



Ministry of Labour Gazette

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OF POLITICAL AND
ECONOMIC SCIENCES

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VOLUME LXIV, No. 6

JUNE, 1956

PRICE 1s. 6d. NET

Published monthly by H.M. Stationery Office

Annual subscription 19s. 6d.
including postage

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Age and Regional Analysis of Employees

ESTIMATES of the total numbers of employees, analysed by industry, are made by the Ministry of Labour and National Service every year on the basis of the counts of national insurance cards. The figures for end-May, 1955, were published in the February, 1956, issue of this GAZETTE. These annual estimates, however, provide no sub-division by age beyond separating the two age-groups (under and over 18) for which there are different rates of contributions. The insurance cards of persons aged 18 and over do not contain particulars of date of birth and it is, therefore, impossible to obtain any further age-analysis in the process of counting the cards. The dates of birth of insured persons, however, are entered in the account sheets in the Records Branch of the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance, and arrangements have been made with that Department to extract information from a sample of the record sheets in order to obtain more detailed analyses of the employed population.

The method of selecting the sample, which is designed to represent 1 per cent. of the total number of employees, was described in the issue of this GAZETTE for June, 1951 (page 223). The estimates based on the sample are subject to the margins of possible error which are inherent in all statistics based on sampling procedures. For instance, the number of male employees aged 22 at May, 1955, is shown in the Table in the next column as 240,000, this being the estimate (to the nearest thousand) resulting from the sampling procedure used. The true figure, which could be found only by a complete count, might not be exactly 240,000, but calculations show that the chance of the true figure being outside the range 230,000 to 250,000 is only one in twenty. The corresponding range for the estimate of 160,000 female employees aged 44 would be 152,000 to 168,000, and for the estimate of 26,000 female employees aged 66, 23,000 to 29,000. It is essential to bear these possible margins of error in mind when comparing different figures in the Tables.

The analysis that follows relates to employees only, *i.e.*, employers and workers on their own account are not included. The figures cover all classes of employees, with the exception of the Armed Forces and Women's Services, and they include not only persons at work but also those who were unemployed and those who were absent from work owing to sickness, holidays and other causes. All the figures in this analysis relate to Great Britain.

General Analysis

The following Table gives an analysis, by individual years of age, of the estimated total numbers of employees in all industries and services (excluding the Armed Forces and Women's Services) in Great Britain at end-May, 1955.

Estimated Numbers of Employees in Great Britain at End-May, 1955

Age (last birthday) at End-May, 1955			Age (last birthday) at End-May, 1955	(Thousands)	
	Males	Females		Males	Females
15	176	176	44	298	160
16	242	248	45	317	150
17	274	280	46	317	158
18	219	269	47	310	155
19	156	272	48	308	152
20	203	261	49	296	152
21	225	231	50	294	136
22	240	208	51	291	142
23	266	199	52	287	136
24	285	180	53	274	122
25	297	171	54	263	117
26	304	159	55	250	115
27	310	149	56	224	106
28	317	140	57	217	101
29	317	136	58	203	94
30	326	128	59	194	90
31	321	137	60	186	64
32	323	127	61	176	57
33	341	140	62	177	45
34	364	151	63	166	39
35	356	171	64	153	30
36	249	112	65	104	28
37	244	111	66	90	26
38	270	129	67	74	16
39	297	140	68	56	15
40	314	155	69	50	10
41	324	149	70 and over	194	42
42	314	161			
43	317	152	Total, Aged 15 and over	13,960	7,500

NUMBERS EMPLOYED IN GREAT BRITAIN: INDUSTRIAL ANALYSIS

Table with 13 columns: Industry, End-April 1955, End-Feb 1956, End-Mar 1956, End-April 1956, End-April 1955, End-Feb 1956, End-Mar 1956, End-April 1956, End-April 1955, End-Feb 1956, End-Mar 1956, End-April 1956. Rows include Mining, Chemicals, Metal Manufacture, Engineering, Vehicles, Metal Goods, Precision Instruments, Textiles, Leather Goods, Clothing, Food, Drink and Tobacco.

Numbers Employed in Great Britain: Industrial Analysis—continued

Table with 13 columns: Industry, End-April 1955, End-Feb 1956, End-Mar 1956, End-April 1956, End-April 1955, End-Feb 1956, End-Mar 1956, End-April 1956, End-April 1955, End-Feb 1956, End-Mar 1956, End-April 1956. Rows include Manufactures of Wood and Cork, Paper and Printing, Other Manufacturing Industries, Total, All Manufacturing Industries, Building and Contracting, Gas, Electricity and Water, Transport and Communication, Distributive Trades, Miscellaneous Services.



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Unemployment at 14th May, 1956

SUMMARY FOR GREAT BRITAIN

The numbers of persons registered as unemployed at 16th April and 14th May, 1956, were as follows:—

Table with 6 columns: Date, Men 18 and over, Boys under 18, Women 18 and over, Girls under 18, Total.

It is estimated that the number of persons registered as unemployed at 14th May represented 1.1 per cent. of the total number of employees. The corresponding percentage at 16th April was 1.2.

An analysis of the figures for 14th May according to duration of unemployment is given in the following Table:—

Table with 6 columns: Duration of unemployment, Men 18 and over, Boys under 18, Women 18 and over, Girls under 18, Total.

The total of 237,431 includes 41,763 married women.

The numbers of wholly unemployed persons in each Region at 14th May, 1956, analysed according to duration of unemployment, and also the numbers temporarily stopped, are given in the Table below.

Large table with columns for Region, Unemployed for more than 2 weeks, Unemployed for more than 2 weeks but not more than 8 weeks, Temporarily Stopped, Total.

The following Table gives the numbers of persons registered as unemployed at 14th May, 1956, and the percentage rates of unemployment in each Region:—

Table with 7 columns: Region, Numbers of persons registered as unemployed at 14th May, 1956 (Males, Females, Total), Percentage rate of unemployment* (Males, Females, Total).

NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM: REGIONAL ANALYSIS

The total number of unemployed persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in the United Kingdom at 14th May, 1956, was 266,403, including 168,863 men, 5,867 boys, 85,897 women and 5,776 girls.

The numbers of unemployed persons on the registers in each Region at 14th May, 1956, are shown below.

Table with columns for Region, Men 18 years and over, Boys under 18 years, Women 18 years and over, Girls under 18 years, Total.

* Number registered as unemployed expressed as percentage of the estimated total number of employees.

NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED IN THE PRINCIPAL TOWNS

The Table below shows the total numbers of unemployed persons on the registers of the Employment Exchanges and Youth Employment Offices in each administrative Region of England, and in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland at 14th May, 1956, and the numbers of persons on the registers of the Exchanges and Offices situated in some of the principal towns in each Region, together with the increase or decrease compared with 16th April, 1956.

Large table with columns for Regions and Principal Towns, Numbers of Persons on Registers at 14th May, 1956 (Men 18 and over, Boys under 18, Women 18 and over, Girls under 18, Total), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Totals as compared with 16th April, 1956.

Table with columns for Regions and Principal Towns, Numbers of Persons on Registers at 14th May, 1956 (Men 18 and over, Boys under 18, Women 18 and over, Girls under 18, Total), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Totals as compared with 16th April, 1956.

NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED: 1939 to 1956

The Table below shows the annual average numbers registered as unemployed from 1939 to 1955, and monthly figures for 1956.

Table with columns for Great Britain, Wholly Unemployed (including Casuals), Temporarily Stopped, Total, United Kingdom: Total.

DISABLED PERSONS (EMPLOYMENT) ACT, 1944

The number of persons registered under the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act, 1944, at 16th April, 1956 (the last date on which a count was taken), was 798,279, compared with 812,602 at 16th January, 1956.

The number of disabled persons on the Register who were unemployed at 22nd May, 1956, was 39,316, of whom 33,435 were males and 5,881 were females. The total included 18,098 persons who had served in H.M. Forces, and 21,218 who had not served. An analysis of these figures is given in the Table below.

Table with columns for Males, Females, Total.

The numbers of unemployed registered disabled persons given above include 173 men and 53 women registered at Appointments Offices.

* These persons are excluded from the statistics of unemployed persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges given in the preceding Tables.

Placing Work of the Employment Exchanges

The Table below shows, for the four-week periods ended 4th April and 2nd May, 1956, the numbers of vacancies filled by the Employment Exchanges of the Ministry of Labour and National Service in Great Britain, together with the numbers remaining unfilled at the end of each period. The figures include placings, etc., by the Youth Employment Offices of certain Local Authorities.

Table with 5 columns: Vacancies Filled (Placings, Unfilled), Vacancies Remaining Unfilled (Placings, Unfilled), and Total (Placings, Unfilled). Rows include Men aged 18 and over, Boys under 18, Women aged 18 and over, Girls under 18, and a Grand Total.

The figures of vacancies filled relate only to those vacancies which were filled by applicants submitted by Employment Exchanges, i.e., they do not include engagements of workpeople by employers that were made without the assistance of Employment Exchanges. The figures are therefore not comparable with the percentage rates of engagements given in the 'Labour Turnover' Table on the next page, which relate to engagements of all kinds during the period in question.

Large table showing Placements during four weeks ended 2nd May, 1956, and Number of notified Vacancies remaining unfilled at 2nd May, 1956. Columns include Industry Group, Men 18 and over, Boys under 18, Women 18 and over, Girls under 18, and Total. Rows list various industry groups like Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, etc.

The following Table gives a Regional analysis of the numbers of vacancies filled during the four weeks ended 2nd May, 1956, and of the numbers of notified vacancies remaining unfilled at the end of the period :-

Table showing regional analysis of vacancies filled and unfilled. Columns include Region, Men 18 and over, Boys under 18, Women 18 and over, Girls under 18, and Total. Rows list regions like London and South-Eastern, Eastern, Southern, etc.

The figures of vacancies unfilled represent the numbers of vacancies notified by employers to Employment Exchanges and remaining unfilled at the specified dates. They do not purport to represent the total number of vacancies which require to be filled, and they probably fall short of the total number for several reasons. In the first place, vacancies in employments which were excepted from the provisions of the Notification of Vacancies Order, 1952, could be filled by direct engagement of workpeople without notifying the Employment Exchanges. Secondly, employers who do use the Employment Exchange system may, in certain circumstances (e.g., when they require large numbers of additional workpeople, or where labour of the kind they require is scarce), have a 'Standing Order' with the Employment Exchange to submit all suitable applicants to them without 'notifying' any specific number of vacancies, and the vacancies remaining unfilled in such cases will not be included in the figures. Nevertheless, comparison of the figures for various dates provides some indication of the change in the demand for labour.

The next Table shows the numbers of vacancies filled during the four weeks ended 2nd May, 1956, in each of the industry 'Orders' of the Standard Industrial Classification and in certain selected industries within the Orders, together with the number of vacancies remaining unfilled at 2nd May, 1956.

Of the total of 117,037 men placed in employment during the four weeks ended 4th April, 1956, 25,356 (21.6 per cent.) were aged 40 and over, of whom 1,463 were aged 65 and over. Among the 54,127 women placed in employment during the same period 12,763 (23.6 per cent.) were aged 40 and over, of whom 777 were aged 60 and over.

Labour Turnover

The Table below shows labour turnover rates (per 100 employees) in the manufacturing industries during the four-week period ended 24th March, 1956, with separate figures for males and females. The figures are based on information given by employers with more than 10 employees on returns which they render every month to the Ministry of Labour and National Service. Each return shows the numbers of males and females on the pay-roll at the date of the return and also at the date of the previous return, and an additional item shows the numbers on the pay-roll at the later of the two dates who were not on the pay-roll at the earlier date. The figures in the last item are adopted as representing engagements during the period, and the figures of discharges and other losses are obtained by adding the numbers engaged during the period to the numbers on the pay-roll at the beginning of the period and deducting from the figures thus obtained the numbers on the pay-roll at the end of the period. It must be borne in mind, however, that the figures of engagements obtained in the way indicated above do not

include persons engaged during the period who were discharged or otherwise left their employment before the end of the same period, and the percentage rates both of engagements and of discharges, etc., in the Table below accordingly understate, to some extent, the total intake and wastage during the period. In spite of this limitation, however, the figures enable comparisons to be made between the turnover rates of different industries and also between the figures for consecutive months for the same industry, in the latter case after allowance is made for any difference in the length of period covered. It is also important to note that the figures for any industry represent the aggregated totals of the numbers engaged and discharged by all firms rendering returns in the industry. Some of the persons who were discharged or left their employment during the period were probably engaged by other firms in the same industry, and the net numbers of engagements and losses of an industry, considered as one unit, will be less in every case than the sum of the figures for the individual firms.

Labour Turnover Rates in Manufacturing Industries: 4 weeks ended 24th March, 1956

Large table showing Labour Turnover Rates in Manufacturing Industries. Columns include Industry, Number of Engagements per 100 employed at beginning of period (M, F, T), Number of Discharges and other Losses per 100 employed at beginning of period (M, F, T). Rows list various industries like Textiles, Chemicals and Allied Trades, Metal Manufacture, etc.

Principal Changes in Rates of Wages Reported during May—continued

Table with columns: Industry, District (see also Note at beginning of Table), Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of Change. Rows include Brewing, Grain Distilling, Tobacco Manufacture, Sawmilling, Sign Production and Display, Coopering, Wood Box, Packing Case and Wooden Container Manufacture, Ladders, Trucks, etc., Manufacture, Paper Making, Paper Coating and Paper Board Making, Printing, etc.

* Under sliding-scale arrangements based on the official index of retail prices. † These increases were agreed in May and had retrospective effect to the date shown. ‡ These rates were agreed in May with retrospective effect to the date shown, except for apprentices, whose new rates were operative from the first full pay period in January, as a percentage of the journeymen's minimum rates operative at that date.

Principal Changes in Rates of Wages Reported during May—continued

Table with columns: Industry, District (see also Note at beginning of Table), Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of Change. Rows include Cinematograph Film Production, Building, Merchant Navy, Civil Air Transport, Post Office, Warehousing, Retail Newsagency, Tobacco and Confectionery Trades, etc.

* Including boiler attendants, storemen, transport mechanics, transport drivers, charge-hand cleaners, cleaners, commissionaires, doormen and gatemen, charge-hand painters, painters, painters' mates, carpenters, carpenters' mates and general labourers. † Under sliding-scale arrangements based on the official index of retail prices. ‡ Under sliding-scale arrangements based on the official index of retail prices.

Principal Changes in Rates of Wages Reported during May—continued

Table with 5 columns: Industry, District, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, and Particulars of Change. Rows include Retail Newsagency, Tobacco and Confectionery Trades; Government Industrial Establishments; River Authorities; Local Authority Services; Licensed Non-Residential Establishments; and Catering.

* This increase took effect under an Order issued under the Wages Councils Act. See page 208 of the May issue of this GAZETTE.

† These increases were agreed in May, and had retrospective effect to the dates shown.

‡ See page 201 of the May issue of this GAZETTE.

§ This increase was the result of an award of the Industrial Disputes Tribunal dated 25th May, 1956, and had retrospective effect to the date shown.

|| This increase was agreed in May, 1956, and had retrospective effect to the date shown.

¶ These increases took effect under an Order issued under the Catering Wages Act. See page 247 of this GAZETTE.

** Full-time resident employees are to be provided with not less than the equivalent of 4 meals a day, and the value of full-board and lodgings is recognised as 42s. a week; full-time non-resident employees are to receive an addition of 28s. a week to the wage rates shown above, and are to be provided with such meals as are served to staff during their recorded hours of duty, and the value of such meals is recognised as 14s. a week.

†† These increases took effect under an Order issued under the Wages Councils Act (Northern Ireland). See page 247 of this GAZETTE.

Principal Changes in Rates of Wages Reported during May—continued

Table with 5 columns: Industry, District, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, and Particulars of Change. Rows include Hairdressing, Managers, manageresses and chargehands, and Male and female operative hairdressers and apprentices.

* These increases took effect under an Order issued under the Wages Councils Act. See page 208 of the May issue of this GAZETTE. A definition of the areas is set out in the Order. † Previously the highest rate for clerks, receptionists and manicurists was payable at 25 years or over, and for sales assistants, cashiers, clerical assistants and other workers at 24 years or over.

Index of Rates of Wages

The index figure of rates of wages measures the movement, from month to month, in the level of full-time weekly rates of wages in the principal industries and services in the United Kingdom compared with the level at 30th June, 1947, taken as 100. The industries and services covered by the index and the method of calculation were described on page 41 of the issue of this GAZETTE for February, 1948. The index is based on the recognised rates of wages fixed by collective agreements between organisations of employers and workpeople, arbitration awards or statutory orders. The percentage increases in the various industries are combined in accordance with the relative importance of the industries, as measured by the total wages bill in 1946. The index does not reflect changes in earnings due to such factors as alterations in working hours, or in piecework earnings due to variations in output or the introduction of new machinery, etc. As indicated on page 83 of the March issue of this GAZETTE, the index of actual weekly earnings in October, 1955, the latest available, was 181 for all workers combined as compared with 155 for rates of wages in those industries covered by the earnings enquiries (and 153 in all the principal industries and services).

All figures in the Tables are on the basis of 30th June, 1947 = 100, and relate to the end of the month.

Table with 5 columns: Date, Men, Women, Juveniles, All Workers. Shows index values from 1947 to 1956 for various months.

All Workers

Table with 13 columns: Year, Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, June, July, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec. Shows monthly index values for all workers from 1947 to 1956.

Where necessary, the figures have been revised to include changes arranged with retrospective effect or reported too late for inclusion in the current figures.

In the first Table opposite are shown the separate index figures for men, women, juveniles and "all workers" for December in each of the years 1947 to 1954, inclusive, for March, June, September and December, 1955, and for each month of 1956 to date. The second Table shows the figure for "all workers" for each month since June, 1947.

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