as compared with 8.8 at 25th November, 1929. The total number of persons (insured and uninsured) registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 16th December, 1929, was approximately 1,341,000, of whom 1,037,000 were men and 245,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls. At 25th November, 1929, it was 1,323,000, of whom 1,018,000 were men and 241,000 were women; and at 17th December, 1928, it was 1,312,000, of whom 1,055,000 were men and 216,000 were women. At 30th December, 1929, the total number registered had risen to 1,552,000, as compared with 1,555,000 at 31st December, 1928.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

Mining and Quarrying.—In the coal-mining industry employment showed little change as compared with the previous month. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 21st December, 1929, was 949,379, an increase of 0.7 as compared with November; the average number of days worked per week was 5.19, as compared with 5.07 in November.

In the iron-mining industry employment remained fairly good on the whole. In the West Lothian shale mines there was a decrease of 0.5 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed at the mines from which returns were received, as compared with November, 1929, and a decrease of 1.0 per cent. as compared with December, 1928. In the limestone quarries in the Clitheroe and Buxton districts employment was reported as steady; in the Weardale district it was fair. In the slate quarries in North Wales employment showed a decline, but continued moderate on the whole. At the East of Scotland whinstone quarries, employment remained bad; at chalk quarries it continued slack. Employment at tin-mines continued fairly good; at china clay quarries it was moderate.

Pig Iron, Iron and Steel, and Tinplate.—In the pig-iron industry employment continued moderate. Of 410 furnaces, the number in blast at the end of December, 1929, was 162, as compared with 163 at the end of November, 1929, and with 132 at the end of December, 1928.

At iron and steel works employment remained bad, on the whole, but showed an improvement as compared with the previous month. In the tinplate industry employment was still affected by stoppages under arrangements for the control of output, and in the week ended 21st December, 1929, 346 tinplate mills were in operation at works for which information is available, as compared with 399 in the week ended 30th November and with 378 in the week ended 22nd December, 1928. In steel sheet manufacture employment was slack. In the week ended 21st December, 1929, 104 mills were in operation, as compared with 107 in the week ended 30th November, 1929, and with 132 in the week ended 22nd December, 1928.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and Other Metal Industries.—Employment in engineering remained slack, on the whole, and the usual Christmas holidays were extended in many cases. In the motor vehicle section employment remained fair; in marine engineering it continued slack; in the textile machinery branch much short time was worked; in constructional engineering it continued bad; while in electrical engineering employment was still fairly good. In

shipbuilding and shiprepairing employment was still very bad, but showed a further improvement in most districts.

In the other metal trades employment continued moderate to fair on the whole. It was fairly good in the sheet metal, brasswork, and hollow-ware trades; fair in the tube, stove and grate, nut and bolt, cutlery, and file trades; moderate in the wire manufacturing, and needle and fishing tackle trades; and slack in the metallic bedstead, and chain and anchor trades.

Textile Industries.—In the cotton industry employment continued bad in all departments. In the American spinning section the mills stopped for a full week at Christmas, in accordance with a recommendation of the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners. In the Egyptian spinning section employment steadily declined, and unorganised curtailment of production prevailed to the extent of about 25 per cent. In the weaving department a large number of looms were idle.

In the wool textile industry employment remained bad both in the woollen and worsted sections; and, on the whole, showed a slight decline, which was largely seasonal. In the carpet section employment continued fairly good. In the hosiery industry employment continued good on the whole; in the silk and artificial silk trades, taken together, it showed a further decline; in the linen trade it also declined, and was slack; in the jute trade it continued slack. In the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc. trades employment remained bad with much short-time working.

Clothing Industries.—In the retail bespoke and ready-made and wholesale bespoke branches of the tailoring trade employment continued slack with much short-time working. In the dressmaking and millinery trades employment was moderate, on the whole, although reported as good at a few provincial centres. Employment was fairly good in the shirt and collar and corset trades; in felt hat manufacture employment remained slack. In the boot and shoe trades employment during the first half of the month showed little change, and was moderate on the whole. Slightly better time was worked by many firms just before the holidays, with a view to completing orders. In most districts the holiday was extended by many firms.

Leather Trades.—Employment showed a further slight decline. In the tanning and currying section it remained moderate; with fancy leather workers, and with saddlery and harness makers, it was still fairly good.

Building, Woodworking, etc.—In the building trades there was a further seasonal decline, and employment was slack to moderate on the whole, with skilled operatives, and generally slack with unskilled workers. As regards individual occupations employment again declined with carpenters and masons, and was slack to moderate; with bricklayers it remained slack. With slaters employment improved and was generally moderate; with plasterers and painters it continued to decline, and was very slack or bad in most districts; it was quiet with plumbers, and slack with tradesmen's labourers. In brick manufacture employment showed little change; in the Peterborough district it continued good.

In the furnishing trades employment continued good; in saw-milling and with coachbuilders it remained moderate or slack.

Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.—With paper makers employment was generally fairly good, but there was a slight decline as compared with the previous month. With letterpress printers it was also fairly good, on the whole; at Liverpool, however, it was reported as bad, and at Manchester as very slack. With electrotypers and stereotypers employment showed a decline in London, and was only fair; in the other principal centres it continued good. Lithographic printers were fairly well employed, but there was some decline in several districts, including Manchester, where employment was reported to have been bad. In the bookbinding industry employment continued fairly good.

Pottery and Glass.—In the pottery trade in North Staffordshire employment showed a further seasonal decline. Unemployment increased, mainly owing to the completion of Christmas orders; but the majority of the firms worked much later in the month than is usual in December before suspending their workpeople. In the glass trades employment showed a slight decline, and was bad in glass bottle manufacture, and slack in other sections.

Agriculture and Fishing.—Agricultural operations in England and Wales were hindered by excessive rainfall, but owing to the forward state of outdoor work during the autumn, work generally is not unduly in arrears. The supply of labour was sufficient. With fishermen employment was slack, due largely to bad weather conditions.

Dock Labourers and Seamen.—With dock labourers employment was still slack, generally; with seamen it was slack on the whole, and the number of engagements was less than in the previous month.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

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

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

(a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL TRADES.

Table with 4 columns: Industry, Workpeople included in the Returns for December, 1929, December, 1929, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before. Year before.

(b) OTHER INDUSTRIES.

Table with 6 columns: Industry, Number of Workpeople Employed, Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before. Year before.

UNEMPLOYMENT SUMMARY BY DISTRICTS.

The following Table shows the variations in the rates of Unemployment at 16th December, 1929, among insured persons in the respective divisions into which the country is divided for the purpose of the administration of the Unemployment Insurance Acts :-

Table with 6 columns: Division, Estimated Numbers Insured aged 16-64 inclusive, at July, 1929, Percentage Unemployed at 16th December, 1929, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Total Percentage as compared with a Month before. Year before.

UNEMPLOYMENT DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

The following Table shows, month by month from December, 1928, the percentages unemployed among insured workpeople, and the approximate number of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges, etc., in Great Britain and Northern Ireland :-

Table with 10 columns: Date, Males, Females, Wholly Unemployed and Casuals, Temporarily stopped, Total, Date, Number, Percentages Unemployed among Insured Workpeople, Numbers (Insured and Uninsured) registered at Employment Exchanges, etc.

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

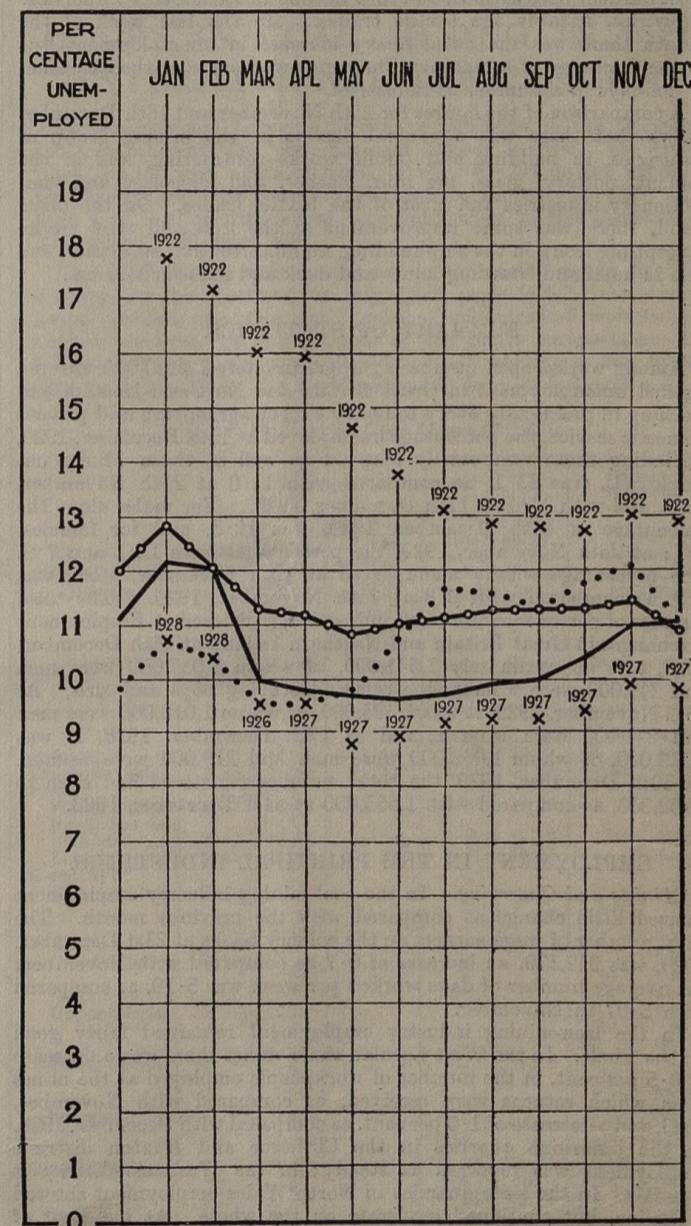
UNEMPLOYMENT CHART.

GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

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

Plain Curve - - - - - = 1929. Dotted Curve - - - - - = 1928. Chain Curve - - - - - = Mean for 1922-25 and 1927-28.

x The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1922-25 and 1927-28.



NEW ENTRANTS INTO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BOOKS RECEIVED AT LOCAL OFFICES OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR IN GREAT BRITAIN DURING DECEMBER, 1929.

Table with 7 columns: Area, Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total, Percentage of Numbers Insured at July, 1929.

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

DETAILED REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

NOTE.—The numbers of workpeople employed given in the following Tables represent the numbers covered by the Returns received and not the total numbers employed in the various industries. In the comparisons of numbers employed and wages paid at different dates the figures relate to the same firms at each date, and cover all the wage-earners, irrespective of age, sex, or occupation, employed by these firms.

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT during December showed little change from the previous month, a decrease in the numbers wholly unemployed being counter-balanced by an increase in the numbers temporarily stopped.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 14.6 at 16th December, 1929, as compared with 14.3 at 25th November, 1929, and 19.1 at 17th December, 1928.

The average number of days worked per week in the fortnight ended 21st December, 1929, was 5.19, an increase of 0.12 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 23rd November, 1929, but a decrease of 0.12 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 22nd December, 1928.

The following Table shows, for the principal coal-mining districts, the total number of wage earners on the colliery books and the average number of days worked per week* during the fortnight ended 21st December, 1929, as shown by returns obtained by the Mines Department.

Table with 10 columns: Districts, Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books at 21st Dec., 1929, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before. Year before, Average Number of Days worked per week by the Mines, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before. Year before.

The average number of coal-winding days lost in Great Britain during the fortnight ended 21st December, 1929, was 0.60 of a day per week, of which 0.57 of a day was due to want of trade and to transport difficulties.

The output of coal in Great Britain for the four weeks ended 21st December, 1929, was reported to the Mines Department as 21,992,700 tons, as compared with 20,981,100 tons in the four weeks ended 23rd November, 1929, and 20,484,800 tons in the four weeks ended 22nd December, 1928.

The numbers and percentages unemployed among insured workpeople in the respective areas at 16th December, 1929, and

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

increases or decreases as compared with 25th November, 1929, and 17th December, 1928, are shown in the following Table :-

Table with 10 columns: Area, Insured Persons Recorded as Unemployed at 16th December, 1929, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Total percentages as compared with a Month before. Year before.

The exports of coal, including that shipped for the use of steamers engaged in the foreign trade and the coal equivalent of coke and manufactured fuel, amounted to 6,804,200 tons in December, 1929, as compared with 7,176,500 tons in November, 1929, and with 5,941,100 tons in December, 1928.

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

IRON MINING.

ALTHOUGH a considerable amount of short-time working was reported from the Cleveland district, employment remained fairly good on the whole.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the iron and ironstone mining industry, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 7.9 at 16th December, 1929, as compared with 5.9 at 25th November, 1929, and 12.9 at 17th December, 1928.

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

Table with 6 columns: Districts, Number of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns, Average No. of Days worked per week by the Mines, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before. Year before.

SHALE MINING.

The number of workpeople employed at the West Lothian mines during the fortnight ended 21st December, 1929, by firms making returns, was 2,542, showing a decrease of 0.5 per cent. compared with the previous month, and a decrease of 1.0 per cent. compared with December, 1928.

* See footnote * in previous column.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during December continued moderate. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 12.2 at 16th December, 1929, as compared with 11.2 at 25th November, 1929, and with 19.1 at 17th December, 1928.

According to returns received by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, 162 furnaces were in operation at the end of December, compared with 163 at the end of November, and 132 at the end of December, 1928.

Returns received from 79 firms, employing 20,535 workpeople at the end of December, showed an increase of 1.0 per cent. compared with November, and an increase of 20.1 per cent. compared with December, 1928.

The following Table shows the number of furnaces in operation at the end of December, 1929, November, 1929, and December, 1928 :-

Districts.	Total Number of Furnaces.	Number of Furnaces in Blast.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Dec., 1929, on a	
		Dec., 1929.	Nov., 1929.	Dec., 1928.	Month before.	Year before.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
Durham and Cleveland	95	42	43	31	- 1	+ 11
Cumberland and W. Lancs ...	43	12	12	11	...	+ 1
Parts of Lancs and Yorks (including Sheffield)	31	11	11	6	...	+ 5
Derby, Leicester, Nottingham and Northants ...	56	30	30	28	...	+ 2
Lincolnshire ...	25	16	17	14	- 1	+ 2
Staffs, Shropshire, Worcester and Warwick ...	48	14	13	13	+ 1	+ 1
South Wales and Monmouth ...	23	8	8	8	...	...
Total, England and Wales	321	133	134	111	- 1	+ 22
SCOTLAND ...	89	29	29	21	...	+ 8
Total ...	410	162	163	132	- 1	+ 30

The production of pig iron in December amounted to 643,000 tons as compared with 631,400 tons in November, and 540,400 tons in December, 1928.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET INDUSTRIES.

In the tinplate industry employment continued to be affected by stoppages under arrangements for the control of output, and in the week ended 21st December, 1929, 346 tinplate mills were in operation at works for which information is available, as compared with 399 in the week ended 30th November, and with 378 in the week ended 22nd December, 1928.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed at 16th December, 1929, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 23.2, as compared with 27.4 at 25th November, 1929, and with 18.6 at 17th December, 1928.

In steel sheet manufacture employment was slack. In the week ended 21st December 104 mills were in operation, as compared with 107 in the week ended 30th November, and with 132 in the week ended 22nd December, 1928.

The following Table shows the number of mills in operation at works covered by the Returns :-

Works.	Number of Works Open			Number of Mills in Operation		
	Week ended 21st Dec., 1929.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Year before.	Week ended 21st Dec., 1929.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Year before.
Tinplate ...	63	- 8	- 3	346	- 53	- 32
Steel Sheet ...	10	- 1	- 4	104	- 3	- 28
TOTAL ...	73	- 9	- 7	450	- 56	- 60

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in December, 1929, amounted to 90,283 tons, or 11,860 tons less than in November, 1929, but 2,405 tons more than in December, 1928.

IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE.

EMPLOYMENT during December remained bad on the whole, but showed a slight improvement as compared with the previous month. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the number of unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges at 16th December, 1929, was 22.0, as compared with 22.9 at 25th November, 1929, and 19.3 at 17th December, 1928.

According to returns received from firms employing 67,558 workpeople in the week ended 21st December, 1929, the volume of employment in that week (as indicated by the number of workpeople employed, combined with the number of shifts during which work was carried on in each department) increased by 1.1 per cent. as compared with November, 1929, but decreased by 5.0 per cent. as compared with December, 1928. The average number of shifts* during which the works were open was 5.4 in December, 1929, as compared with 5.5 in November, 1929, and 5.4 in December, 1928.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	No. of Workpeople employed by Firms making returns.		Aggregate number of Shifts.*	
	Week ended 21st Dec., 1929.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before.	Year before.	Per cent.
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces ...	6,995	- 9.6	- 7.6	- 12.3
Rolling Mills ...	2,281	+ 37.2	- 8.6	+ 41.4
Forging & Pressing ...	24,630	+ 2.8	- 6.8	- 8.1
Foundry ...	2,565	+ 1.4	- 12.7	- 3.0
Other Departments (Mechanics, Labourers, etc.) ...	8,262	- 0.7	- 0.5	+ 1.6
Other Departments (Mechanics, Labourers, etc.) ...	8,075	- 2.4	+ 6.4	- 1.8
TOTAL ...	67,558	+ 1.4	- 4.6	+ 1.1

The production of steel ingots and castings, as shown in returns received from the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 661,200 tons in December, 1929, as compared with 815,000 tons in November, 1929, and 683,100 tons in December, 1928.

SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING.

EMPLOYMENT was still very bad in December, but showed a further improvement in most districts. The greatest improvement was shown in Northern Ireland, where there was a reduction of more than one-third in the number and percentage of workpeople unemployed. A considerable improvement was shown in the North-Western and South-Western divisions; but there was a decline in the North-Eastern division and in Wales. In the South-Western and South-Eastern divisions employment remained fair.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 16th December, 1929 :-

Divisions.	Total Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 16th Dec., 1929.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers Unemployed as compared with a		Percentage Unemployed at 16th Dec., 1929.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage Unemployed as compared with a	
		Month before.	Year before.		Month before.	Year before.
London ...	2,244	+ 37	- 79	20.8	+ 0.3	- 2.5
South-Eastern ...	619	- 34	- 220	8.5	- 0.5	- 3.0
South-Western ...	1,880	- 559	+ 52	8.8	- 2.6	+ 0.2
Midlands ...	85	- 7	+ 47	28.3	- 2.4	+ 18.6
North-Eastern ...	17,928	+ 1,049	- 9,734	29.7	+ 1.7	- 17.0
North-Western ...	6,537	- 1,036	+ 214	22.6	- 3.6	- 0.2
Scotland ...	13,303	+ 245	- 2,071	23.8	+ 0.4	- 3.2
Wales ...	2,780	+ 279	- 1,098	35.6	+ 3.0	- 11.3
Northern Ireland ...	2,299	- 1,259	- 762	19.1	- 10.5	- 8.6
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...	47,675	- 1,285	- 13,651	23.3	- 0.6	- 7.0

SHIPBUILDING IN THE QUARTER ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1929.

According to Lloyd's Register Quarterly Shipbuilding Returns, the gross tonnage of merchant vessels under construction in Great Britain and Ireland at the end of December, 1929, amounted to 1,560,254 tons, as compared with 1,448,355 tons at the end of September, 1929, and 1,242,794 tons at the end of December, 1928. It will be seen that there was an increase of 111,899 tons as compared with the figures for last September, and an increase of 317,460 tons over the tonnage building twelve months ago. The tonnage of motor ships building at the end of December, 1929, amounted to 49 per cent. of the total tonnage under construction.

The tonnage commenced during the quarter amounted to 499,020 tons, i.e., an increase of about 139,000 tons as compared with the previous quarter. The tonnage launched during the quarter under

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

review amounted to 472,938 tons, or about 103,000 tons more than in the previous three months.

The total horse-power of marine engines building or being installed on board vessels in Great Britain and Ireland at the end of December, 1929, amounted to 1,111,017 h.p., as compared with 1,030,035 h.p. in the previous quarter. The above figures are exclusive of warships and of merchant vessels of under 100 tons.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT during December remained slack on the whole, and showed little general change as compared with the previous month; the usual Christmas holidays were extended in many cases. In the motor vehicle section employment remained fair; in marine engineering it remained slack; in the textile machinery section much short time continued to be worked; in constructional engineering, conditions remained bad; while in electrical engineering employment was still fairly good.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 16th December, 1929 :-

Division.	Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 16th December, 1929.						Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
	General Engineering; Iron and Steel Founding.	Electrical Engineering.	Marine Engineering, etc.	Constructional Engineering.	Motor Vehicles, Cycles, and Aircraft.	TOTAL.	Month before.	Year before.
London ...	3,252	301	52	215	1,746	5,566	- 72	+ 320
South-Eastern ...	2,147	128	119	69	1,292	3,755	+ 28	+ 74
South-Western ...	1,655	106	363	74	1,314	3,512	+ 33	+ 176
Midlands ...	5,719	855	81	600	8,509	15,764	- 137	+ 1,310
North-Eastern ...	17,311	857	2,774	857	12,026	22,715	16	- 1,050
North-Western ...	20,219	1,233	101	323	2,635	23,911	+ 346	+ 2,352
Scotland ...	8,044	293	1,914	994	1,184	12,429	+ 180	+ 38
Wales ...	1,018	32	16	172	307	1,545	+ 46	+ 32
Northern Ireland ...	925	14	550	8	224	1,721	- 84	- 49
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...	60,290	3,519	5,970	3,322	17,817	90,918	+ 324	+ 3,407

On the North-East Coast employment remained bad. In Yorkshire it continued very moderate, while conditions in the textile machinery section were still bad. In Lincolnshire employment remained slack.

In Lancashire and Cheshire employment continued bad, on the whole, the textile machinery section remaining depressed. In electrical engineering employment remained fair.

In the Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry district employment continued moderate in the motor vehicle section, fair in general engineering, and good on electrical work. In the Nottingham, Derby and Leicester district employment continued fair.

In London and the South-Eastern Counties employment remained good generally, while conditions in electrical engineering were still very good. In the South-Western Counties employment continued fairly good, on the whole, and good on electrical work.

In Scotland employment remained bad, and in Wales very bad. In Northern Ireland it was still bad, but continued to improve slowly.

COTTON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT continued bad in all departments; it was worse than in November, and worse also than in December, 1928, in all departments and in practically all the principal districts. In the American spinning section the mills stopped for a full week at Christmas, in accordance with a recommendation of the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners. In the Egyptian spinning section employment steadily declined, and unorganised curtailment of production, in various forms, prevailed to the extent of about 25 per cent. In the weaving departments a large number of looms were idle. The holiday stoppage was extended by many firms in all sections, apart from the general stoppage in the American spinning section.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 14.4 at 16th December, 1929, as compared with 13.3 at 25th November, 1929, and with 11.1 at 17th December, 1928.

At Ashton-under-Lyne employment in the American spinning section was very bad; in the Egyptian spinning section there was a tendency to decline. At Stockport a considerable amount of short time working continued. At Stalybridge there was a slight improvement. At Hyde the looms were on full work, but spinners

and cardroom workers were not so well employed; at Glossop short time increased during the month. At Oldham employment both in the spinning and in the weaving departments was bad, with much short time, and extended holidays at Christmas. At Shaw employment in the Egyptian section was not so good as in the previous three months. At Bolton there was a further decline in the spinning section, and employment was stated to be worse at the end of the month than it had been at that season for some years. The holiday stoppage was extended by many firms. A slight improvement was recorded in the weaving department, particularly in the quilt manufacturing section; but a large number of looms were still idle. At Leigh employment with spinners was bad. At Bury a slight improvement was reported, but employment was still poor. At Rochdale a renewed spell of short time working was reported.

At Preston there was much under-employment in all sections; the machinery still in commission was reported to be producing only to about 70 per cent. of full capacity. At Chorley the general position showed little change. At Blackburn employment was bad, and further suspensions of winders and weavers occurred; employment was much worse than in December, 1928. At Accrington, employment was very slack, except with certain firms engaged on light and fancy fabrics; the number of weavers and winders totally unemployed was gradually increasing week by week. At Darwen employment was bad, and under-employment prevalent; six mills were closed, and a large number of looms were idle. At Burnley employment continued bad; but, for most of the month, all the mills were working except those that are regarded as permanently closed; and employment here was not quite so bad as at some of the other weaving centres. At Nelson employment was worse than a month earlier; about 20,000 looms, affecting 6,600 workpeople, were stopped for the full week at Christmas, and there was a large amount of under-employment during the rest of the month. In the Rossendale Valley employment was bad, and worse than a month earlier.

In Yorkshire employment showed a sharp decline during December, especially at Sowerby Bridge; at Huddersfield, short time was worked to a large extent; at Hebden Bridge, Keighley, and Liversedge, however, employment was fairly good.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.	
	Week ended 21st Dec., 1929.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Week ended 21st Dec., 1929.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.
Preparing ...	10,064	- 0.5	15,892	- 1.5
Spinning ...	19,014	- 1.6	30,118	- 3.1
Weaving ...	30,112	- 1.4	51,440	- 1.1
Other ...	7,384	- 0.2	17,085	+ 0.2
Not Specified ...	6,377	- 2.9	11,983	- 8.1
TOTAL ...	73,151	- 1.4	126,518	- 2.1

Returns from firms employing about 70,500 operatives in the week ended 21st December showed that 15 per cent. of those operatives were on short time in that week, with a loss of about 14 hours each on the average.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of Employment Exchanges in the principal cotton trade centres at 30th December, 1929 :-

Department	Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Registers at 30th December, 1929.					
	Wholly Unemployed.			Temporarily Stopped.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Card and Blow-ing Room ...	896	4,799	5,695	1,226	6,709	7,935
Spinning ...	5,178	4,120	9,298	8,860	6,182	15,042
Beaming, Wind-ing and Warp-ing ...	902	3,861	4,763	2,031	9,721	11,752
Weaving ...	2,632	8,145	10,777	3,788	11,113	14,901
Other Processes	564	181	725	540	265	805
TOTAL ...	10,172	21,086	31,258	16,445	33,988	50,433

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

Table with columns: Department, Wholly Unemployed (Men, Women, Total), Temporarily Stopped (Men, Women, Total), Total. Rows include Boot and Shoe Manufacture, Preparing Department, Rough Stuff Department, etc.

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 25th November, 1929:—

Table with columns: Department, Wholly Unemployed (Men, Women, Total), Temporarily Stopped (Men, Women, Total), Total. Shows percentage changes for various departments like Boot and Shoe Manufacture, etc.

The exports of boots and shoes in December, 1929, amounted to 111,578 dozen pairs, or 27,867 dozen pairs less than in November, 1929, but 15,194 dozen pairs more than in December, 1928.

BRICK INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during December showed little change as compared with the previous month; in the Peterborough district it continued good.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the brick, tile, etc. industries was 12.1 at 16th December, 1929, as compared with 11.7 at 25th November, 1929, and 13.3 at 17th December, 1928.

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

Table with columns: Districts, Number of Workpeople, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople (Dec, 1929, Month before, Year before). Includes Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire, etc.

Returns from employers relative to short-time working, exclusive of time lost on account of bad weather, showed that, of 9,337 workpeople employed by firms furnishing information, 4 per cent. were working on an average 12 hours less than full time in the week ended 21st December, 1929; the amount of overtime worked was very small.

BUILDING.

THERE was a further seasonal increase in the numbers unemployed during December. Employment was slack to moderate, on the whole, with skilled operatives, and generally slack with unskilled workers; it was reported as fairly good or good at a few centres, however, including Bristol, Coventry, Luton and Southend.

As regards individual occupations employment again declined with carpenters and masons, and was slack to moderate; it remained slack with bricklayers. There was some improvement with slaters

and employment was generally moderate; with plasterers and painters it continued to decline, and was very slack or bad in most districts. Employment was generally quiet with plumbers, and slack, on the whole, with tradesmen's labourers.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts who were recorded as unemployed at 16th December, 1929, together with the increase or decrease as compared with the previous month and with December, 1928:—

Large table with columns: Occupations, Estimated Numbers of Insured Workpeople at July, 1929, Total Numbers Unemployed at 16th Dec., 1929, Number Included in Previous Column who were Temporarily Stopped, Percentage Unemployed, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage as compared with a Month before, Year before. Rows include Carpenters, Bricklayers, Masons, etc.

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

RETURNS from Local Authorities in 142 of the principal urban areas in Great Britain (except the London County Council area), with a total population of 15,947,000, show that in December, 1929, plans were passed for buildings of an estimated cost of £5,620,700, as compared with £5,738,400 in November, 1929, and £4,288,300 in December, 1928.

POTTERY INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in North Staffordshire showed a further seasonal decline. Unemployment increased, mainly owing to the completion of Christmas orders; but the majority of firms worked much later in the month than is usual in December before suspending their workpeople.

At Worcester and at Bristol employment continued good; at Derby it was quiet. In the stoneware section in Scotland it was again reported to be bad.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 17.2 at 16th December, 1929, as compared with 13.1 at 25th November, 1929, and 16.9 at 17th December, 1928.

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

Table with columns: Branches, Number of Workpeople, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople (Dec, 1929, Month before, Year before). Includes China Manufacture, Earthenware Manufacture, etc.

Returns from employers relative to short-time working showed that of 10,479 workpeople employed by firms making returns, 3,708, or nearly 35.5 per cent., were working on an average 13.5 hours less than full time in the week ended 21st December, 1929; the amount of overtime worked was very small.

PAPER MANUFACTURE, PRINTING, AND BOOKBINDING.

EMPLOYMENT was generally fairly good during December in the paper-making industry, but there was some decline on the previous month in several districts.

With letterpress printers employment on the whole was fairly good, but showed a decline compared with November. The principal exceptions were Liverpool, where employment was reported as bad, and Manchester, where it was reported as very slack; at Birmingham employment was good and better than in November, and an improvement was also reported at Glasgow.

Lithographic printers were generally fairly well employed, but there was some decline on the previous month in several districts, including Manchester, where employment was reported as bad, Birmingham, Nottingham and Norwich; a slight improvement was reported at Leeds and Sheffield.

The percentage unemployed among insured workpeople in the paper and paper-board industry, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 4.3 at 16th December, 1929, compared with 4.8 at 25th November, 1929, and 3.8 at 17th December, 1928.

The following Table summarises the returns received from certain trade unions:—

Table with columns: No. of Members of Unions at end of Dec. 1929, Percentage Unemployed at end of Dec., 1929, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a Month before, Year before. Rows include Letterpress Printing, Lithographic Printing, etc.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT during December was still slack generally, and the movement of shipping was somewhat restricted by severe weather conditions; nevertheless employment, on the whole, was a little better than in the previous month.

The following Table shows the average daily number of dock labourers employed at docks and wharves in respect of which returns were received.

Table with columns: Period, Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London. Includes By the Port of London Authority, etc.

Tilbury.—The average daily number of dock labourers employed during December was 1,158, compared with 1,032 in November, 1929, and with 1,009 in December, 1928.

East Coast.—Employment remained fairly good at Middlesbrough and Sunderland, but at other ports on the North-East Coast it was slack. At Hull it was only moderate.

Liverpool.—Employment remained generally fair. The average number of dock labourers registered at the clearing houses under the Liverpool Docks Scheme as employed in the four weeks ended 27th December, 1929, was 14,949, compared with 15,271 in November, 1929, and with 15,495 in December, 1928.

Other Ports in England and Wales.—Employment was generally fair at the South Wales ports. At Bristol and Avonmouth work was still plentiful.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—At Glasgow employment was fair and better than in November. At Leith bad weather adversely affected work in the latter part of December.

SEAMEN.

EMPLOYMENT during December was slack on the whole. The number of engagements was less than in the previous month, but substantially more than in December, 1928.

Among insured workpeople in the shipping service the percentage recorded as unemployed at 16th December, 1929, was 20.5, compared with 20.6 at 25th November, 1929, and 18.8 at 17th December, 1928.

The demand for men on the Thames was variable and at the end of December was very dull. On the Tyne the demand was quiet but showed a slight improvement in the second half of the month; on the Tees it was quiet, with slackness more marked towards the end of December; at the Hartlepoons it was good during the second week but quiet otherwise.

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

Table with columns: Principal Ports, Number of Seamen* shipped in December, 1929. Includes England & Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland.

* 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 INSURED AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AGED 16-64 INCLUSIVE, AT JULY, 1929, PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 16TH DECEMBER, 1929, INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH 25TH NOV., 1929, 17TH DEC., 1929, 19TH DEC., 1929, GREAT BRITAIN ONLY. TOTAL PERCENTAGES AT 16TH DEC., 1929.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AGED 16-64 INCLUSIVE, AT JULY, 1929, PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 16TH DECEMBER, 1929, INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH 25TH NOV., 1929, 17TH DEC., 1929, 19TH DEC., 1929, GREAT BRITAIN ONLY. TOTAL PERCENTAGES AT 16TH DEC., 1929.

NUMBERS OF INSURED WORKPEOPLE UNEMPLOYED.

PROPORTIONS IN VARIOUS INDUSTRY GROUPS.

In the following Table the numbers of insured workpeople recorded as unemployed in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 16th December, 1929, are analysed so as to show the proportion of the total unemployed classified as belonging to various industry groups:-

Table with columns: Industry Group, Males (Number Wholly Unemployed, Percentage of Total, Number Temporarily Stopped, Percentage of Total), Females (Number Wholly Unemployed, Percentage of Total, Number Temporarily Stopped, Percentage of Total).

PRINCIPAL VARIATIONS DURING DECEMBER IN NUMBERS OF INSURED WORKPEOPLE UNEMPLOYED.

The following Table indicates for Great Britain and Northern Ireland the industries in which the numbers of insured persons recorded as unemployed at 16th December, 1929, differed from the figures for 25th November, 1929, to the extent of 1,000 or more:-

Table with columns: Industry, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers recorded as Unemployed at 16th December, 1929, as compared with 25th November, 1929, Males, Females, Total.

It will be borne in mind that the above comparison covers only the last week of November and the first fortnight of December, and does not take into account the increase in the numbers unemployed which occurred in the last week of the year. This may have affected industries other than those specified in the Table.

COMPOSITION OF UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

On page 24 an explanation is given of the unemployment statistics published weekly in the Press, and monthly in this GAZETTE. The following Table gives an analysis relating to the 16th December, 1929, of the composition of these statistics. Lines 2 to 4 make up the number of persons on the register; while, by omitting the uninsured persons (line 4) and including lines 1 and 5, the number of books lodged, or, in other words, the number of insured persons recorded as unemployed, is obtained:—

Table showing composition of unemployment statistics for Great Britain, categorized by gender (Men, Boys, Women, Girls) and total, with sub-categories like 'Unemployed - Special Schemes' and 'Insured non-claimants'.

NUMBERS ON THE REGISTERS OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES, AND VACANCIES NOTIFIED AND FILLED.

The numbers of persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the last Monday in November, 1929, and on each Monday in December (except 23rd), are given in the following Table:—

Table showing numbers on registers of employment exchanges and vacancies notified and filled, broken down by date (25th November, 2nd December, 16th, 23rd, 30th) and gender.

The figures for 30th December, 1929, are analysed below:—

Table analyzing figures for 30th December 1929, showing persons normally in regular employment, wholly unemployed, temporarily stopped, and persons normally in casual employment, with totals for Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The following Table gives particulars relating to the work of Employment Exchanges* in Great Britain and Northern Ireland in filling vacancies for employment during the five weeks ended 30th December, 1929. Of the 137,085 vacancies filled, 82,877 were for men, 31,266 for women and 22,942 for juveniles:—

Table showing particulars of work of Employment Exchanges, including applications from employers during the week and vacancies filled, for the five weeks ended 30th December 1929.

* The term "Employment Exchange," as used in this connection, includes Ministry of Labour Employment Exchanges and Branch Employment Offices and also Juvenile Employment Bureaux under the control of Local Education Authorities which are exercising powers under Sec. 107 of the Education Act, 1921, and Sec. 6 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1923.

† "Vacancies filled" include certain types of cases (described as Class B placements) in which the work of the Exchanges was limited; for instance, obtaining for an employer former employees, or placing the same men in relief work in alternate weeks. During the five weeks ended 25th November, 1929, the average number of such placements was 4,283 per week. The average number of placements of casual workers during the five weeks ended 30th December, 1929, was 600 per week.

PERSONS ON THE REGISTERS AT PRINCIPAL TOWNS.

The following Table shows for each of the Employment Exchange administrative areas, and for the principal towns therein, the number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 30th December, 1929. In certain cases (e.g., Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield, Liverpool, Glasgow, etc.) the figures cover more than one Exchange area.

Large table showing persons on registers at principal towns, categorized by area (London, South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Scotland, Wales, Great Britain and Northern Ireland) and town, with columns for men, women, juveniles, total, and increase/decrease.

[Percentage rates of unemployment, for each of 667 towns in Great Britain, are given in the monthly "Local Unemployment Index"—see special announcement on page 9.]

JUVENILE UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS.

JUVENILES AGED 14 AND UNDER 18 ON THE REGISTER AT 16TH DECEMBER, 1929.

Table showing juvenile unemployment statistics for Great Britain, categorized by division (London, South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Scotland, Wales) and gender, with columns for insured and uninsured persons.

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

Table showing percentage rates of unemployment among insured juveniles aged 16 and 17, categorized by division and gender, with columns for estimated number insured and percentage unemployed.

JUVENILES IN ATTENDANCE AT JUNIOR INSTRUCTION CENTRES. THREE WEEKS ENDED 20TH DECEMBER, 1929.†

Table showing juveniles in attendance at junior instruction centres, categorized by division and gender, with columns for number of centres open and average daily attendance.

JUVENILES PLACED IN EMPLOYMENT. FIVE WEEKS ENDED 30TH DECEMBER, 1929.

Table showing juveniles placed in employment, categorized by division and gender, with columns for number of vacancies filled and juveniles placed in first situation since leaving school.

CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS TO BENEFIT BY LOCAL BOARDS OF ASSESSORS.

As from 9th September, 1929, under the provisions of the Unemployment Insurance (Boards of Assessors) Regulations, 1929, claims to benefit are referred to a Local Board of Assessors if a question arises regarding the fulfilment of the statutory condition that the applicant is genuinely seeking work, or of the transitional conditions (b) and (c) of Section 14 (2) of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1927, viz., that he is normally employed in insurable employment and that he had during the past two years been employed in an insurable employment to such an extent as was reasonable.

The following Table gives particulars of the work of Boards of Assessors during the four weeks ended 2nd December, 1929. It should be noted that the disallowances of claims to benefit arising on

* Based on the number of juvenile unemployment books lodged at Local Offices, which exceed the number of insured juveniles on the Registers. † Section 11 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, as amended by the Fourth Schedule to the Unemployment Insurance Act of 1927, provides that when an insured contributor has during a prescribed period (now fixed at four months), received benefit amounting in the aggregate to 78 days, the claim shall be reviewed by a Court of Referees.

their recommendations are included in the figures in Section B of the Table given in the next article in this column, regarding disallowances by Insurance Officers.

Period 5th November to 2nd December, 1929.

Table showing total cases considered by Boards of Assessors, categorized by condition (Not genuinely seeking work, Allowance recommended, Disallowance recommended, Transitional conditions (b) and (c), Allowance recommended, Disallowance recommended, Assessors disagree) and gender.

DETERMINATION OF CLAIMS TO UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT.

12TH NOVEMBER TO 9TH DECEMBER, 1929.

The following Table gives, for the period 12th November to 9th December, 1929, inclusive, the number of claims to benefit made at Employment Exchanges and Juvenile Employment Bureaux, the average number of claims current at all Local Offices in Great Britain during that period, and an analysis of the decisions by Insurance Officers, of the recommendations of Courts of Referees, and decisions by the Umpire on claims considered by them:—

Table showing determination of claims to unemployment benefit, categorized by gender (Males, Females, Total) and type of claim (Fresh and Renewal claims made, Average number of claims current).

A.—Number of Claims. B.—Disallowances by Insurance Officers.

Table showing disallowances by insurance officers, categorized by permanent provisions (First statutory condition, Not unable to obtain suitable employment, Not genuinely seeking work, Trade disputes, Employment lost through misconduct, Employment left voluntarily without just cause, Other grounds) and transitional provisions (Less than 8 contributions paid in previous two years, Not normally insurable and not seeking to obtain a livelihood by means of insurable employment, Not a reasonable period of insurable employment during the preceding two years).

C.—Recommendations of Courts of Referees.†

Table showing recommendations of courts of referees, categorized by (1) Appeals against disallowances by insurance officers and (2) 78-day review cases, with columns for total cases considered, recommended for allowance, recommended for disallowance, and total recommended for disallowance.

* This condition at present operates only in the case of juveniles under 18 years of age.

† The recommendations of Courts of Referees and decisions by the Umpire on trade dispute disallowances refer largely to test cases. The total number of individuals affected by such decisions may be considerably in excess of the figures shown in the Table.

Section 11 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, as amended by the Fourth Schedule to the Unemployment Insurance Act of 1927, provides that when an insured contributor has during a prescribed period (now fixed at four months), received benefit amounting in the aggregate to 78 days, the claim shall be reviewed by a Court of Referees.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

Rates of Wages.

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics* the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in December in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate increase of about £1,200 in the weekly full-time wages of about 19,000 workpeople, and in a reduction of £1,635 in those of 8,500 workpeople.

The groups of industries principally affected were as shown below :

Group of Industries.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Estimated Amount of Change in Weekly Wages.	
	Increases.	Decreases.	£	£
Mining and Quarrying ...	...	8,150	...	1,600
Iron and Steel and Miscellaneous Metal ...	6,500	...	325	...
Other ...	12,500	350	875	35
Total ...	19,000	8,500	1,200	1,635

The reduction in the mining and quarrying group of industries mainly concerned slate quarries in North Wales, where there was a decrease of 8d. per day in the letting standard and day-wage of the men concerned and of 3d. per day in their minimum wage.

In the metal group there was an increase in the percentage addition payable on the basis rates of iron puddlers and millmen in the West of Scotland, equivalent to about 1½ per cent. on current rates. Pen-makers in the Birmingham district had their wages increased, under a cost-of-living sliding scale, by 1s. or 1s. 4d. per week in the case of men and by 5d. per week in that of women. There was also an increase, under a cost-of-living scale, in the wages of shuttlers in Lancashire and Yorkshire, which was equivalent to about 2 per

cent. on current rates. Minimum rates fixed for the first time by the Keg and Drum Trade Board, under the provisions of the Trade Boards Acts, resulted in increases of varying amounts for a number of workpeople employed in that industry.

In the other industrial groups the principal body of workpeople affected by changes in December were brush and broom makers, for whom the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts were increased under a cost-of-living sliding-scale, by 1½ per cent. on list prices for pieceworkers and by ½d. per hour for most male time-workers and for some classes of female time workers. A new national schedule of uniform rates for switchboard and sub-station attendants employed in the electricity supply industry resulted in increases for certain employees in most of the districts covered.

Of the total increase of £1,200 per week, about £700 took effect under cost-of-living sliding-scales, including about £500 under scales arranged by a Trade Board or joint councils of employers and workpeople; other increases arranged by Trade Boards or joint councils accounted for about £300; £100 took effect under a sliding-scale based on the selling prices of manufactured iron; and the remaining £100 was the result of direct negotiations between employers and workpeople.

Of the total decrease of £1,635 per week, about £100 took effect under an arbitration award; and the remaining sum was almost entirely the result of direct negotiation between employers and workpeople. Decreases preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work accounted for about £120 of the total.

Hours of Labour.

No important changes were reported in December.

Changes in Wages and Hours in 1929.

A special article dealing with these changes appears on pages 3 and 4 of this issue of the GAZETTE.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING DECEMBER, 1929.

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)	
Agriculture	North Riding of Yorkshire.	15 Dec.	Male workers 21 and over (excluding casual workers).	Increase in minimum rate of 1s. per week. Minimum rate after change for a week of 48 hours in winter and 52½ hours in summer, 34s.†	
	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly.	15 Dec.	Male workers 21 and over ...	Increase in minimum rate of 1s. per week. Minimum rate after change for a week of 51 hours, 32s.†	
Coal Mining	Warwickshire (two collieries).	1 Oct.	Workpeople employed in or about coal mines, other than those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries.	Increase of 1 per cent. on basis rates, and subsistence wage paid to adult able-bodied workers increased by ½d. per day.†	
		1 Nov.		Further increase of 1 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 41 per cent. above basis rates at one colliery and 39 per cent. above basis rates at the other colliery; subsistence wage also increased by ½d. per day at both collieries, making totals for underground and surface workers respectively of 8s. 1½d. and 7s. 0½d. at first colliery, and 7s. 1½d. and 7s. per day at the other colliery.†	
Slate Quarrying	North Wales	1st bargain letting day after 17 Dec.	Slate quarrymen ...	Decrease of 8d. per day on the letting standard and day wage and of 3d. per day in the minimum wage. Rates after change: quarrymen—letting standard, 9s. 5d.; day wage, 8s. 5d.; minimum wage, 7s. per day; rock labourers—letting standard, 8s. 1½d.; day wage, 7s. 1½d.; minimum, 6s. 8d.; labourers—letting standard, 8s. 8d.; day wage, 7s. 8d.; minimum, 6s. 6d. per day.‡	
Chemical, etc., Manufacture.	Bristol (certain firms)	1st week in Dec.	Workpeople employed in the manufacture of glue and chemical manures.	Increase of 1s. per week for men and of proportionate amounts for women and youths. Minimum rate after change for men, 44s. 9d.	
Iron Manufacture	West of Scotland	2 Dec.	Iron puddlers and millmen ...	Increase of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 42½ per cent. above the standard.	
			Lancashire (except Garston and Blackburn).	Journeymen shuttlers ...	Addition to base rate increased|| from 44 to 47 per cent. Minimum daywork rate after change, 1s. per hour, plus 47 per cent. (1s. 5-64d. per hour).
			Lancashire ...	Apprentices to shuttlers ...	Addition to base rates increased|| from 26½ to 29½ per cent.
Shuttle Manufacture.	Yorkshire ...	1st pay day in Jan. 1930.**	Journeymen shuttlers ...	Addition to base rate increased|| from 47 to 50 per cent. Minimum daywork rate after change, 1½d. per hour, plus 50 per cent. (1s. 4-5d. per hour).	
	Great Britain	16 Dec.	Workpeople employed in the manufacture of hollow-ware.	Minimum rates previously fixed under the Trade Boards Acts by the Hollow-ware Trade Board extended so as to cover workpeople employed in the manufacture of (a) articles of hollow-ware from sheet iron or sheet steel; (b) baths and dust bins from black plate or black plate coated with any metal of an average thickness not exceeding .0392 of an inch; (c) forged, stamped or pressed mountings or fittings etc., made from iron and steel; (d) kegs, drums, tapers, tapered-necked cans and painters' pots, etc., of an average thickness less than .125 of an inch, or from black plate coated with any metal of an average thickness exceeding .01745, but less than .125 of an inch. (See also Notice of Order on page 471 of December GAZETTE.)	

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

† The rates referred to took effect under an Order of the Agricultural Wages Board in accordance with the provisions of the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act, 1924.

‡ The above increases took effect from the dates mentioned under an arrangement made in December. Increases of similar amounts had previously operated from the same dates at the other collieries in Warwickshire (to make a percentage addition of 45) and were recorded on page 464 of December GAZETTE.

§ The above change took effect as the result of negotiations between the North Wales Slate Quarry Owners' Association and the North Wales Quarrymen's Union.

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

¶ Under selling-price sliding-scale arrangements.

** In respect of the preceding pay period.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING DECEMBER, 1929 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
Keg and Drum Manufacture.	Great Britain	16 Dec.	Males ...	Minimum time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts at 47s. per week of 47 hours for men 21 years and over, and at amounts varying according to age, from 12s. 8½d. for workers under 15 years to 40s. 1½d. for those 20 to 21 years; also piecework basis time rates fixed at 52s. 10½d. per week of 47 hours for men 21 years and over, and at amounts varying according to age, from 14s. 8½d. for workers under 15 to 46s. 0½d. for those 20 to 21 years.*
			Females ...	Minimum time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts at 27s. 5d. per week of 47 hours for women 18 years and over, and at amounts varying according to age, from 11s. 9d. for workers under 15 to 22s. 6½d. for those 17 to 18 years; also piecework basis time rates fixed at 30s. 4½d. per week of 47 hours for women 18 years and over, and at amounts varying according to age, from 13s. 8½d. for workers under 15 to 25s. 5½d. for those 17 to 18 years.*
Pen, etc., Manufacture.	Birmingham and District.	Pay day following 1 Dec.	Workpeople employed in the manufacture of steel and metal pens and stationers' metal sundries:— Male timeworkers over 21 years of age.	Increase of 1s. 4d. per week for skilled men and charge hands and of 1s. per week for others. Weekly rates after change: toolmakers over 25 years of age, 76s. 8d. and 67s. 2d.; toolmakers, 21 to 25 years, 57s. 2d.; charge hands in hardening shops and rolling mills, 69s. 2d.; charge hands in shaking mills and tempering and colouring shops, 61s. 2d.; others, 47s. 4d. Increase of amounts varying according to age from 3d. to 9d. per week.
			Male timeworkers under 21 years of age. Apprentices ... Female dayworkers and learners Female pieceworkers ...	Increase of amounts varying according to age from 2d. to 6d. per week. Increase of amounts varying according to age from 2d. to 5d. per week. Weekly rates after change for dayworkers 18 years of age and over 23s. 10d. Increase of 5d. in the basic piecework rate (24s. 1½d. to 25s. 4d.).
Cotton, etc., Weaving.	Oldham and District	After making-up day in week ending 14 Dec. 28 Oct.	Cotton weavers when employed in weaving artificial silk.	Uniform extras adopted to the base prices fixed by the Oldham List of Prices for Weaving Cotton Velvets (a) of 14-22 per cent. when using 100 per cent. spun artificial silk and (b) of 4-7½ per cent. when using mixture spun artificial silk (silk and cotton). Decrease of ½ per cent. on list prices.
Fustian Cutting	Congleton ...	1st pay day in Dec.	Fustian cutters ...	Increase of 1s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 70s.
Baking and Confectionery.	Ayrshire†	1st pay day in Dec.	Bakers and confectioners ...	Increase of 1s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 70s.
Brewing	Accrington, Blackburn, Burnley, Barrow-in-Furness and District.	1st full pay in Dec.	Brewery workers ...	Increase of 2s. per week for men 19 years and over, 1s. per week for women and 6d. to 1s. per week for youths. Rates after change: men 19 and over, 54s.; women, 37s.; youths, 17s. 6d. at 14 increasing each year to 28s. at 18.
Furniture Manufacture.	London	1 Dec.	Bedding and mattress makers ...	Increase of 2 per cent. in the basis for calculating rates of wages, making wages 67 per cent. above the list adopted in 1922.
Mosaic, etc., Laying.	Leeds	19 Nov.	Marble, tile and mosaic workers ...	Rates adopted of 1s. 8d. per hour for marble masons, tilers and mosaic layers, 1s. 4d. per hour for polishers and rubbers and 1s. 2½d. per hour for labourers.
Electricity Supply Industry.	Various districts in Great Britain.‡	2 Dec.	Switchboard attendants and sub-station attendants.¶	Rate of 80s. per week adopted for men in Zone A undertakings¶ in charge of switchboards controlling generating plant of an aggregate capacity of up to 5,000 kw., 82s. for 5,001 to 10,000 kw., 85s. for 10,001 to 20,000 kw.; rates also adopted for sub-station attendants varying according to generating capacity of station, from 66s. to 86s. per week; assistant attendants** to receive 75 per cent. of full rate.
Tramway Undertaking.	Glasgow	12 Dec.	Fitters, turners, tinmiths, boiler-makers, brass workers, vicemen, etc.	Increase of 1d. per hour. Rates after change include: fitters and turners, 1s. 5d.; boiler-makers, 1s. 5½d.
Road Transport Industry.	Hawick (certain firms).	9 Dec.	Workpeople employed in the road transport industry.	Minimum rates of wages adopted for a 48-hour week as follows: single-horse drivers, 50s.; double-horse drivers, 55s.; motor drivers (light), 57s. 6d.; motor drivers (heavy), 62s.; steam-motor drivers, 70s.; mates or second men, 55s.; coal fillers and labourers, 48s. 6d.††
Local Government (Non-Trading Services).	Dorset County Council.	1 Dec.	Roadmen ...	Increase of 4d. per day. Rates after change: 6s. to 6s. 8d.
	Glasgow	2 Dec.	Settmakers ...	Increase of 1d. per ton (4s. 8d. to 4s. 9d.).
	Kirkcaldy	1st pay day after 15 Dec.	Manual workers ...	Increase up to 5s. per week and cost-of-living sliding scale previously in operation discontinued. Rates after change: labourers, 56s. 9d.; road paviors, 70s.; masons, 68s.; refuse collectors and scavengers, 58s.; carters, 59s.
Brush and Broom Manufacture.	Great Britain	1 Dec.	Workpeople employed in the brush and broom trade:— Certain classes of male time-workers.‡‡ All other male timeworkers ...	Increase in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively:— Increase of ½d. per hour (1s. 2d. to 1s. 2½d.). Increase of ½d. per hour for those 16 and under 16½, 17 and under 18, and 19 and over, the rates for other ages remaining unchanged, making minimum rates 2½d. at under 14½, increasing to 1½d. at 21 and over.
			Female pan hands ... Female workers (other than pan hands and learners). Female learners (other than pan-setting learners). Male and female pieceworkers Apprentices ...	Increase of ½d. per hour for certain classes. Increase of ½d. per hour for those 16 and under 16½, and 17 and under 18, the time rates for those of other ages and the piecework basis time rate for all workers remaining unchanged, making minimum time rates 2½d. at under 14½, increasing to 6½d. at 21 and over. Increase of ½d. per hour during the fourth three months for those starting at 21 and over, the rates for other learners remaining unchanged. Increase in minimum piece rates of ½ per cent., leaving wages 18½ per cent. below the list. Increases proportionate to the above.

* See also Notice of Order on page 471 of December GAZETTE.

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

‡ Including Auchincloss, Dalmeilington, Irvine, Kilbirnie, Kilmarnock, Kilwinning, Maybole, Stevenston, Troon, Largs, Fairlie, West Kilbride, Old Cumnock, New Cumnock, Mauchline, Catrine, Dunlop, Stewarton, Beith, Dalry, Glangarnock, Crosshouse, Hurford, Darvel, Galston, Newmilns, Kilmears, Ardrossan, Saltcoats, etc.

§ The new schedule of rates is embodied in recommendations approved by the National Joint Industrial Council for the Electricity Supply Industry. Where the adoption of the rates involves a reduction in wages, the scale is to apply only to new men entering the service. So far as has been reported to the Department the recommendations have been adopted by the majority of the District Councils, but they have not yet been adopted by the Yorkshire, West Midlands and Scottish Councils, while in London the schedule is inoperative as higher rates were already being paid.

¶ Excluding those that have a supervisory status and are engaged on supervisory duties; or, are responsible for the control of load distribution; or, control manually operated sub-stations other than the one in which they are actually engaged; or who, for a temporary period of their training as technical engineers, are engaged on a switchboard or in a sub-station.

** Rates for other Zones are to be pro rata in accordance with the Zone percentage adopted by the various District Councils.

†† Defined as employees who are actively engaged on the work of the station, and who are capable of taking over (for a temporary period) the duties of Switchboard or Sub-station Attendants in cases of emergency.

‡‡ The new rates are embodied in an Agreement made between the Coal Merchants and Contractors of Hawick and the Transport and General Workers' Union.

§§ Viz., those 21 years and over with three years' experience in certain operations and those of all ages who have served at least five years' apprenticeship in one or more of these operations.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

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

I.—FOOD.

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

Table with columns: Country, Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914 (July 1926, July 1927, July 1928, July 1929), Latest figures available (Rise, Date). Includes Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Foreign Countries, and British Dominions.

II.—ALL ITEMS.

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

Table with columns: Country, Items on which computation is based, Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914 (July 1926, July 1927, July 1928, July 1929), Latest figures available (Rise, Date). Includes Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Foreign Countries, and British Dominions.

* Exceptions to this are: France (other towns), August, 1914; Rome and Milan, January to June, 1914; Switzerland and Luxembourg, June, 1914; Spain, South Africa, France (Paris, all items), Poland, 1914; Germany, average, 1913-1914; Amsterdam, 1911-1913; Belgium, April, 1914; Italy (food), United States (all items), Canada, 1913; Australia (all items), November, 1914.

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

LAST QUARTER OF 1929.

Returns have been received from 142 Local Authorities in Great Britain giving the estimated cost of buildings for which plans were passed during the fourth quarter of 1929. The summarised figures are given in the Table below, together with similar figures as to plans passed by the same authorities during the corresponding quarter of 1928.

Table with columns: District and Aggregate Population (at Census of 1921) of Towns from which returns have been received, Estimated Cost of Buildings for which plans were approved in the 142 Towns from which returns have been received (Dwelling Houses, Factories and Work-shops, Shops, Offices, Ware-houses, and other Business Premises, Churches Schools and Public Buildings, Other Buildings and Alterations to Existing Buildings), TOTAL. Includes (a) Fourth Quarter of 1929 and (b) Fourth Quarter of 1928.

Table showing building plans approved in the fourth quarter of 1928, similar to the 1929 table.

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

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

Table with columns: Destination, Applications Approved in Dec. 1929, Total Applications Approved (1922 to Dec. 1929), Departures in Dec. 1929, Total Departures (1922 to Dec. 1929). Includes Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Africa and other parts of Empire, Total.

The figures are provisional and subject to revision.

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

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

Workmen's Compensation Act, 1925.

INDUSTRIAL DISEASE—POTTERY WORKER'S CLAIM—INTERPRETATION OF THE VARIOUS INDUSTRIES (SILICOSIS) SCHEME, 1928.*

This was an appeal by an employer in the pottery trade against an award made by the learned judge sitting at Burslem County Court. The workman was a potter's handler, who had been engaged in the employer's jet and rockingham works. He contracted silicosis. The County Court judge held that the disease was due to the workman's employment, and further that, although jet and rockingham was not called earthenware in the trade, it was earthenware within the meaning of the Silicosis Scheme of 1928. He awarded compensation of £1 10s. per week, to be paid as for total incapacity.

Merchant Shipping (International Labour Conventions) Act, 1925.

SEAMEN'S SERVICES ENDED BY WRECK—CLAIMS FOR WAGES. Two actions were tried together, in which the plaintiffs were two able-bodied seamen whose services were terminated, before the dates contemplated in their respective agreements, owing to the ships upon which they were serving being wrecked.

Section 1 (1) of the Merchant Shipping (International Labour Conventions) Act, 1925, provides as follows:—“Where by reason of the wreck or loss of a ship on which a seaman is employed his service terminates before the date contemplated in the agreement, he shall, notwithstanding anything in section 158 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, but subject to the provisions of this section, be entitled, in respect of each day on which he is in fact unemployed during a period of two months from the date of the termination of his service, to receive wages at the rate to which he was entitled at that date.”

Sub-section 2 is as follows:—“A seaman shall not be entitled to receive wages under this section if the owner shows that the unemployment was not due to the wreck or loss of the ship, and shall not be entitled to receive wages under this section in respect of any day if the owner shows that the seaman was able to obtain suitable employment on that day.”

Judgment was entered for the plaintiffs for two months' wages from the dates on which it was admitted that their services terminated by reason of the wrecks. A stay of execution for fourteen days pending notice of appeal was granted.

Trade Boards Acts, 1909-1918.

PRODUCTION OF FALSE RECORDS OF WAGES—INTERPRETATION OF SECTION 15 (2) OF TRADE BOARDS ACT, 1909, AS AMENDED BY SECTION 11 OF TRADE BOARDS ACT, 1918.

This was an appeal from a decision of the stipendiary magistrate sitting at West London Police Court. The respondent, who was the agent of employers in the boot and shoe repairing trade, was summoned on the charge of producing on 19th February, 1929, to the appellant, who was an inspector appointed under the Trade Boards Acts, a record of wages which was false in a material particular, knowing the same to be false.

At the police court the respondent pleaded guilty, and the following facts (inter alia) were admitted: That the respondent produced two books to the appellant, one book purporting to show only the sums

* Statutory Rules and Orders, No. 975 of 1928. H.M. Stationery Office; price 3d. net. See the issues of this GAZETTE for September, 1928 (pages 320-1), and for January, 1929 (page 37).

of money paid to the workers per week, and the other book purporting to show only the hours worked by those workers. Further, that the entries in the book purporting to show the sums of money paid in wages were true, but that certain of the entries in the book purporting to show the hours worked were false in a material particular to the knowledge of the respondent.

It was contended on behalf of the appellant that the two books together constituted a “record of wages” within the meaning of section 15(2) of the Trade Boards Act, 1909, as amended by section 11 of the Trade Boards Act, 1918; but the learned magistrate held that the book purporting to show only sums of money paid in wages constituted in itself a “record of wages” within the meaning of the above section, and that, in view of the admission that the entries in that book were true, it was impossible to convict the respondent of the charge. He accordingly dismissed the case.

A case was stated for the opinion of the High Court. In giving judgment the Lord Chief Justice said that he thought the case was too plain for argument. The respondent had produced two books to the appellant with the object of showing, not only how much money was paid, but how these sums stood in relation to the number of hours worked. The one table was meaningless without the other, and when both the tables were put together the result was altogether false. Nevertheless, because the sums of money entered were in fact the sums of money which had been paid, the learned magistrate had dismissed the case. If his decision were correct the section might as well be repealed.

Mr. Justice Swift and Mr. Justice Branson concurred. The appeal was allowed, and the case remitted to the magistrate with a direction to convict.—A. M. Gordon (appellant) v. E. Goldenbloom (respondent), High Court of Justice, Divisional Court. 13th November, 1929.

BOOT AND SHOE REPAIRING TRADE.

An employer was charged with hindering an officer in the exercise of his powers, and refusing to produce a wages book. A fine of £1 was inflicted on each summons, with £2 2s. costs.—Rez v. William Henry Lawson. North London Police Court. 20th December, 1929.

BUTTON MANUFACTURING TRADE.

A firm was prosecuted for the underpayment of six workers, and was fined 20s., with 5s. costs, on each of the six summonses. Arrears of wages amounting to £93 14s. 8d. were ordered to be paid.—Rez v. Junction Button Works, Limited. Leeds City Police Court. 31st December, 1929.

DRESSMAKING AND WOMEN'S LIGHT CLOTHING TRADE.

An employer was charged with (a) the underpayment of three workers, (b) failure to keep adequate wages records, and (c) failure to post Trade Board notices.

The defendant was fined 20s. on the three underpayment charges, and 10s. on each of the other two charges. Arrears of wages totalling £58 12s. 4d. were ordered to be paid.—Rez v. H. Haworth. Bury Police Court. 17th December, 1929.

A firm of wholesale manufacturing dressmakers was charged with failing to post the requisite Trade Board notices and fined 10s. Rez v. Victoria Manufacturing Company, Limited. Newcastle-on-Tyne Police Court. 20th December, 1929.

A retail dressmaker was charged with failing to post notices, and failing to keep adequate records of wages. She was fined 10s. on each charge.—Rez v. M. Henry. Newcastle-on-Tyne Police Court. 20th December, 1929.

GENERAL WASTE MATERIALS RECLAMATION TRADE.

An employer was prosecuted for failure to keep adequate records of wages. He was convicted, and fined 20s., with 21s. costs, or 11 days' imprisonment in default.—Rez v. Thomas Allen. Birmingham Police Court. 2nd January, 1930.

HAT, CAP AND MILLINERY TRADE.

A cap manufacturer was charged with the underpayment of three workers. The defendant pleaded guilty, and was fined £15, or 60 days' imprisonment. Arrears of wages amounting to £27 8s. 5d. had been paid prior to the date of hearing.—Rez v. Morris Goldberg. Glasgow Sheriff Court. 27th November, 1929.

MILK DISTRIBUTIVE TRADE.

A dairyman was fined £5 for underpaying a worker, and £2 and £1 respectively for failing to post Trade Board notices and failing to keep adequate wages records. He was also ordered to pay arrears of wages amounting to £11 7s. 11d.—Rez v. John Haynes. Manchester City Police Court. 6th December, 1929.

A dairyman was charged with failing to keep adequate records of the wages paid to his workers, and fined 20s., with 7s. costs.—Rez v. C. C. Setchfield. Cardiff Police Court. 12th December, 1929.

SACK AND BAG TRADE.

An employer was charged with the underpayment of three workers, and failure to post the Trade Board notice. The defendant pleaded guilty to all four charges, and was fined £1 on each summons. Costs amounting to £2 16s. were awarded, and arrears of wages totalling £10 8s. 10d. were ordered to be paid.—Rez v. Mabel Brown (trading as H. T. Dufton). Pudsey Police Court. 18th December, 1929.

Tile Slabs : Kleine Patent Fire-Resisting Flooring Syndicate, Ltd., London, W.C. Fishguard, Pembrokeshire, Wireless Station—Alterations, etc.: W. H. Fortune, Haverfordwest. Frinton-on-Sea, Essex, P.O.—Alterations: Field & Son, Clacton. G.P.O. (North), E.C.—Glazier: R. Ralph & Co., London, W. Greenwich Park, S.E.—Shelter: Thomas & Edge, London, S.E.; Tennis Courts: Maxwell M. Hart, London, S.W. Ilkeston, Derbyshire, Employment Exchange—Plumber: F. G. Skerritt, Ltd., Nottingham; Slater: A. Pyatt & Co., Ltd., Nottingham; Steelwork: Edward Wood & Co., Ltd., Manchester. Kensington Gardens, W.—Shelter: Leslie & Co., Ltd., London, W. Liverpool, Leece Street Employment Exchange—Plasterer: J. B. Johnson & Co., Ltd., Liverpool; Steelwork: Geo. Lowe & Sons, Liverpool. Llandudno H.P.O.—Reinstatement Work: Watkins, Jones & Son, Bangor. Motherwell P.O.—Alterations: Murdoch Mackenzie, Ltd., Motherwell. Newcastle, "East" Telephone Exchange—Steelwork: Redpath, Brown & Co., Ltd., Edinburgh. Newport, Mon., Employment Exchange—Erection: Bradford & Davies, Cardiff. Northallerton P.O.—Painter: S. Fletcher, Northallerton; Plasterer: Webster, Davidson & Co., Ltd., Sunderland; Plumber, etc.: J. H. Shouk-smith & Son, York; Slater, etc.: Thos. Colbert & Son, Middlesbrough. Pitlochry P.O.—Alterations: P. Graham & Sons, Bankfoot. Portpatrick, Wigtonshire, Wireless Station—Cottages: Lauder & Shaw, Dumbarton. Prescott, Lancs, Telephone Exchange—Erection: J. Johnson & Son, Wigan. Preston, Brighton, Telephone Exchange—Asphalter: Ragusa Asphalte Paving Co., Ltd., London, W.; Concreter: W. Baxter Elliott, London, S.E. Reading, P.O. Manager's Office—Alterations, etc.: Francis Bros., Reading. Redditch Employment Exchange—Steelwork: Wilfred Robbins & Co., Great Bridge. Rhos-on-Sea, Colwyn Bay, Telephone Exchange—Erection: Wm. Griffiths, Sons & Cromwell, Ltd., Liverpool. Richmond, Surrey—Park Cottage: Limpus & Son, Kingston-on-Thames. Sanderstead, Croydon, Telephone Exchange—Asphalter: Ragusa Asphalte Paving Co., Ltd., London, W.; Pre-cast Staircases, etc.: W. Baxter Elliott, London, S.E. Shipley Employment Exchange—Erection: Ernest Turner, Ltd., Keighley. South Kensington, S.W. Geological Museum—Foundations: A. Roberts & Co., Ltd., London, W. Stirling P.O.—Garage, etc.: B. Reynolds & Son, Stirling. Streatham, S.W., Sorting Office—Asphalter: Improved Asphalte Co., Ltd., London, S.E. Uckfield P.O.—Glazier: R. Ralph & Co., London, W.; Joiner: Rippers, Ltd., Castle Hedingham. West Kensington, W., Savings Bank—Alcoves: J. Garrett & Son, Ltd., London, S.W. Whitechurch, Bristol, Telephone Exchange—Erection: S. W. Redwood & Sons, Bristol. Winton, Bournemouth, Telephone Exchange—Erection: Walter Hoare & Sons, Bournemouth.—**Maintenance Work:** Aberdeen—Plumber: J. F. Anderson, Aberdeen. Bishop Auckland—Plumber: Spoors, Ltd., Bishop Auckland. Carmarthen: Bartlett Bros., Carmarthen. Colchester: F. Hutton & Son, Birch. Dorchester: J. Winzar & Sons, Dorchester. Douglas: J. K. Brearley, Douglas. Dudley, etc.: J. Edwards & Sons, Dudley. Dundee—Excavator, etc.: J. Nicoll & Son, Dundee. Durham—Painter: G. A. Greenwell, Durham; Plumber: John Heron & Sons, Durham. Edinburgh—Plumber: P. Knox & Son, Edinburgh. Jarrow, etc.—Painter: T. Fraser, Jarrow; Plumber: J. Richardson, Jarrow. Middlesbrough—Painter: Ed. Turner, Ltd., Middlesbrough. Perth—Plumber, etc.: J. McIntyre, Perth. Stirling—Carpenter, etc.:

W. McPherson & Son, Ltd., Stirling. Stockton-on-Tees: J. S. Earnshaw, Ltd., Stockton. Torquay: H. Cruse, Torquay. Walthamstow, E., etc.: A. G. Barton & Sons, London, E. West Bromwich: G. & H. Marshall, West Smethwick. Whitehaven—Painter: G. Skinner & Sons, Whitehaven. Wolverhampton: A. M. Griffiths & Son, Ltd., Wolverhampton. Worcester: Phelps & Johnson, Worcester.—**Engineering Services:** Acton, W., "Acorn" Telephone Exchange—Heating: R. H. & J. Pearson, Ltd., London, W. Belfast, Houses of Parliament—Switchgear: T. Clarke & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Bethnal Green, E., Museum—Wiring: Galliard, Robinson & Co., London, S.W. Chelsea Hospital, S.W.—Wiring: T. Clarke & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. East Malling, Maidstone, Testing Station—Wiring: T. Clarke & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Folkestone P.O.—Heating: Brightside Foundry and Engineering Co., Ltd., London, S.E. Leicester Sorting Office—Heating, etc.: J. Combe & Son, Ltd., Welwyn Garden City.—**Painting:** W. E. Greenwood & Son, Ltd., London, N.W.; G. Jones & Son, London, W.; Page, Hinchman & Co., London, S.W.; P. Skevington & Sons, Derby.—**Miscellaneous:** Cabinets (Museum): W. Turner, Lord & Co., London, W. Cartage: B. C. Newman, Surbiton. Casements (Steel): Humphries, Jackson & Ambler, Ltd., Manchester. Clothing: G. Glanfield & Sons, Ltd., London, E.; G. Hammond & Co. (1922), Ltd., Crewe. Fittings and Furniture: G. Baxter & Co., Ltd., Glasgow; Fielding & Bottomley, Halifax; George E. Gray, Ltd., London, E.; F. Hutton & Son, Birch; A. Younger, Ltd., London, N. Window Cleaning: Bright Window Cleaning Co., London, N.W.; City Window Cleaning Co. (London), Ltd., London, E.C.; Great Metropolitan Cleaning Co., Ltd., London, S.W.

METROPOLITAN POLICE.

Window Cleaning, Year 1930: Police Courts and New Scotland Yard: London and Westminster Window Cleaning Association, London, W.C.

PRISONS DEPARTMENT FOR SCOTLAND.

Margarine: Ballochmyle Creamery Co., Ltd., Mauchline, Ayrshire.—**Milk:** East Kilbride Dairy Farmers' Ltd., Glasgow.—**Tea:** Noad Brothers, Perth.

BOARD OF CONTROL, ENGLAND.

Fish: A. W. Harrisson & Co., Grimsby.

NOTICE.

The "MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE" is published on or about the 18th of each month, price 6d. net. The annual subscription (post free) is 7s.

The Publishers (to whom should be addressed all communications concerning subscriptions and sales) are H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C. 2, and branches (see Cover).

PRINTED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE BY EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE, LTD., HIS MAJESTY'S PRINTERS, EAST HARDING STREET, LONDON, E.C. 4.