

THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

VOL. XXXVIII.—No. 5.]

MAY, 1930.

[PRICE SIXPENCE NET.]

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

EMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT showed a slight improvement on the whole during the first fortnight in April, but in a number of industries Easter holiday suspensions were extended, and at the end of the month the position was rather worse than at the end of March. The principal industries in which there was a net increase in unemployment included coal mining, slate quarrying, the pottery and glass industries, iron and steel manufacture, engineering, iron founding and most other metal trades, the textile and leather trades, and boot and shoe manufacture. On the other hand, there was a further seasonal improvement in the building industry, in a number of clothing trades and in the motor vehicle industry. Employment also improved in the tinplate industry.

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 14·6 at 28th April, 1930, as compared with 14·0 at 24th March, 1930, and 9·8 at 22nd April, 1929. The percentage wholly unemployed at 28th April, 1930, was 10·8, as compared with 10·6 at 24th March, 1930; while the percentage temporarily stopped was 3·8, as compared with 3·4. For males alone the percentage at 28th April, 1930, was 14·9, and for females 13·8. At 24th March, 1930, the corresponding percentages were 14·5 and 12·8. The total number of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 28th April, 1930, was approximately 1,752,000, of whom 1,242,000 were men and 416,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls. At 31st March, 1930, it was 1,731,000, of whom 1,238,000 were men and 410,000 were women; and at 29th April, 1929, it was 1,198,000, of whom 930,000 were men and 197,000 were women.

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 April resulted in a decrease* of about £23,100 in the weekly full-time wages of 268,000 workpeople, and in an increase of £3,100 in those of 89,000 workpeople.

The greater part of the reduction occurred in the textile group of industries, largely as the result of the operation of cost-of-living sliding scales. The cost-of-living bonus paid to hosiery workers in the Midlands was reduced by one penny on each shilling earned, and the cost-of-living wages of bleachers, dyers, etc., were reduced by amounts equivalent to about 4 per cent., or slightly over, on current wages in Yorkshire and by 2s. 4d. and 1s. 4d. per week for men and women

* The statistics do not include the effect of decreases sustained by some of the workpeople in the wool textile industry of Yorkshire, in which a dispute arising out of proposed reductions in wage rates began in April and is still in progress.

respectively in Lancashire and Scotland. In the jute trade the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts were reduced by 4 per cent. for pieceworkers and by corresponding amounts for other classes of workers.

The workpeople principally affected by increases were mainly in the metal industries. Plain timeworkers, 21 years of age and over, employed in the shipbuilding and ship-repairing industry, received the balance of the increases necessary to make wages up to the new national uniform time rates (increases up to 2s. per week having taken effect in January); and iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen in the Midlands received an increase on their basis rates equivalent to nearly 2 per cent. on current wages.

During the first four months of 1930, the changes reported to the Department in the industries for which statistics have been compiled have resulted in net increases of about £26,100 in the weekly full-time wages of 392,000 workpeople, and in net decreases of £63,550 in those of 704,000 workpeople.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st May 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 55 per cent. above that of July, 1914, as compared with 57 per cent. a month ago and 61 per cent. a year ago. For food alone the corresponding figures were 40, 43 and 49.

The fall in the general percentage increase since 1st April was largely due to reductions in the prices of butter, milk and coal.

These statistics are designed to indicate the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families. Accordingly, the changes in the prices of the various articles included are combined 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 April was 27. In addition, 13 disputes which began before April were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in April (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 110,000 and the aggregate duration of all disputes during April was about 1,300,000 working days. These figures are much larger than those for recent months owing to the dispute in the wool textile industry in the West Riding of Yorkshire and part of Lancashire, which began in April.

The aggregate duration of all disputes in progress in the first four months of 1930 was about 1½ million working days, and the total number of workpeople involved in these disputes was nearly 140,000.

NUMBERS INSURED AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.

Table with columns for Industry, Estimated Number of Insured Persons (Males, Females, Total), Percentage Unemployed (Wholly, Temporary, Total), and Increase/Decrease in Total Percentage Unemployed (24th Mar, 1930; 22nd Apr, 1929; 23rd Apr, 1928). Rows include Fishing, Mining, Non-Metallic Mining Products, Brick, Tile, etc., Pottery, Glass Trades, Chemicals, Metal Manufacture, Engineering, Construction and Repair of Vehicles, Shipbuilding, Textile Trades, Leather and Leather Goods, Clothing Trades, Food, Drink and Tobacco, and Sawmilling, Furniture and Woodwork.

Table showing Estimated Number of Insured Persons (Males, Females, Total) and Percentage Unemployed (Wholly, Temporary, Total) for various industries as of 28th April, 1930. Includes a section for 'GREAT BRITAIN ONLY, TOTAL PERCENTAGES AT 28TH APRIL, 1930.' and a 'TOTAL' row at the bottom.

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 28th April, 1930, are analysed so as to show the proportion of the total unemployed classified as belonging to various industry groups:-

Table showing the proportion of total unemployed classified by industry group. Columns include Industry Group, Number Wholly Unemployed, Percentage of Total, Number Temporarily Unemployed, Percentage of Total, and Number of Stoppages.

PRINCIPAL VARIATIONS DURING APRIL IN NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED.

The following Table indicates for Great Britain and Northern Ireland the industries in which the numbers of insured persons recorded as unemployed at 28th April, 1930, differed from the figures for 24th March, 1930, to the extent of 1,000 or more:-

Table showing principal variations in numbers unemployed during April. Columns include Industry, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers recorded as Unemployed at 28th April, 1930, as compared with 24th March, 1930, and Total.

COMPOSITION OF UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

On page 176 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 28th April, 1930, 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: Great Britain. Columns: Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total. Rows: 1. Unemployed—Special Schemes, 2. Claims admitted or under consideration, 3. Insured non-claimants and claimants disqualified, but maintaining registration, 4. Uninsured persons on Register, 5. Two months' file, Persons on Register (lines 2-4), Books Lodged (lines 1-3 and 5).

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 March, 1930, and on each Monday in April (except Easter Monday) are given in the following Table:—

Table showing numbers on registers of employment exchanges and vacancies notified and filled. Columns: Date, Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total, Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Rows: 31st March, 1930; 7th April, 1930; 14th, 21st, 28th April, 1930; Average (3 weeks).

The figures for 28th April, 1930, are analysed below:—

Table analyzing figures for 28th April, 1930. Columns: Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total, Great Britain, Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Rows: Persons normally in Regular Employment, Wholly Unemployed, Temporarily Stopped, Persons normally in Casual Employment, Total.

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 four weeks ended 28th April, 1930. Of the 134,261 vacancies filled, 76,032 were for men, 32,030 for women and 26,199 for juveniles:—

Table showing particulars of work of Employment Exchanges. Columns: Week ended, Applications from Employers during Week, Vacancies Filled. Rows: 31st March, 1930; 7th April, 1930; 14th, 21st, 28th April, 1930; Average (4 weeks).

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

† "Vacancies filled" include certain types of cases (described as Class B placings) in which the work of the Exchanges was limited; for instance, obtaining for an employer former employees, or placing the same men in relief work in alternate weeks. During the four weeks ended 24th March, 1930, the average number of such placings of men and women was 5.516 per week. The average number of placings of casual workers during the four weeks ended 28th April, 1930, 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 28th April, 1930. 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. Columns: Area, Number of Persons on Register at 28th April, 1930 (Men, Women, Juveniles, Total), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 31st March 1930. Rows: London Division, South-Eastern Division, South-Western Division, Midlands Division, North-Eastern Division, North-Western Division, Scotland, Wales, Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

[Percentage rates of unemployment, for each of 667 towns in Great Britain, are given in the monthly "Local Unemployment Index."]

JUVENILE UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS.

JUVENILES AGED 14 AND UNDER 18 ON THE REGISTER AT 28TH APRIL, 1930.

Table showing juvenile unemployment statistics. Columns: Division, Boys (Insured 16 and under 18, Uninsured 14 and under 18, Total), Girls (Insured 14 and under 18, Uninsured 14 and under 18, Total). Rows: London, South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Scotland, Wales, Great Britain.

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

Table showing percentage rates of unemployment among insured juveniles. Columns: Division, Estimated number insured at July, 1929, Percentage Unemployed at 28th April, 1930 (Boys, Girls, Total). Rows: London, South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Scotland, Wales, Special Schemes, Great Britain.

JUVENILES IN ATTENDANCE AT JUNIOR INSTRUCTION CENTRES AND CLASSES. FIVE WEEKS ENDED 30TH APRIL, 1930.

Table showing juveniles in attendance at junior instruction centres. Columns: Division, No. of Centres Open, No. of Classes Open, Average daily Attendance (Boys, Girls, Total), Separate individuals who have attended, 1st April, 1930, to 30th April, 1930. Rows: London, South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Scotland, Wales, Great Britain.

JUVENILES PLACED IN EMPLOYMENT. FIVE WEEKS ENDED 28TH APRIL, 1930.

Table showing juveniles placed in employment. Columns: Division, Number of Vacancies Filled (Boys, Girls, Total), Juveniles placed in first situation since leaving school (Boys, Girls, Total). Rows: London, South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Scotland, Wales, Great Britain.

DETERMINATION OF CLAIMS TO UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT.

13TH MARCH, 1930, TO 14TH APRIL, 1930.

The Unemployment Insurance Act, 1930, which came into operation on 13th March, 1930, made important changes in the machinery for the determination of claims to unemployment benefit. The main changes are these:—

(1) While an Insurance Officer remains able to allow any claim if he thinks it ought to be allowed, a claim can be disallowed only by a Court of Referees. (There is only one exception to this, viz., cases arising under the trade dispute disqualification. In these cases the Insurance Officer still has power to disallow the claim, but the claimant is entitled to appeal to a Court of Referees.)

* Based on the number of Juvenile Unemployment Books lodged at Local Offices, which exceed the numbers of insured juveniles on the Registers. † Girls over 15 years of age are also admitted to certain Home Training Centres administered by the Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment.

(2) Courts of Referees give decisions on claims referred to them, whereas previously they made recommendations to the Insurance Officer.

(3) An appeal to the Umpire, who is the final authority, may be made at the instance of the Insurance Officer or of an Association of employed persons of which the claimant is a member, or by the claimant himself if he obtains the leave of the Court or if the decision of the Court is not unanimous.

The Unemployment Insurance Act, 1930, also made changes in the conditions for the receipt of benefit (see the issues of this GAZETTE for March, 1930, page 84, and December, 1929, page 399). In particular it repealed the Fourth Statutory condition, under which a claimant was required to prove that he was genuinely seeking work but unable to obtain suitable employment, and Transitional Condition (c), under which a claimant who had not paid 30 contributions in the previous two years had to prove that during that period he had been employed in an insurable employment to such an extent as was reasonable. The procedure under which claims to benefit, which were considered doubtful under these repealed conditions were referred to Local Boards of Assessors is accordingly discontinued.

Consequent upon the repeal of the Fourth Statutory Condition a new disqualification was introduced, applicable to cases of failure or refusal to apply for or accept suitable employment or to carry out written directions given by an Employment Exchange with a view to assisting the claimant to find suitable employment.

The following Table gives for the period 13th March, 1930, to 14th April, 1930, inclusive, the number of claims to benefit made at local offices in Great Britain, the average number of claims current during that period, an analysis of the decisions of Courts of Referees and of the Umpire, and the number of cases disallowed by Insurance Officers under the trade dispute disqualification, and of the appeals against such disallowances dealt with by Courts of Referees.

A.—Number of Claims.

Table showing number of claims. Columns: Men, Women, Juveniles, Total. Rows: Fresh and renewal claims made, Average number of claims current.

B.—Decisions of Courts of Referees.

Table showing decisions of Courts of Referees. Columns: Ground on which referred, Allowed, Disallowed, Total. Rows: Great Britain, First Statutory Condition (applies to juveniles only), Less than 8 contributions paid in past 2 years or 30 contributions paid at any time (Sec. 14 (2), U.I. Act, 1927), Not normally insurable and will not normally seek to obtain livelihood by means of insurable employment, Employment left voluntarily without just cause, Employment lost through misconduct, Failure or refusal to apply for or accept suitable employment, or failure to carry out written directions, Not unemployed, Capable of, or available for work, Other grounds, Total.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING APRIL, 1930 (continued).

| Industry. | Locality. | Date from which Change took effect. | Classes of Workpeople. | Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.) |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| Woolen and Worsted Spinning. | Leicester | 1st pay day in April. | Workpeople employed in the lambs' wool and worsted yarn spinning industry (excluding engineers, etc.). | Bonus reduced* from 2½d. to 2¼d. in the shilling on earnings. Minimum rates after change for timeworkers: men, 42s. 6d. per week; women, 25s. 6d., plus, in each case, 2¼d. in the shilling. |
| Hosiery Manufacture. | Various districts in the Midland Counties.† | 21 April | All classes of workpeople employed in the manufacture of hosiery (except dyers, trimmers, finishers, etc.) | Bonus of 7d. in the shilling on earnings reduced* to 6d. in the shilling. Decreases in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively (see Notice of Order on p. 195):— Decrease in minimum time rate of 2s. 3d. per week (58s. 11d. to 56s. 8d.). Decreases in minimum time rates of from 8½d. to 1s. 6½d. per week. Minimum rates after change: under 16 years, 15s. 3d., increasing to 35s. 2d. at 18 and under 21, and to 39s. 1d. at 21 and over. Decrease in general minimum piece rates† of 4 per cent. for male and female workers; and decreases in guaranteed time and general minimum time rates for male workers of from 8d. to 1s. 6½d. per week. Minimum rates after change: guaranteed time and general minimum time rates for male workers: under 16 years, 15s. 3d., increasing to 35s. 2d. at 19 and under 21, and to 39s. 1d. at 21 and over. |
| Jute Manufacture. | Great Britain ... | 28 April | Female timeworkers:— Spinners (other than orra (or spare) spinners). Orra (or spare) spinners, 18 years and over. Spinning shifting mistresses. Other workers All female pieceworkers (except spinners, those employed on hessian weaving, and weavers employed in the weaving of sacking, bagging, or tarpaulin in the areas of Dundee and Aberdeen). | Decreases in the minimum time rates, varying according to size of bobbins and number of spindles, from 1s. 2d. to 1s. 11d. per week for single spinners and from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 10d. per week for double spinners. Decrease in minimum time rate of 1s. 2d. per week (30s. 10½d. to 29s. 8½d.). Decrease in minimum time rate of 1s. 6d. per week (39s. to 37s. 6d.). Decrease in minimum time rates of 8½d., 10½d., or 1s. per week. Minimum rates after change: under 16 years, 15s. 3d.; 16 and under 18 years, 20s. 10d.; 18 and over, 25s. 5d. Decrease in piecework basis time rate of ¼d. per hour (7½d. to 7¼d.). |
| Elastic Web Weaving. | Leicester | 1st pay day after 18 April. | Male workers | Bonus reduced* from 12s. 6d. to 12s. in the pound sterling. |
| Textile Bleaching, Dyeing, Printing, Finishing, etc. | Yorkshire (majority of firms) and certain firms in Lancashire.‡ | 1st pay day in May.¶ | Workpeople employed in the dyeing and finishing trades. | Cost-of-living wage reduced* from 71½ per cent. to 63½ per cent. on basic rates for timeworkers, from 51 per cent. to 51 per cent. for pieceworkers (except pressers) and from 42½ per cent. to 38½ per cent. for hand pressers. Minimum rate after change for timeworkers** : The Bradford Dyers' Association, Ltd.—men 21 and over, 28s. per week, plus 8 per cent. plus 63½ per cent. on total; other firms—men 21 and over, 30s. 3d. per week, plus 63½ per cent.; women 18 and over, 18s. per week, plus 63½ per cent. Cost-of-living wage reduced* from 21s. 7d. per week to 19s. 3d. per week for men, and from 12s. 11d. per week to 11s. 6d. per week for women 18 and over in Lancashire, Cheshire and Derbyshire, and 21 and over in Scotland, and by smaller amounts for those under these ages. Minimum rates after change for timeworkers** :—Lancashire, etc.—men 21 and over, 28s., plus 19s. 3d.; women 18 and over, 18s., plus 11s. 6d.; Scotland—men 21 and over, 25s., plus 19s. 3d.; women 21 and over, 15s., plus 11s. 6d. |
| | Lancashire, Cheshire and Derbyshire (majority of firms) and certain firms in Yorkshire††; also Scotland. | 1st pay day in May.¶ | Workpeople employed in the bleaching, dyeing, calico printing and finishing trades (except waste bleachers, machine calico printers, engravers and mechanics, etc., employed in repair and maintenance of plant.) | Decrease* of 2s. 4d. per week. Total rates after change: Bradford, Leeds and Shipley, 61s. 6d.; other towns, 60s. 6d. |
| | West Riding of Yorkshire. | 1st pay day in May.¶ | Mechanics employed in dyeworks... | Decrease* of 1d. per hour for those 21 and over, ½d. per hour for those 18 and under 21, and ¼d. per hour for those under 18. Rates after change for dyers and scourers: 3d. at 14, increasing to 1s. 1½d. at 21 and over. |
| | Middleton | 1st pay day in May.¶ | Timeworkers | Decrease* of ¼d. per hour for menders and for male and female auxiliary workers 18 and over, and proportionate decreases for auxiliary workers under 18. Rates after change: Leicester, Loughborough and Hinckley—men, 18 to 21, 9d.; 21 and over, 1s. 1d.; women 18 and over, 8d.; qualified menders, 10d.; Nottingham—men 21 and over, 1s. 0½d.; women 21 and over—menders, 9½d.; others, 7½d. |
| Hosiery Bleaching, Dyeing, Finishing, etc. | Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire and Scotland. | 1st pay day in May.¶ | Reelers | Cost-of-living wage reduced* from 60 per cent. to 55 per cent. |
| | Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Scotland and Belfast. | 1st pay day in May.¶ | Engravers etc., employed in calico print works. | Cost-of-living wage reduced* from 29s. 10d. to 27s. 1d. per week for engravers and from 21s. 7d. to 19s. 3d. per week for turners, polishers and varnishers. |
| | Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Scotland and Belfast. | 1st pay day in May.¶ | Engravers employed in engraving works. | Cost-of-living wage reduced* from 29s. 10d. to 27s. 1d. per week for men, from 17s. 11d. to 16s. 6d. per week for women, and by corresponding amounts for youths. |
| | Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Scotland and Belfast. | 1st pay day in May.¶ | Timeworkers:— Dyers, scourers and trimmers Other workers | Decrease* of 1d. per hour for those 21 and over, ½d. per hour for those 18 and under 21, and ¼d. per hour for those under 18. Rates after change for dyers and scourers: 3d. at 14, increasing to 1s. 1½d. at 21 and over. Decrease* of ¼d. per hour for menders and for male and female auxiliary workers 18 and over, and proportionate decreases for auxiliary workers under 18. Rates after change: Leicester, Loughborough and Hinckley—men, 18 to 21, 9d.; 21 and over, 1s. 1d.; women 18 and over, 8d.; qualified menders, 10d.; Nottingham—men 21 and over, 1s. 0½d.; women 21 and over—menders, 9½d.; others, 7½d. |
| Hosiery Bleaching, Dyeing, Finishing, etc. | Leicester, Loughborough, Nottingham, Mansfield, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Ilkeston, Derby, Hinckley and Coventry districts. | Pay day in week ending 26 April. | Pieceworkers:— Trimmers (other than web and jersey trimmers). Web trimmers and jersey trimmers. Dyers, scourers, menders and other pieceworkers. | Bonus of 50 per cent. on list prices reduced* to 40 per cent. Bonus of 32½ per cent. on list prices reduced* to 25 per cent. Decrease* of 1s. in the £. |

* Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.
† Leicester, Loughborough, Nottingham, Mansfield, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Ilkeston, Derby, Hinckley and Coventry districts.
‡ Viz., the weaving of all hessian, floor-cloth and linoleum goods, other than those woven in looms the reed space of which is 32 ins. or narrower. The definition of standard fabric has been altered from "10½ oz. 40 in. 11 porter, 13 shots per inch when chested finished: Hessian" to "10½ oz. 40 in. 11 porter, 13½ shots per inch loom count: Hessian," with consequent alterations in the variations for differences in the number of shots per inch from the standard fabric.
§ Female weaving learners are to receive for one period only of learnership not exceeding two months, 12s. 6½d. per week at under 16 years, 13s. 5d. at 16 and under 18, and 14s. 1d. at 18 and over.
¶ A special temporary payment of 2s., 2s. 6d., or 3s. per week (according to basic rates) for men, and of 1s. per week for women, is made in addition in the case of timeworkers engaged in productive process work for which a system of collective piecework has not yet been introduced.
†† The change applied to workers employed by firms who are members of the Federation of Calico Printers, the Employers' Federation of Dyers and Finishers, the Employers' Federation of Cotton Yarn Bleachers, Dyers and Sizers (certain firms). At Hebden Bridge the decrease for timeworkers was similar to those in Lancashire (see above); for pieceworkers the cost-of-living wages were reduced from 61 per cent. to 55 per cent., for netherwood cutters, from 55 per cent. to 49 per cent. for hand cutters, from 47 per cent. to 42 per cent. for menders and from 52 per cent. to 47 per cent. for all other pieceworkers.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING APRIL, 1930 (continued).

| Industry. | Locality. | Date from which Change took effect. | Classes of Workpeople. | Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.) |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| Lace Dyeing, Dressing, Finishing, etc. | Nottingham... | Pay day in week ending 3 May.* | Lace dyers Workpeople employed in the lace dressing and finishing trades. | Decrease† of ¼d. per hour for those 21 and over, ¼d. per hour for those 18 and under 21, and ¼d. per hour for those under 18. Rates after change for workers other than learners: 3d. at 14, increasing each year to 1s. 1½d. at 21. Decrease† for timeworkers of ¼d. per hour for men and ¼d. per hour for women, boys and girls, and of 5 per cent. for pieceworkers. Rates after change for timeworkers: men 21 and over, 11d.; women 18 and over, 6½d.; women takers-off and takers-down, 7½d. Decrease† of 2s. per week. Minimum rate after change: 58s. Decrease† of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: dollers, 1s. 2½d.; labourers, 1s. 1½d. |
| Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Manufacture. | Northern Ireland ... | 14 April | Female workers employed in hand embroidery in the factory branch:— Timeworkers Pieceworkers | Decrease in the minimum time rate fixed under the Trade Boards Act (Northern Ireland), 1923, of 2½d. per hour for workers other than learners, and of 3½d. per hour in the piecework basis time rate. Minimum time and piecework basis time rate after change: 3½d. per hour. Scale of general minimum piece rates fixed under the Trade Boards Act (Northern Ireland), 1923. |
| Felt Hat Making. | Denton, Stockport, Hyde, Bury, Failsforth and Romiley districts; also Carlisle, Atherton and Bedworth. | 1st pay day in April. Week ending 25 April. | Timeworkers Pieceworkers Male pieceworkers | Bonus reduced† from 50 per cent. to 45 per cent. Minimum rate after change: 10½d. per hour, plus 45 per cent.‡ Bonus reduced† from 55 per cent. to 50 per cent. |
| Baking and Confectionery. | Bristol (certain firms)§ Ayrshire Edinburgh and Leith | 1st pay day in April. 1st pay day in April. 26 April | Bakers and confectioners Bakers and confectioners Bakers and confectioners | Decrease† of 1s. 3d. per week. Rate after change for tablehands 58s. 6d. Decrease† of 1s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 69s. Decrease† of 1s. 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change, 70s. 6d. |
| Furniture Manufacture. | London High Wycombe ... | 1 April Pay day in week ending 26 April. | Bedding and mattress makers Women on time rates | Decrease† of 3 per cent. in the basis for calculating rates of wages leaving wages 61 per cent. above the list adopted in 1922. Decrease† of ¼d. per hour (10d. to 9½d.). |
| Paper Box Making | Great Britain ... | 28 April | Workpeople employed in the paper box trade. | New scales of minimum time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts for female learners, varying according to age of entry, the rates increasing by age instead of, as previously, by experience, definition of a "female learner" revised so as generally to provide for learning at least two operations and higher minimum rates than those applicable to learners fixed for workers of same age who do not come within the new definition. Minimum rates now fixed vary as follows:—entering trade at 14 and under 14½ years of age, learners, 9s. 6d. per week at 14 years to 27s. 6d. at 18, others, 12s. 6d. to 29s. 6d.; entering at 14½–15 years, learners, 9s. 6d. to 23s. 6d., others, 12s. 6d. to 29s. 6d.; entering at 15–16 years, learners, 10s. 6d. to 26s. 6d., others, 14s. to 29s. 6d.; entering at 16 and over, learners 11s. to 26s. 6d., others, 14s. 6d. to 29s. 6d. (see Notice of Order on page 195). |
| Building | Glasgow and West of Scotland.** | 1 April | Bricklayers | Decrease of ¼d. per hour (1s. 8½d. to 1s. 8d.). |
| Glazing | Glasgow | 31 March | Glaziers | Increase of ¼d. per hour (1s. 7d. to 1s. 7½d.). |
| Civil Engineering. | Great Britain†† ... | 1st pay day after 16 April. | Men employed by civil engineering contractors. | Decrease† of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change for navvies and labourers:—County of London, 1s. 2½d.; Class I districts, 1s. 2d.; Class II, 1s. 1d.; Class III, 1s.; Class IV, 11d.; Class V, 10d. |
| Road Transport. | Isle of Man (Northern, Southern and Western Areas). Nottingham... | 1 April 1st pay day after 28 April.‡‡ | Carters and labourers Commercial road transport workers | Decrease† of 1s. per week for men, and of 6d. per week for youths under 18 years of age.¶¶ Weekly rates after change include:—one-horse drivers, 51s.; two-horse drivers, 56s.; petrol wagon drivers—2 tons and over, 61s.; 15 cwt. to 2 tons, 58s.; under 15 cwt., 51d. electric vehicle drivers:—1 ton and over, 58s.; under 1 ton, 51s. Bonus increased from 1d. per shilling earned to 1½d., resulting in an average increase in earnings of 1s. 6d. per week. |
| Canals | Birmingham and Wolverhampton District.§§ | 1st full pay in Mar. in Apr. | Canal boatmen employed in the transport of coal, iron, glass, chemicals, etc. | Bonus increased from 1d. per shilling earned to 1½d., resulting in an average increase in earnings of 1s. 6d. per week. |
| Waterworks Undertakings. | Certain towns in Yorkshire. | 1 April | Workpeople employed in waterworks undertakings. | Grading scheme adopted, classifying undertakings in three Grades, according to population served, and fixing rates of wages for the principal classes of workpeople, varying according to the Grade of the Undertaking, the new scheme resulting in increases in wages for certain classes employed by most of the Undertakings concerned, varying usually from about ¼d. to 1½d. per hour. Scheduled hourly rates after change include the following:—labourers—Grade A, 1s. 2d., B, 1s. 1½d., C, 1s. 0½d.; pipelayers and jointers, repairers and ferrulers, A, 1s. 3d., B, 1s. 2½d., C, 1s. 1½d.; firemen, A, 1s. 3d., B, 1s. 2½d., C, 1s. 2d.; meter readers and repairers, A, 1s. 3½d., B, 1s. 2½d., C, 1s. 1½d. |

* In respect of the preceding pay period.
† Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.
‡ This rate applies principally to men doing odd work for which no piece rate is provided. It does not apply to labourers, packers, etc., who are in receipt of the minimum rate fixed under the Trade Boards Acts.
§ Members of the Bristol Master Bakers and Confectioners' Association.
|| Including Auchinleck, Dalmeilington, Irvine, Kilbirnie, Kilmarnock, Kilwinning, Maybole, Stevenston, Troon, Largs, Fairlie, West Kilbride, New Cumnock, Mauchline, Cathine, Dunlop, Stewarton, Beith, Dalry, Darvel, Galston, Newmilns, Kilmarnock, Ardrossan, Saltcoats, etc.
¶ The new Order embodying the above rates leaves the minimum rates previously fixed for adult workers and for male learners unchanged, but cancels the cost-of-living sliding scale which has previously regulated the minimum rates. Certain amendments were also made as regards the description of other classes and the conditions relating to late entrants.
** The change took effect under an agreement made between the Scottish Building Contractors' Association and the Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers. The principal districts affected are: Glasgow, Airdrie, Bellshill, Blantyre, Bothwell, Coatbridge, Dumbarton, Falkirk, Greenock, Hamilton, Helensburgh, Johnstone, Larbert, Lanark, Larkhall, Motherwell, Paisley, Port Glasgow, Strathaven and Wishaw.
†† The change took effect under an agreement arrived at by the Civil Engineering Construction Conciliation Board. It is understood that the rates of wages agreed by the Board are followed by certain public bodies in various parts of the country. The classes in which districts are placed are determined by economic or geographic conditions. The Board have agreed that Class I rates should apply to the following towns:—Newcastle-on-Tyne, North and South Shields, Hartlepool, Sunderland, Middlesbrough, Sheffield, Huddersfield, Leeds, Bradford, Hull, Manchester, Oldham, Liverpool, Birkenhead, Blackburn, Rochdale, Bolton, Burnley, Barrow-in-Furness, Stockport, Birmingham, Smethwick, West Bromwich, Coventry, Leicester, Nottingham, Derby, Stoke-on-Trent, Wolverhampton, Acton, Croydon, Tottenham, East Ham, Willesden, Wembleton, Cardiff, Swansea, Newport (Mon.), Merthyr Tydfil, and Bristol.
‡‡ Reductions of double the amounts shown were due under the cost-of-living sliding scale. It was agreed that they should operate in two equal instalments, the first to take effect from 1st pay day after 16th June.
§§ Including Bilston, Birmingham, Netherton, Kidderminster, Oldbury, Old Hill, Tamworth, Tipton, Walsall, West Bromwich and Wolverhampton.
|||| The new conditions referred to above were embodied in a schedule adopted by the Yorkshire Joint Industrial Council for the Waterworks Industry, which provided that the rates now fixed should be taken as equivalent to a cost-of-living index number of 68 and should be revised half-yearly in accordance with the cost-of-living sliding scale adopted by the National Joint Industrial Council (the operation of which has, by a previous agreement, been suspended until 31 December, 1930). The Undertakings comprised within the different Grades, so far as reported to the Department are as follows:—Grade A—Bradford, Halifax, Leeds; Grade B—Barnsley, Dearne Valley, Dewsbury, Doncaster, Harrogate, Kellingley, Rotherham, Wakefield, York; Grade C—Brighouse, Todmorden. In some cases the rates of wages actually paid differ slightly from the scheduled rates.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING APRIL, 1930 (continued).

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of Change. Includes entries for Electricity Supply Undertakings, Tramway Undertakings, National Government, Cumberland County Council, Durham County Council, Hebburn, West Hartlepool, Local Government (Non-Trading Services), Southampton County Council, Roller Leather Manufacture, Saddle and Harness Making.

* Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements. † These rates are subject to a temporary deduction of 2 1/2 per cent. ‡ Particulars were given on page 35 of the January GAZETTE of a new schedule of rates which had been agreed upon by the National Joint Industrial Council for the Electricity Supply Industry...

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING APRIL, 1930 (continued).

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of Change. Includes entries for Coffin Furniture and Cerement Making, Patent Fuel Manufacture.

PRINCIPAL CHANGE IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN APRIL, 1930

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of Change. Includes entry for Patent Fuel Manufacture.

* Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements. † See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour." ‡ See also under "Changes in Rates of Wages." There was no change in wages for dayworkers, but the new working hours apply to all factory workers.

PRICES AND WAGES IN THE IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRIES.

The following Table shows the results of recent ascertainment of selling prices of pig iron and of manufactured iron and steel upon which are based variations in the rates of wages of certain classes of iron and steel workers in particular districts. Details of the changes in wages consequent on these ascertainments are given after the Table:—

Table with columns: Product and District, Price according to last Audit, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) of last Audit, Previous Audit, A year ago. Includes entries for Pig Iron (Cleveland, Cumberland, Lincolnshire, etc.) and Steel (South-West Wales, etc.).

blastfurnacemen in that area, and for ironstone miners in Leicestershire and the adjoining parts of Lincolnshire, but this did not operate owing to reductions, due under previous ascertainments, having been waived. The ascertainment for North Staffordshire resulted in a decrease in April of 3/4 per cent. on the standard rates of blastfurnacemen in that area...

As regards manufactured iron, the ascertainments for North of England and West of Scotland did not warrant changes in the wages of iron puddlers and iron millmen in those areas. In the case of Siemens steel workers in South-West Wales the ascertainment resulted in an increase in February of 1 1/2 per cent. on the standard rates of the higher-paid workpeople...

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 April, 1930, Total Applications Approved, Departures in April, 1930, Total Departures. Includes entries for Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Africa and other parts of Empire.

The figures are provisional and subject to revision.

The variation from the previous audit in the price of Cleveland pig iron indicated in the above Table resulted in an increase in April of 3/4 per cent. on the standard rates of blastfurnacemen in the Cleveland district. As a result of the January-February ascertainment workpeople employed at West Cumberland and North Lancashire blastfurnaces received an increase in March of 1 per cent. on base rates, tonnage rates, and output bonus earnings...

* Stated to the nearest farthing.

TRADE DISPUTES IN APRIL.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in April in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 27, as compared with 35 in the previous month and 37 in April, 1929. In addition, 13 disputes which began before April were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of new and old disputes in April was thus 40. The number of workpeople involved in these disputes is estimated to have been approximately 110,000 and the aggregate number of working days lost by these workpeople during April is estimated at approximately 1,300,000.

The principal dispute of the month was that in the wool textile industry, as to which particulars are given on page 163.

The following Table analyses the disputes in progress in April in Great Britain and Northern Ireland by groups of industries, and indicates the number of workpeople involved at the establishments concerned and the approximate time lost during the month in all disputes in progress:—

Table with 5 columns: Industry Group, Started before beginning of Month, Started in Month, Total, Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in Month, Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in Month.

Causes.—Of the 27 disputes beginning in April, 5 arose out of proposed reductions in wages, 11 on other wages questions, 8 on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons, and 3 on other questions as to working arrangements.

Results.—Settlements were effected in the case of 14 new disputes, directly involving 900 workpeople, and 7 old disputes, directly in-

volving 300 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 2, directly involving 100 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 8, directly involving 500 workpeople, were settled in favour of the employers; and 11, directly involving 600 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of 4 disputes, directly involving 4,200 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

TOTALS FOR THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1929 AND 1930.†

The following Table summarises the figures for Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the first four months of 1930, as compared with the corresponding period of 1929:—

Table comparing Jan-April 1929 vs Jan-April 1930 across industry groups with columns for No of Disputes, Number of Workpeople, and Aggregate Duration.

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING APRIL, 1930.

Main table of principal disputes with columns: Occupations and Locality, Approximate Number of Workpeople Involved, Date when Dispute Began/Ended, Cause or Object, Result.

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

† In making up the totals for the several months of the year, the figures have been amended in accordance with the most recent information. Workpeople involved in more than one dispute are counted more than once in the totals; the amount of such duplication is, however, very slight.

CHANGES IN COST OF LIVING: STATISTICS FOR 1st MAY.

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included 55%
Food only 40%

RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT.

As regards rents, inquiries which have been made into the changes which have taken effect under the Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Acts indicate that the average increase in the controlled rents (including rates) of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 1st May, was approximately 49 per cent, increases on account of rates in some areas being counterbalanced by decreases in others.

As regards clothing, owing to the wide range of quotations, both now and before the war, to changes in qualities and in stocks held by retailers, and to variations in the extent to which different articles and qualities have been affected by price changes, it is impossible to make an exact calculation of the increase in prices; but information as to the movements of prices of men's suits and overcoats, underclothing and hosiery, textile materials and boots, received from retailers in the principal towns, indicates that at 1st May the level of retail prices of articles in this group, taking goods of the kinds purchased by the working classes and so far as possible the same qualities of goods at each date, averaged between 110 and 115 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

In the fuel and light group there were reductions in the prices of coal in many towns at 1st May, as compared with a month earlier, and at the later date the prices of coal averaged between 75 and 80 per cent. above the level of July, 1914. The average price of gas remained between 45 and 50 per cent. above the pre-war level. For the fuel and light group as a whole (including coal, gas, oil, candles and matches) the average increase at 1st May, as compared with July, 1914, was about 70 per cent.

ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance in pre-war working-class family expenditure, allowance being also made for the increase in the prices of soap, soda, domestic ironmongery, brushware and pottery, tobacco, fares and newspapers (averaging about 80 per cent.), the resultant general average increase for 1st May, 1930, is, approximately, 55 per cent.* over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 57 per cent. at 1st April, 1930, and 61 per cent. at 1st May, 1929.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken in 1930 as in 1914) is to show the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families (i.e., the standard actually prevailing in working-class families before the war, irrespective of whether such standard was adequate or not). Owing to the variations in the amounts of increase in the prices of different commodities it is probable that economies or readjustments in expenditure have been effected in many families, especially in those cases where incomes have not increased so much as prices. On the other hand, it is probable that the standard of living has been raised in those families in which wages have been increased in greater proportion than prices. No allowance is made in the figures for any such alterations in the standard of living, as to which trustworthy statistics are not available.

SUMMARY TABLE: 1920 to 1930.

The following Table shows the average percentage increase, as compared with July, 1914, for all the items included in the statistics, at the beginning of each month, 1920 to 1930:—

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

Summary table showing average percentage increase from July 1914 for various months from 1920 to 1930.

NOTE.

A brief Statement of the method of compiling these statistics was given on page 235 of the July, 1923, issue of this GAZETTE. A more detailed account was given in the issue of February, 1921.

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

FOOD.

The decline in the average level of the retail prices of the principal articles of food continued during April. At 1st May, the principal changes recorded were further reductions, to a summer level, in the prices of milk, and a fall of nearly 1d. per lb. in the average price of butter.

As a net result of all the changes recorded, the average increase over the level of July, 1914, in the retail prices (in Great Britain and Northern Ireland) of the articles of food included in these statistics was 40 per cent. at 1st May, 1930, as compared with 43 per cent. at 1st April, 1930, and 49 per cent. at 1st May, 1929.

In the following Table is given a comparison of retail prices of these articles of food in July, 1914, and at 1st April, and 1st May, 1930:—

Table comparing average prices per lb. for various food articles in July 1914, 1st April 1930, and 1st May 1930.

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

Table comparing percentage of average price increase for food articles in 1930 vs 1914, categorized by town size.

* If this kind is seldom dealt with in a locality, the returns quote the price of another kind locally representative. † The description of cheese specified for quotation is Canadian or American, but where such cheese is seldom sold in a locality the returns quote the price of another kind locally representative. ‡ The average change in prices during April was very small, but sufficient to raise the average price, as expressed to the nearest farthing.

(Norfolk); Cumnor (Berks) and The Lee (Bucks): C. D. L. Construction Co., Ltd., Egham, Surrey. Streatham-Rectory Lane, S.W.; Terminus (W.C.) Automatic Exchange Area: J. A. Ewart, Ltd., London, S.W. Elland (Yorks): A. Graham, Huddersfield. Plymouth; Crownhill (Plymouth): The Norwest Construction Co., Ltd., Litherland, Liverpool. Sway (Hants): E. J. Treasure, York. Whitehall Automatic Exchange Area: Greig & Matthews, London, E.C. Livingstone (Norwood)-Pollards (Norbury): H. Farrow, Ltd., London, N.W. Belfast: Harding & Harding, Belfast. Hayle (Cornwall): A. H. Dingle, Redruth, Cornwall.—**Electric Lift**: Cardiff Head Post Office: J. Bennie, Ltd., Glasgow.—**Fire Alarm System**: London County Council: Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd., London, W.C.—**Telephone Exchange Equipment**: Temple Bar (London, W.C.): Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, W.C. Bishopsgate (London, E.C.); Walthamstow (London, E.17): Automatic Telephone Manufacturing Co., Ltd., London, W.C. Edgware; Sanderstead (Croydon): The General Electric Co., Ltd., Stoke, Coventry. Sub-contractors for Sanderstead: Crompton Parkinson, Ltd., Chelmsford, Motor Generators and Ringing Machines. D.P. Battery Co., Ltd., Bakewell, Derbyshire: Batteries.—**Telephonic Repeater Equipment**: Manchester: Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, W.C.

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COMMISSIONERS OF CROWN LANDS.

Works of Improvement to the Water Supply at Roundway Farm, Bromham, Co. Wilts: A. J. Box, Bromham, Wilts.—**Repairs and Painting to Premises on the West Side of Albany Street, Regent's Park; Painting and Repairs at Cumberland Market, etc., Regent's Park**: Sims and Sims, London, N.W.

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.