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

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

THERE was a slight improvement in employment during February.

Among workpeople insured against unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed in all industries taken together was 22·0 at 22nd February, 1932, as compared with 22·4 at 25th January, 1932, and 21·7 at 23rd February, 1931. For males alone the percentage at 22nd February, 1932, was 25·0, and for females 14·2. At 25th January, 1932, the corresponding percentages were 25·1 and 15·4.

Insured Persons in Work in Great Britain.—It is estimated that on 22nd February, 1932, there were approximately 9,403,000 insured persons aged 16 to 64 in work in Great Britain. This was 38,000 more than a month before, and 77,000 more than a year before.

Numbers Unemployed (excluding Persons normally in Casual Employment).—At 22nd February, 1932, there were 2,112,927 persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain who were out of a situation. This was 18,371 less than a month before, but 224,211 more than a year before. The total on 22nd February, 1932, included 1,695,476 men, 62,453 boys, 306,311 women and 48,687 girls. It was made up approximately of 914,832 insured persons with claims for insurance benefit, 872,785 applicants for transitional payments, 197,866 other insured persons not in receipt of insurance benefit or transitional payments, and 127,444 uninsured persons.

Numbers Temporarily Stopped.—At 22nd February, 1932, there were registered as unemployed in Great Britain 354,798 men, 9,883 boys, 115,117 women and 6,801 girls who were on short time or were otherwise suspended from work on the definite understanding that they were shortly to return to their former employment. The total of 486,599 was 9,809 less than a month before, and 127,093 less than a year before. It included 422,342 insured persons with claims for insurance benefit, 43,036 applicants for transitional payments, and 21,221 persons not in receipt of insurance benefit or transitional payments.

Numbers Unemployed normally in Casual Employment.—At 22nd February, 1932, there were on the Registers in Great Britain 100,066 men, 153 boys, 1,408 women and 20 girls who normally seek a livelihood by means of jobs of short duration; these are mainly employed in dock, harbour, river and canal service. The total of 101,647 was 942 more than a month before. It included 71,322 insured persons with claims for insurance benefit, 29,354 applicants for transitional payments, and 971 persons not in receipt of insurance benefit or transitional payments.

Comparisons of the numbers on the registers with those for a month ago and a year ago are affected by the results of legislative and administrative changes.

Industries in which Principal Variations occurred.—There were reductions in the numbers recorded as unemployed in the cotton, woollen and worsted, and silk industries, in textile bleaching and finishing, in metal

goods manufacture, in the clothing industries, except boot and shoe manufacture, in the paper, pottery, and building industries, and in shipping service. On the other hand, the numbers unemployed increased in coal mining and in the jute industry.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in February resulted in a decrease of about £52,700 in the weekly full-time wages of 548,000 workpeople, and in an increase of £3,850 in those of 66,000 workpeople.

The majority of the workers affected by reductions in February were building trade operatives, whose rates of wages in most districts were reduced under a cost-of-living sliding scale. Other workpeople whose wages were reduced included ironstone miners and blastfurnace workers in Lincolnshire, iron puddlers and millmen in the North-East Coast area, process engravers, workpeople employed by electricity supply undertakings in certain districts, lighterage workers on the Thames, and the employees of certain large retail stores and wholesale drapery establishments in London. The principal increase in wages during the month affected men employed in steel melting shops and steel rolling mills in various districts in England and Scotland.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st March the average level of retail prices of the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and miscellaneous items) was approximately 46 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, as compared with 47 per cent. a month earlier and 50 per cent. a year earlier. For food alone the corresponding percentages were 29, 31 and 34.

The fall in the index number at 1st March, as compared with 1st February, was due to reductions in the prices of eggs, milk and potatoes, which, however, were partly counterbalanced by increases in the prices of butter.

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 proportionately to 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 February was 29. In addition, 15 disputes which began before February were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in February (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 18,500, and the aggregate duration of all disputes in February was about 178,000 working days.

The following Tables show, by districts and by departments, the percentage increases and decreases in the numbers employed in the week ended 20th February, 1932, by those firms who supplied returns for the purpose of the foregoing Table (excluding the carpet section), as compared with the week ended 23rd January, 1932:—

Table showing percentage inc./dec. in numbers employed by districts and departments (Wool Sorting, Spinning, Weaving, etc.) for the worsted section.

Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in numbers employed as compared with previous month. (...signifies "no change.")

Table showing percentage inc./dec. in numbers employed by districts and departments for the woollen section.

The following Table shows the numbers of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of 17 Employment Exchanges in the principal wool textile trade centres at 22nd February, 1932:—

Table showing numbers of men and women on registers at 22nd February, 1932, categorized by department and employment status.

The following Table shows the increases and decreases at these 17 Exchanges as compared with 25th January, 1932:—

Table showing percentage inc./dec. in numbers employed at 17 Exchanges as compared with 25th January, 1932.

The imports (less re-exports) of raw wool (sheep's or lambs') were 61,412,200 lbs. in February, 1932, compared with 74,232,300 lbs. in the previous month and 57,920,200 lbs. in February, 1931.

The exports of woollen and worsted yarns in February, 1932, were 2,799,900 lbs. compared with 3,353,900 lbs. in January, 1932, and with 1,914,100 lbs. in February, 1931.

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues in February, 1932, were 7,572,700 square yards, compared with 8,471,200 square yards in the previous month, and with 8,588,500 square yards in February, 1931.

The exports of blankets were 2,354 cwts., 2,460 cwts., and 2,813 cwts. in February, 1932, January, 1932 and February, 1931, respectively.

BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during February showed little general change, and remained slack on the whole; while there was a slight improvement in some districts there was a decline in others.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 18·7 at 22nd February, 1932, as compared with 18·4 at 25th January, 1932, and with 19·6 at 23rd February, 1931.

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

Table summarizing boot and shoe industry information: Number of Workpeople and Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, broken down by district and department.

Returns from firms employing about 58,400 workpeople in the week ended 20th February indicated that about 45 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time in that week, losing about 1½ hours each on the average; while 8 per cent. were on overtime, to the extent of about 4¼ hours each on the average.

Employment in London varied much from one firm to another; on the whole it remained moderate. At Leicester employment remained slack; in the week ended 20th February, 53 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the employers' returns worked short time, losing 1½ hours each on the average.

At Northampton employment continued slack, and was worse than a year ago; in the week ended 20th February, 63 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns were on short time, losing about 10¼ hours each on the average.

At Wellingborough also there was a decline; a large number of operatives were discharged, and others were put on short time. Employment remained slack at Stafford; more than four-fifths of the workpeople covered by the employers' returns for the week ended 20th February were on short time in that week, losing nearly 13 hours each on the average.

In the Bristol and Kingswood district employment continued bad; it showed a slight improvement over January, but was worse than a year ago; five out of six of the operatives covered by the employers' returns were on short time in the week ended 20th February, losing nearly 19 hours each on the average.

There was little general change in the Lancashire slipper trade as compared with January, but employment was considerably better than a year ago. Short time was common at most centres, but at Preston employment remained good.

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

In Scotland employment remained bad; more than half the operatives covered by the employers' returns were on short time in the week ended 20th February, losing 1½ hours each on the average. The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of 53 Employment Exchanges in the principal centres of the boot and shoe industry at 22nd February, 1932:—

Table showing numbers of men and women on registers at 22nd February, 1932, categorized by department and employment status.

The following Table shows the increases and decreases at these 53 Exchanges as compared with 25th January, 1932:—

Table showing percentage inc./dec. in numbers employed at 53 Exchanges as compared with 25th January, 1932.

The exports of boots and shoes in February, 1932, amounted to 63,729 dozen pairs, or 2,295 dozen pairs more than in January, 1932, but 4,984 dozen pairs less than in February, 1931.

POTTERY INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in North Staffordshire showed a slight improvement but was still bad on the whole, with much short-time working. At Worcester employment continued fair, though a considerable amount of short-time was being worked. At Derby and at Bristol employment continued slack.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 32·6 at 22nd February, 1932, as compared with 36·8 at 25th January, 1932, and 34·0 at 23rd February, 1931.

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

Table summarizing pottery industry information: Number of Workpeople and Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, broken down by branches and districts.

Returns from employers relative to short-time working showed that, of 8,906 workpeople employed by firms making returns, 3,941, or nearly 44½ per cent., were working on an average about 1½ hours less than full time in the week ended 20th February, 1932; the amount of overtime worked was very small.

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

BRICK INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during February showed a further decline, and was very slack on the whole.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 22·5 at 22nd February, 1932, as compared with 22·1 at 25th January, 1932, and 20·5 at 23rd February, 1931.

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

Table summarizing brick industry information: Number of Workpeople and Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, broken down by districts.

Returns from employers relative to short time working, exclusive of time lost on account of bad weather, showed that, of 8,004 workpeople employed by firms furnishing information, nearly 15½ per cent. were working on an average about 1½ hours less than full time in the week ended 20th February, 1932; the amount of overtime worked was very small.

BUILDING.

EMPLOYMENT remained bad, on the whole, during February, an improvement in the painting and decorating section being offset by a decline in some of the other sections. It was reported as fair or fairly good in a few districts, including Gateshead, parts of Wiltshire, Southend-on-Sea, and Weymouth. As compared with February, 1931, employment was slightly worse in the North-Eastern Counties of England and in Scotland, and considerably worse in each of the other administrative divisions.

As regards individual occupations, employment showed little change with carpenters and labourers, and declined with bricklayers, plasterers, slaters and plumbers. There was a slight improvement with masons, and a substantial decrease in the number of painters unemployed. Employment was still very bad with painters, however, and bad with each of the other classes. As compared with February, 1931, employment was much worse with each class of operative.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts who were recorded as unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, at 22nd February, 1932, together with the increase or decrease as compared with the previous month and with February, 1931:—

Table showing numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, at 22nd February, 1932.

Table showing numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, at 22nd February, 1932, categorized by divisions.

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

Returns from Local Authorities in 145 of the principal urban areas in Great Britain (except the London County Council area) with a total population of 17,336,000 show that in February, 1932, plans were passed for buildings of an estimated cost of £4,596,300, as

compared with £4,314,900 in January, 1932, and £5,713,300 in February, 1931. Of the total for February, 1932, dwelling-houses accounted for £3,135,100; factories and workshops for £150,800; shops, offices, warehouses and other business premises for £420,900; and other buildings, and additions and alterations to existing buildings, for £889,500.

PAPER MANUFACTURE, PRINTING, AND BOOKBINDING.

EMPLOYMENT during February in the paper-making industry was fair generally. A slight improvement was reported in a number of districts and in some others full time was worked, but there were still some centres where mills were reported as working irregularly and where short time was prevalent.

Employment in the letterpress printing industry was again moderate on the whole. It was described as bad in London and at Birmingham, Leeds, Liverpool and Manchester, and as slack at Bristol and Glasgow. In some of the smaller centres employment was reported as fair, whilst at Derby it improved somewhat and was fairly good. With electrotypers and stereotypers employment was fair on the whole.

Employment with lithographic printers remained slack. In the larger centres, including Birmingham, Liverpool and Manchester, it was described as bad, but in a number of the smaller towns it was fair. With lithographic artists employment was generally slack to moderate.

In the bookbinding industry employment declined slightly during the month, and, on the whole, was slack.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the paper and paper-board industries was 9.9 at 22nd February, 1932, compared with 12.0 at 25th January, 1932, and 14.4 at 23rd February, 1931. In the printing and bookbinding industries the percentage was 11.8 at 22nd February, 1932, compared with 12.0 at 25th January, 1932, and 10.1 at 23rd February, 1931. In the card-board box, paper bag and stationery industries the percentage was 10.6 at 22nd February, 1932, compared with 10.7 at 25th January, 1932, and 12.1 at 23rd February, 1931.

The following Table summarises the returns received from certain trade unions which furnished information as to the extent of unemployment among their members :-

Table with columns: No. of Members of Unions at end of February, 1932; Percentage Unemployed at end of Feb., 1932; Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a; Letterpress Printing: London, Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire, Midlands and Eastern Counties, Scotland, Other Districts, Total; Lithographic Printing Bookbinding, Printing and Bookbinding (branches not distinguished).

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT continued slack during February. Among insured workpeople in dock, harbour, river and canal service, 33.1* per cent. were unemployed at 22nd February, 1932, as compared with 32.9 per cent. at 25th January, 1932. On a comparable basis,* the percentage at 22nd February, 1932, was less by 2.1 than at 23rd February, 1931.

London.—Employment showed an improvement but was still bad. 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; In Docks; At Wharves making Returns; Total; Week ended 6th Feb., 1932; Average for 4 weeks ended 27th Feb., 1932; Average for Jan., 1932; Average for Feb., 1931.

* See footnote on page 103.

Tilbury.—The average daily number of dock labourers employed during February was 942, compared with 1,058 in January, and with 807 in February, 1931.

East Coast.—Employment remained generally slack at the North-East Coast ports, but there was a slight improvement at Middlesbrough. At Hull it continued moderate, and fair at Ipswich, Yarmouth, Lowestoft and King's Lynn.

Liverpool.—Employment was moderate and rather better than in the previous month. The average weekly number of dock labourers registered at the clearing houses under the Liverpool Docks Scheme as employed in the four weeks ended 26th February, 1932, was 11,379, compared with 11,349 in January, 1932, and with 11,190 in February, 1931. The average weekly amount of wages paid to these men through the clearing houses was £24,935 in the four weeks ended 26th February, 1932, compared with £24,056 in January, 1932, and with £24,353 in February, 1931.

Other Ports in England and Wales.—Employment was slack at Manchester except in the last week of the month, when it improved and was fairly good. It was slack at most of the South Wales ports, but was fair at Swansea, where some improvement was shown. At Southampton employment continued to decline and was bad. At Bristol and Avonmouth work fluctuated in volume, but was fair on the whole. Employment was fair at Weymouth, but slack at Plymouth and at other South-western ports.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—Employment declined at Dundee towards the end of February and was slack. It improved and was fair at Leith and at Grangemouth, but continued bad at Glasgow. At Belfast it remained fair.

SEAMEN.

EMPLOYMENT during February continued very slack on the whole. The demand for men remained on a very low level and a surplus of ratings was reported at all ports.

Among insured workpeople in the shipping service the percentage unemployed at 22nd February, 1932, was 34.4, compared with 36.0 at 25th January, 1932, and 34.1 at 23rd February, 1931.

The demand for men on the Thames declined during the first half of the month and thereafter was moderate. On the Tyne it was moderate in the first week but slack thereafter; on the Wear it was quiet throughout the month. The demand at the Hartlepoons was very dull except for some slight activity in the first and third weeks; on the Tees it was moderate in the first week but very poor during the remainder of February. At Hull the demand improved during the first three weeks but showed a substantial decline in the last week, and at the end of February was poor. At Southampton it was moderate in the first half of the month but much slacker thereafter. At Bristol the demand was quiet, with slackness more marked in the last week; at Avonmouth, apart from some briskness early in the month, the demand was very slack. At Newport it was moderate in the first half of the month and slack thereafter; at Cardiff the demand declined during the first three weeks but recovered in the last week, and was fair at the end of February; at Swansea it was fairly good. On the Mersey it was fair in the first week but quiet subsequently; at Manchester, apart from a period of slackness in the middle of the month, it was fair. On the Clyde the demand was slack throughout the month. At Leith it declined throughout the month, and at the end of February was very dull. The demand at Belfast was moderate in the early part of February but became very quiet subsequently.

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

Table with columns: Principal Ports; Number of Seamen* shipped in; Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a; Two Months ended; ENGLAND AND WALES: Liverpool, Manchester, London, Southampton, Tyne Ports, Sunderland, Middlesbrough, Hull, Bristol, Newport, Mon., Cardiff, Swansea; SCOTLAND: Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth, Glasgow; NORTHERN IRELAND: Belfast; TOTAL for above Ports.

* 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 Portlithhead. § Including Barry and Penarth.

COMPOSITION OF UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

ON page 100 an explanation is given of the unemployment statistics published in the Press, and in this GAZETTE. The following Table gives an analysis relating to the 22nd February, 1932, of the composition of these statistics. Lines 1 to 4 make up the number of persons on the register; while, by omitting the uninsured persons (line 4) and including lines 5 and 6, the number of books lodged, or, in other words, the number of insured persons recorded as unemployed, is obtained :-

Table with columns: Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total; 1. Claims admitted; 2. Claims under consideration; 3. Insured persons not entitled to benefit or transitional payments; 4. Uninsured persons on Register; 5. Two months' file; 6. Unemployed—Special Schemes; Persons on Register (lines 1-4); Books Lodged (lines 1-3, 5 and 6).

NUMBERS ON THE REGISTERS OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.*

ANALYSIS OF FIGURES FOR 22ND FEBRUARY, AND FOR 25TH JANUARY, 1932.

Table with columns: 22nd February, 1932; 25th Jan., 1932; Persons normally in Regular Employment; Wholly Unemployed; Temporarily Stopped; Persons normally in Casual Employment; Total; Great Britain; Men, Boys, Women, Girls; Great Britain and Northern Ireland; Men, Boys, Women, Girls; Total.

VACANCIES NOTIFIED AND FILLED.

(GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.)

Table with columns: Period 29th December, 1931, to 22nd February, 1932; Period 26th January, 1932, to 22nd February, 1932; Vacancies Filled; Applications from Employers; Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a year before; Applications from Employers; Number; Per cent. of Vacancies notified; Men, Boys, Women, Girls; TOTAL.

* 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" includes 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 four weeks ended 22nd February, 1932, the average number of such placements of men and women was 6,696 per week.

NUMBERS ON THE REGISTERS IN THE PRINCIPAL TOWNS.

The following Table shows for each of the Employment Exchange administrative areas in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and for the principal towns therein, the number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges on 22nd February, 1932. In certain cases (e.g., Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield, Liverpool, Glasgow, etc.) the figures cover more than one Exchange area.

Table with columns: Area; Number of Persons on Register at 22nd February, 1932 (Men, Women, Juveniles, Total); Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in total as compared with 25th Jan., 1932; 23rd Feb., 1931; London Division; South-Eastern Division; Bristol; Plymouth; Reading; Southampton; Swindon; Midlands Division; Birmingham; Coventry; Derby; Leicester; Northampton; Nottingham; Smethwick; Stoke-on-Trent; Walsall; West Bromwich; Wolverhampton; North-Eastern Division; Barnsley; Bradford; Darlington; Dewsbury; Doncaster; Gateshead; Grimsby; Halifax; Hartlepool; Huddersfield; Hull; Leeds; Lincoln; Middlesbrough; Newcastle-on-Tyne; Rotherham; Sheffield; South Shields; Stockton-on-Tees; Sunderland; Wakefield; York; Rest of Division; North-Western Division; Accrington; Ashton-under-Lyne; Barrow; Birkenhead; Blackburn; Blackpool; Bolton; Burnley; Bury; Chorley; Liverpool; Manchester; Nelson; Oldham; Preston; Rochdale; St. Helens; Salford; Stockport; Warrington; Wigan; Rest of Division; Scotland Division; Aberdeen; Clydebank; Dundee; Edinburgh; Glasgow; Greenock; Motherwell; Paisley; Rest of Division; Wales Division; Cardiff; Llanelly; Newport; Swansea; Rest of Division; Northern Ireland; Belfast; Londonderry; Lurgan; Lisburn; Newry; Rest of Northern Ireland; Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

[Percentage rates of unemployment for each of 714 towns in Great Britain are given in the monthly "Local Unemployment Index."]

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1931, PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED AT 22ND FEBRUARY, 1932, INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH 25TH JAN., 1932, 23RD FEB., 1931, 24TH FEB., 1930, GREAT BRITAIN ONLY. TOTAL PERCENTAGES AT 22ND FEB., 1932.

* For 24th February, 1930, separate figures for each of the two sections are not available.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1931, PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED AT 22ND FEBRUARY, 1932, INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH 25TH JAN., 1932, 23RD FEB., 1931, 24TH FEB., 1930, GREAT BRITAIN ONLY. TOTAL PERCENTAGES AT 22ND FEB., 1932.

* See note * on page 63 of the issue of this GAZETTE for February, 1932, regarding the change, introduced on 25th January, 1932, in the basis on which the numbers of registered dock workers unemployed are counted. On the new basis the percentage rate of unemployment at 22nd February, 1932, in dock, harbour, river and canal service was less by 2.1 than at 23rd February, 1931, but was greater by 6.0 than at 24th February, 1930.

NUMBERS OF INSURED WORKPEOPLE UNEMPLOYED. PROPORTIONS IN 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 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 22nd February, 1932, differed from the figures for 25th January, 1932, to the extent of 1,000 or more :-

Table with columns: Industry, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers recorded as Unemployed at 22nd Feb., 1932, as compared with 25th Jan., 1932, Males, Females, Total.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1932 (continued).

Table with columns: Industry, District, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of Change. Includes entries for Woollen and Worsted, Muslin Manufacture, Machine Calico Printing, Silk Dyeing and Finishing, Retail Bespoke Tailoring, Fish Curing, Mill Sawing, Packing Case Making, Furniture Manufacture, and Process Engraving.

* The change applied mainly to employees of firms affiliated to the Woolcombing Employers' Federation, The Bradford Dyers' Association, Ltd., and the Bradford and District Spinners' Association. † In respect of the preceding pay period. ‡ Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements. § Those employed (1) making cassocks, soutanes, clerical cloaks, municipal and judicial robes, (2) in the constructional parts of coats, (3) as vest-makers, trousers-makers, breeches-makers, (4) making ladies' and gentlemen's coats where the garment is made throughout by one worker. ¶ Class A.—Workers employed in the Lisburn Urban District; Class B.—Workers employed in areas with a population of 2,000 and over administered by Urban District or Borough Councils (excluding Class A); Class C.—Workers other than those already specified. ** Including Aberdeen, Berwick, Buckie, Fraserburgh, Lerwick, Peterhead, Stornoway, Wick, Lowestoft and Yarmouth. *** The change applied mainly to the employees of firms who are affiliated to the Joint Industrial Council for the Process Engraving Industry.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1932 (continued).

Table with columns: Industry, District, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of Change. Includes entries for Building, Shop, etc. Fitting, Tile Laying, Glassworking, Concrete Laying, etc., Asphalt, Gas, Water and Electricity Supply Industries, Omnibus Undertakings, and Dock, Wharf, and Riverside Labour.

* Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements. † The change took effect under an agreement arrived at by the National Joint Council for the Building Industry. There was no change in the scheduled rates at the following towns owing to their having been re-graded from the same date as that from which the above reduction took effect.—NORTH-WESTERN COUNTIES: from A3 to A2—Colwyn Bay, Conway, Holywell, Llandudno; from B1 to B—Anglesey and Caernarvon, Barmouth, Harlech, Town; MIDLAND COUNTIES: from A3 to A2—Wellington (Salop); from B1 to B—Bridgnorth; SOUTHERN COUNTIES: from A3 to A2—Oxford, Reading, Southampton; from B3 to B2—Abingdon; from B3 to B2—Aylesbury; SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES: from B1 to B—Falmouth, Taunton; from B2 to B1—Bridgwater, Yeovil; from B3 to B2—Midsomer Norton. In the case of Bishops Cleeve, which was re-graded from B3 to B1, there was a net increase in the scheduled rates of 1d. per hour, and at Shepton Mallet, which was re-graded from C to B2, the scheduled rates were increased by 1d. per hour for craftsmen and 1d. per hour for labourers. In certain districts in England (including Bradford, Leeds, Cambridge and Norwich) where separate agreements have been made between the local employers of plasterers and the National Association of Operative Plasterers to which the National Joint Council for the Building Industry is not a party, it is understood that the rates of wages thus fixed remain unaltered within the limits of operation of such agreements. Full information as to the scope of the reduction in its application to individual towns and each class of labour is not yet available, but it is hoped to publish a list of the new rates applicable in the various towns in the April issue of this GAZETTE. ‡ The change took effect under an interim arrangement made by the National Joint Committee appointed by the National Federation of Building Trades Employers and the National Association of Operative Plasterers. It is understood that the rate generally paid is now 1s. 9½d. per hour. § In the case of labourers the reduction was subject to a general provision that the rate should be, as previously, not less than 75 per cent. of the rate paid to craftsmen in each district. The reduction amounted to 1d. per hour in Grades A, A2, B, B2 and C, and to 1d. per hour in Grades A1, A3, B1, B3 and C1. ¶ Painters in certain towns in the South-Western Counties receive 1d. or 1d. less than the craftsmen's rates given above. ** The change took effect under an agreement arrived at by the Scottish National Joint Council for the Building Industry, the reduction being subject to the general provision that the rate for labourers should, in all districts, remain at not less than 75 per cent. of that paid to craftsmen. In the Glasgow and West of Scotland district an "exceptional rate" for bricklayers of 1d. per hour above Grade A rate is paid. A list of the towns comprised in each Grade which are understood to observe the decisions of the Council, is given below, the towns printed in italics being those in which the "exceptional rate" for bricklayers is paid. Grade A.—Aberdeen (except Barmach, Airdrie, Alloa, Ayr, Barrhead, Bellshill, Bridge of Allan, Bridge of Weir, Burntisland, Coatbridge, Dalkeith, Dumbarrow, Dunbar, Dumblane, Dundee, Dunfermline, Dumfries, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Girvan, Glasgow, Gourock, Grangemouth, Greenock, Haddington, Hamilton, Helensburgh, Inverleithing, Irvine, Johnstone, Kilmacollm, Kilmarnock, Kirkcaldy, Lanark, Largs, Larkhall, Leith, Leven, Maybole, Motherwell, Paisley, Perth, Port Glasgow, Prestwick, Renfrew, St. Andrews, Saltcoats, Stewarton, Stirling, Troon, Vale of Leven, Uddingston, Wishaw, Grade A1.—Peterhead, Grade A2.—Dumfries, Galashiels, Hawick, Kelso, Maxwelltown, Montrose, Selkirk. *** Including Aberdeen, Airdrie, Armadale, Ayr, Barrhead, Bathgate, Clydebank, Coatbridge, Dumbarrow, Dundee, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Glasgow, Gourock, Greenock, Hamilton, Irvine, Johnstone, Kilmarnock, Kilsyth, Kirkcaldy, Kirkintilloch, Largs, Leith, Motherwell, Paisley, Perth, Port Glasgow, Saltcoats, Stirling and Wishaw. †† The change applied mainly to employees of firms affiliated to the Northern Counties Master Asphaltes' Association (covering various districts in Northumberland, Durham, Cumberland, Westmorland, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cheshire, North Wales, Derbyshire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Shropshire and Staffordshire). ††† The reductions described took effect under an award issued by the Industrial Court. The Undertakings affected are mainly those affiliated to the District Joint Industrial Councils for the Electricity Supply Industry.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1932 (continued).

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
Furniture Removal and Warehousing.	London (within a radius of 20 miles from Charing Cross.	Week beginning 15 Feb.	Workpeople employed in the furniture removal and warehousing industry.	Bonus of 2s. 6d. per week granted by certain firms in 1925 withdrawn. Minimum weekly rates after change include: warehousemen 52s. 6d.; porters 52s. 6d.; carmen 53s. 6d. to 60s. 6d.; petrol drivers 61s. 6d.
Coal Carting	Leicester	1st pay day in Jan.	Coal carters and loaders	Decrease of 1s. per week. Rate after change 48s. per week.
Local Government (Non-Trading Services).	Carlisle	5 Jan. 1st full pay in Feb.	Labourers	Decrease of 1s. 11d. per week (52s. 7d. to 50s. 8d.).
	West Riding of Yorkshire.		Manual workers employed by County Council.	Decrease of 1d. per hour for Grade A workpeople. Rate after change for labourers, road workers and scavengers, 1s.
	Barnsley	1 Feb.	General yard and road labourers and refuse collectors.	Decrease of 3d. per hour. Rate after change 1s. 0½d. per hour.*
	Bradford	1st full pay in Jan.	Refuse collectors	Decrease of 1½d. per hour (1s. 2d. to 1s. 0½d.).
			Other classes of manual workers ...	Decreases generally of 3d. or 4d. per hour. Rates after change include: general yard labourers and road workers, 1s. 0½d.; road scavengers, 1s.
	Dewsbury	1 Feb.	Labourers	Decrease of 4d. per hour. Rates after change for general yard labourers, 1s. 0½d. and 1s. 1½d.*
	Huddersfield ...	1 Feb.	Certain classes of manual workers employed in non-trading and water departments.	Decrease of 3d. per hour. Rates after change: general yard and road labourers, and waterworks' labourers, 1s. 1½d.; road scavengers and sweepers, 1s. 0½d.*
	Certain Authorities in Lancashire and Cheshire.†	1 Feb.	General yard and road labourers ...	Decrease of 4d. per hour (1s. 2d. to 1s. 1½d.).†
	Blackburn	1 Feb.	Certain classes of manual workers employed in non-trading and water departments.	Decrease of 3d. per hour for labourers, of 4d. per day for refuse collectors, and of 2d. per day for scavengers and sweepers. Rates after change include: general yard and road labourers and waterworks' labourers, 1s. 1½d.; gang sweepers, 6s. 4d. per day; refuse collectors, 8s. 10d. per day.*
	Bury	1 Feb.	General yard and road labourers ...	Decrease of 3d. per hour (1s. 2d. to 1s. 1½d.).*
Hereford	1 Feb.	Certain classes of manual workers employed in non-trading and water departments.	Decrease of 3d. per hour. Rates after change: general yard and road labourers and waterworks' labourers, road sweepers and refuse collectors, 1s.*	
Cambridge	1 Feb.	Manual workers	Decrease of 4d. per hour. Rate after change for general yard and road labourers, road scavengers and sweepers, and refuse collectors (day work), 11½d.*	
Felixstowe	1 Feb.	General yard and road labourers, refuse collectors and carters.	Decrease of 3d. per hour. Rate after change 1s. 0½d. per hour.*	
Chatham	1 Feb.	Manual workers	Decrease of 3d. per hour. Rates after change: general yard and road labourers and road sweepers, 1s.; refuse collectors, 1s. 0½d.*	
Hornsey	1 Feb.	General yard and road labourers, scavengers and sweepers.	Decrease of 4d. per hour. Rates after change: general yard and road labourers, 1s. 2d.; scavengers and sweepers, 1s. 1½d.	
Portsmouth ...	1 Feb.	Labourers	Decrease of 3d. per hour (1s. 0½d. to 1s. 0½d.).*	
Plymouth	1 Feb.	Labourers	Decrease of 3d. per hour (1s. 2d. to 1s. 1½d.).*	
Fire Brigade	London	1st full pay after 6 Feb.	Sub-officers and firemen in the Fire Brigade.	Decrease of 5 per cent. on current rates, subject to the proviso that in no case shall the amount of deduction exceed 5s. 6d. per week for sub-officers and 4s. 3d. per week for firemen. Weekly rates after change (exclusive of pension deductions, also of an allowance of 8s. 6d. per week in respect of quarters): sub-officers, 90s. 3d. to 104s. 6d.; firemen, 65s. 1d. to 88s. 9d. (See Decision No. 1527 on p. 118.)‡
Skip and Basket Making.	Lancashire and Cheshire.	1 Feb.	Skip and basket makers	Decrease of 1 per cent. on Lancashire price list, leaving wages 74½ per cent. and 64½ per cent. above the list for timeworkers and pieceworkers respectively.
Roller Leather Manufacture.	Lancashire, Cheshire and North Wales.	1st pay day in Feb.	Workpeople employed in the Persian section of the roller leather industry.	Cost-of-living wage reduced from 50 per cent. to 45 per cent. on basic rates. Minimum rates after change: men—skilled, 9d.; semi-skilled, 6d. to 7½d.; women—5d. per hour, plus, in each case, 45 per cent.
Leather Belt Manufacture.	Great Britain ...	1st pay day in Feb.	Workpeople employed in leather belt manufacture.	Percentage payable on base rates embodied in agreement of November, 1922, increased from 45 to 47 for pieceworkers and timeworkers, resulting for the latter in an increase of 4d. per hour for skilled workers, the rates for semi-skilled workers remaining unchanged, leaving rates for timeworkers as follows: skilled—London, 1s. 1½d.; Provinces, 1s. 1½d.; semi-skilled—London, 10½d.; Provinces, 10½d.
Distributive Trades.	London (City and Metropolitan Police Areas).	1st pay day after 8 Feb.	Workpeople employed by certain large retail stores and wholesale drapery establishments:— Assistants and clerks ...	Decrease of 3s. per week. Minimum rates after change: male workers—17s. at 16, increasing each year to 45s. at 21 and to 63s. at 25; female workers—14s. at 16, increasing each year to 30s. at 21 and to 39s. at 24.
			Packers and porters:— Male workers	New scales of minimum rates adopted, the highest rate being payable at 25 years of age instead of 24 as previously, resulting in decreases of 6s. per week at 24 and over, 1s. per week for packers, and 2s. per week for porters at 23 and 3s. per week for those under 23. Minimum rates after change: 17s. at 16, increasing each year to 37s. at 20, and at 23 and over, to 56s. for packers and 50s. for porters.
			Female workers	Decrease of 3s. per week. Minimum rates after change: 13s. at 16, increasing each year to 21s. at 18 and, at 23 and over, to 35s. for packers and 32s. for porters.

* The reduction took effect under arrangements whereby the wages of the classes of workpeople concerned are regulated by movements in building trade wages (which were reduced in February). In addition to the classes mentioned, road paviers and masons at each town sustained the reduction of 4d. per hour applicable to builders' masons. They are not, however, specially mentioned above as the wages of such men are regulated by building trade wages in most towns in England and Wales.

† The authorities mainly affected include those given in the following list. The rate quoted applies to both general yard labourers and road labourers, except at Darwen, where yard labourers were not affected by the reduction and the rate applies to road labourers only.—Bolton, Darwen, Heywood, Hyde, Preston, Rochdale, Swinton and Pendlebury. There was also a reduction of 4d. per hour in the wages of road paviers and masons at all these towns (see note † above).

‡ By a Resolution of the County Council dated 8th March, new entrants from that date are to receive 65s. per week, rising after one year's service to 57s. 6d. per week, and after two years' service and until three years from appointment, 60s. per week, plus an allowance of 8s. 6d. per week in respect of quarters from the date of appointment, in lieu of a year later, as in the case of men already in the service.

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

|| The change applied mainly to employees of firms who are affiliated to the London Employers' Association, Ltd.

CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN MARCH.

Changes in rates of wages which have been reported as taking effect in March include the following, of which further particulars will be given in the April issue of this GAZETTE:—Decreases.—Workpeople employed in the made-up textiles trade (under a Trade Board Order); wool textile operatives at Saddleworth; quarry workers at Macclesfield; Corporation employees at Glasgow; railway police; sea-going wireless operators; gas workers in certain areas; ironfounders in Cardiff district. Increase.—Workpeople employed by civil engineering contractors in the Glasgow district

TRADE DISPUTES IN FEBRUARY.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in February in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 29, as compared with 30 in the previous month, and 24 in February, 1931. In these new disputes about 7,400 workpeople were directly involved, and 700 workpeople indirectly involved (i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes). In addition, about 10,400 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 15 disputes which began before February and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 44, involving about 18,500 workpeople, and resulting in a loss, during February, of about 178,000 working days.

In the following Table is given an analysis of the disputes in progress in February in Great Britain and Northern Ireland by groups of industries, showing the number of workpeople involved at the establishments concerned and the approximate time lost during the month in all disputes in progress:—

Industry Group.	Number of Disputes in progress in Month.			Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in Month.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in Month.
	Started before beginning of Month.	Started in Month.	Total.		
Mining and Quarrying ...	2	4	6	1,300	6,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ...	1	7	8	1,000	2,000
Textile ...	3	7	10	10,600	100,000
Transport ...	2	2	4	4,400	61,000
Other ...	7	9	16	1,200	9,000
Total, Feb., 1932 ...	15	29	44	18,500	178,000
Total, Jan., 1932 ...	9	30	39	18,300	217,000
Total, Feb., 1931 ...	10	24	34	152,000†	1,795,000†

Causes.—Of the 29 disputes beginning in February, 6, directly involving 400 workpeople, arose out of proposed reductions in wages; 11, directly involving 1,600 workpeople, on other wage questions; one, directly involving 200 workpeople, on a question as to working hours; 8, directly involving 1,000 workpeople, on questions respecting

the employment of particular classes or persons; and 3, directly involving 4,200 workpeople, on other questions of working arrangements.

Results.—Settlements were effected in the case of 20 new disputes, directly involving 6,800 workpeople, and 9 old disputes, directly involving 9,000 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 8, directly involving 5,100 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 14, directly involving 7,800 workpeople, were settled in favour of the employers; and 7, directly involving 2,900 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of 5 disputes, directly involving 300 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

TOTALS FOR THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 1931 AND 1932.

The following Table summarises the figures for Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the first two months of 1932, as compared with the corresponding period of 1931:—

Industry Group.	January and February, 1931.			January and February, 1932.		
	No. of Disputes beginning in period.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.	No. of Disputes beginning in period.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.
Mining and Quarrying ...	25	161,600	2,081,000	8	3,100	12,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ...	7	1,000	12,000	12	1,200	4,000
Textile ...	2	146,000†	3,326,000†	15	11,900	185,000
Clothing ...	5	100	500	3	500	11,000
Woodworking, Furniture, etc. Building, Public Works, Contracting, etc. ...	1	400	2,000	5	300	5,000
Transport ...	3	500	2,000	9	8,600	175,000
Other ...	6	400	8,500	3	400	1,000
Total ...	61	310,800†	5,441,000†	59	26,400	395,000

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING FEBRUARY, 1932.

Occupations† and Locality.	Approximate Number of Workpeople Involved.		Date when dispute		Cause or Object.‡	Result.
	Directly.	Indirectly.‡	Began.	Ended.		
TEXTILE INDUSTRIES:—						
Hosiery workers—Leicester and district.	2,400	...	7 Dec.‡	11 Feb.	Against introduction of Bedaux system of work measurement.	Certain working conditions modifying the system fixed by agreement. (See also page 84.)
Wool textile operatives—Dewsbury and Batley.	3,300	...	22 Jan. and subsequent dates.	10–13 Feb.	Against reduction in wages.	Reduction accepted. (See also page 110).
Bleachers, dyers, printers, etc.—Lancaster.	350	...	5 Feb.	6 Feb.	Dispute arising out of the putting into operation of a system of work measurement.	Work resumed.
Cotton weavers, winders, beamers, overlookers, etc.—Burnley.	4,000¶	...	8 Feb.	13–20 Feb.**	Against action taken by certain employers in varying working conditions, working hours, and rates of wages.	Employers reverted to old working conditions, etc.
BUILDING, PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTING, ETC.:—						
Bricklayers and labourers—Liverpool.	142	80	3 Feb.	8 Feb.	Against employment of tilers on work claimed by bricklayers; and refusal to work with non-unionists and men whose Trade Union contributions were in arrears.	Tilers removed from work in question; non-unionists joined Trade Union, and arrears paid.
TRANSPORT:—						
Lightermen, watermen, tugmen, bargemen, etc.—Port of London.	4,000	...	4 Jan.	17 Feb.	Against reduction in wages.	Reduction accepted. (See also page 111.)
DISTRIBUTION:—						
Bakers and distributive and transport workers (employees of retail co-operative society)—Hawick.	230	...	22 Feb.	25 Feb.	Against proposed reduction in wages of bakers and distributive workers.	Reductions accepted, subject to certain concessions.

* 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.

† Revised figures. A dispute involving about 145,000 workpeople in the cotton manufacturing industry of Lancashire and adjoining counties was in progress in February, 1931.

‡ The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople indirectly involved, i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred but not themselves parties to the disputes. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

§ In most cases work ceased on 21st December.

¶ Work was fully resumed on 15th February.

|| Estimated number.

** Except with one firm, where the dispute continued after this date.

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

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included ... 46%
Food only ... 29%

FOOD.

At 1st March the average level of the retail prices of the principal articles of food was slightly below that of 1st February.

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 29 per cent. at 1st March, 1932, as compared with 31 per cent. at 1st February, 1932, and 34 per cent. at 28th February, 1931.

In the following Table is given a comparison of retail prices of these articles of food in July, 1914, and at 1st February, 1932, and 1st March, 1932:—

Table with columns: Article, Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated— to the nearest 1d.), Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) at 1st Mar., 1932, as compared with July, 1914, 1st Feb., 1932, 1st Mar., 1932, July, 1914, 1st Feb., 1932, 1st Mar., 1932.

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

Table with columns: Article, Average Percentage Increase at 1st Mar., 1932, as compared with July, 1914, Corresponding General Average for 1st Feb., 1932.

* If this kind is seldom dealt with in a locality, the returns quote the prices 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 prices of another kind locally representative.

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 March, was approximately 49 per cent.

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, woollen and cotton materials, underclothing and hosiery, and boots, received from retailers in the principal towns, indicates that at 1st March 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 about 90 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

In the fuel and light group the prices of coal at 1st March averaged approximately 85 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 March, as compared with July, 1914, was about 75 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 75 per cent.), the resultant general average increase for 1st March, 1932, is approximately 46 per cent. over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 47 per cent. at 1st February, 1932, and 50 per cent. at 28th February, 1931.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken in 1932 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). In view of 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, the standard of living may have been raised in many cases 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 1932.

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 1932:—

Table with columns: Year, Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr., May, June, July, Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.

NOTE.

A detailed account of the method of compilation of these statistics "The Cost of Living Index Number: Method of Compilation" has been published, and may be purchased, price 3d. net (3 1/2d. post free), from H.M. Stationery Office, at any of the addresses shown on the cover of this GAZETTE.

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. In every case the percentage calculation is based on the cost of a fixed list of commodities taken in identical quantities.]

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 1928, July 1929, July 1930, July 1931, Latest figures available: Rise, Date).

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 1928, July 1929, July 1930, July 1931, Latest figures available: Rise, Date).

* Exceptions to this are: Egypt, January 1913 to July 1914; France (other towns), August, 1914; Italy (all items) and Rome, January to June, 1914; Switzerland, 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. The Australian percentages for all items are a weighted average for the six capital cities. The percentages are calculated, in Czechoslovakia and Poland, on prices converted to their gold values, and, in the other countries, on prices in the ordinary currency.

† Fuel and light are also included in these figures.
‡ New series.
§ Figure for June.
|| A = Food; B = House-Rent; C = Clothing; D = Fuel and light; E = Other or Miscellaneous Items.
¶ Figure for 3rd Quarter. ** Figure for August.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

THE number of workpeople, other than seamen, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, reported during February, 1932, as killed in the course of their employment was 147, as compared with 152 in the previous month and with 135 in February, 1931. Fatal accidents to seamen reported in February, 1932, numbered 26, as compared with 24 in the previous month and with 33 in February, 1931.

Table with columns: RAILWAY SERVICE, FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS (continued), PLACES UNDER SS. 104-106, FACTORY ACT, 1901, QUARRIES over 20 feet deep, FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS, SEAMEN, TOTAL (including Seamen) 173.

INDUSTRIAL DISEASES.

THE total number of cases* of poisoning, anthrax, and epitheliomatous and chrome ulceration in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported during February, 1932, under the Factory and Workshop Act, or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, was 32; the total number of deaths* reported was 2. Two cases of anthrax among dock labourers were also reported.

Table with columns: I. Cases (continued), I. Cases (continued), II. Deaths.

* Cases include all attacks reported during the month, and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding 12 months. Deaths include all fatal cases reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not.
† Of the three persons affected in the pottery industry, one was a female.

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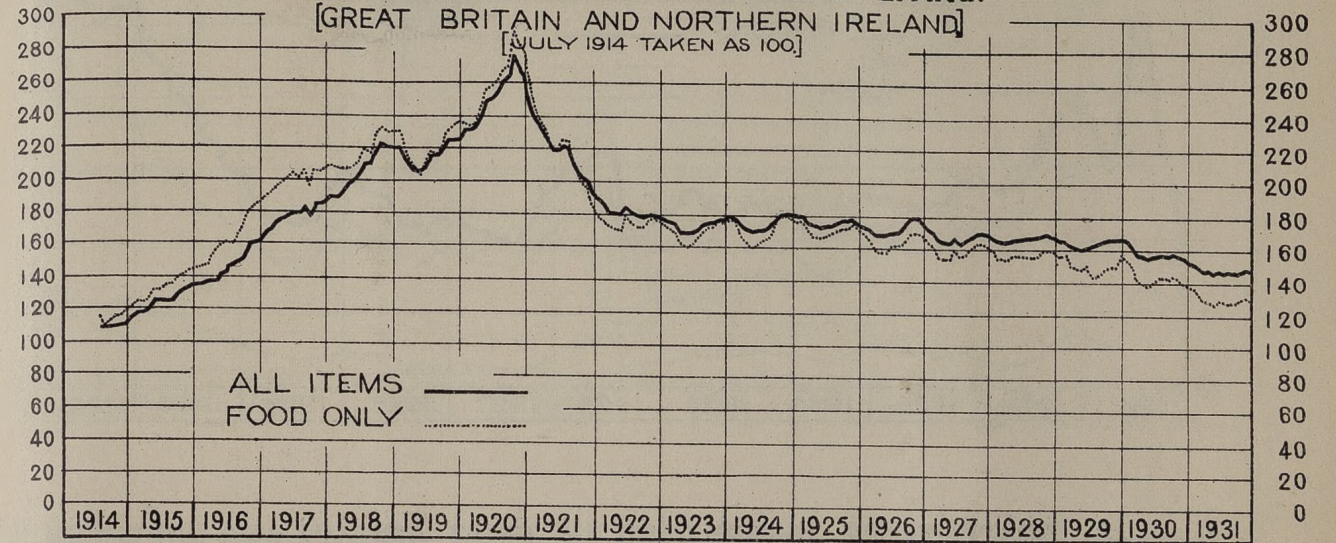
SUPPLEMENT TO THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE FOR MARCH, 1932.

[FOR NOTES AND EXPLANATIONS OF DIAGRAMS SEE "MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE" FOR MARCH, 1932.]

CHANGES IN WORKING-CLASS COST OF LIVING.

[GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND]

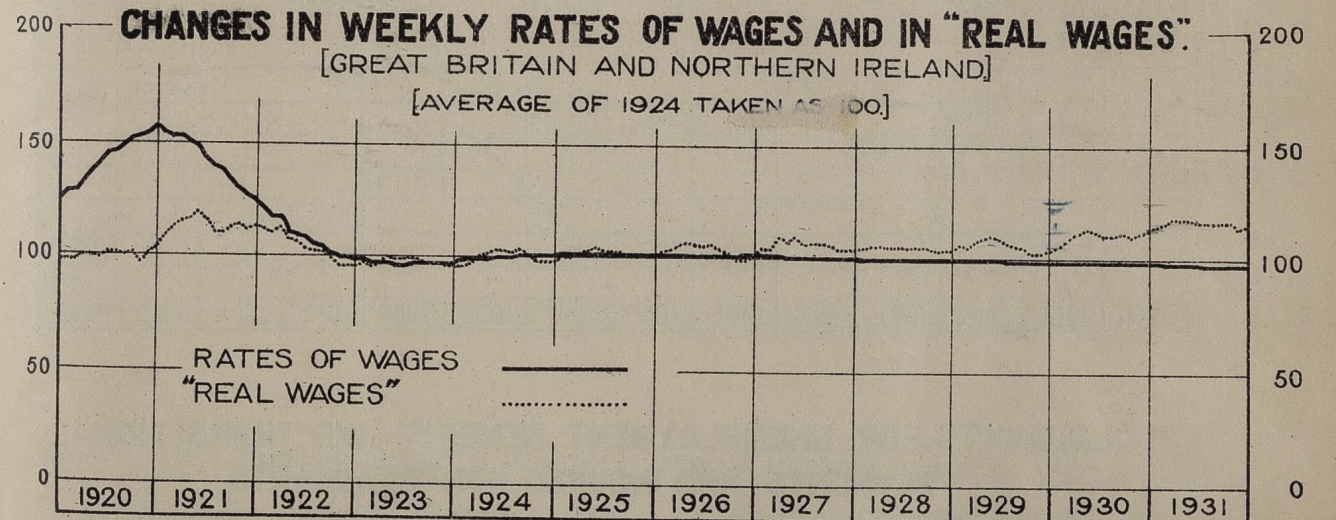
[JULY 1914 TAKEN AS 100.]



CHANGES IN WEEKLY RATES OF WAGES AND IN "REAL WAGES"

[GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND]

[AVERAGE OF 1924 TAKEN AS 100.]



PROFIT - SHARING.

NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE COVERED BY SCHEMES IN GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

