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

### EMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT, on the whole, showed a further decline during October.

The principal industries in which the rate of unemployment increased included coal mining, ship-building and marine engineering, the building trade, public works contracting, brick and tile manufacture, shipping, rail and road transport, hotel and boarding house service, and the distributive trades. In coal mining, a reduction in the numbers recorded as wholly unemployed was more than counterbalanced by an increase in the numbers temporarily stopped from the service of their employers.

On the other hand, there was some improvement in a number of important industries, including pig-iron manufacture, the motor-vehicle industry, the cotton, woollen and worsted, linen, hosiery, lace and carpet industries, the clothing trades (except hat and cap manufacture), the boot and shoe industry, paper making, pottery manufacture, and the brush and broom industry.

Among the workpeople, numbering approximately 11,880,000, insured against unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed in all industries taken together was 11·8 at 22nd October, 1928, as compared with 11·4\* at 24th September, 1928, and 9·5 at 24th October, 1927. The percentage wholly unemployed at 22nd October was 8·9 as compared with 8·6\* at 24th September; while the percentage temporarily stopped was 2·9, as compared with 2·8\*. The total number of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 29th October, 1928, was approximately 1,421,000, of whom 1,118,000 were men and 227,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls. At 1st October, 1928, it was 1,384,000, of whom 1,064,000 were men and 242,000 were women; and at 31st October, 1927, it was 1,132,000, of whom 904,000 were men and 162,000 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 in October resulted in an increase of £1,125 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 95,000 workpeople, and in a reduction of £1,470 in those of 16,350 workpeople.

The principal bodies of workpeople whose wages were increased were textile bleaching, dyeing, printing etc., operatives in Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Scotland, who obtained small increases under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements; the increases amounted in Yorkshire to under  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on current rates, and in Lancashire and Scotland to 3d. and 2d. per week in the case of men and women, respectively.

\* The percentages for September have been revised.

The principal reduction affected commercial road-transport workers in the Liverpool district, who sustained a decrease of 2s. per week. The temporary deduction of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. from gross earnings which was applied to most classes of railway workers last August was extended during October to employees of the Metropolitan Railway, and to workpeople employed in electricity generating stations belonging to the four large main line companies.

During the ten completed months of 1928 the changes reported to the Department in the industries for which statistics are compiled have resulted in net increases of £20,650 in the weekly full-time wages of 208,000 workpeople, and in net reductions of £169,450 in those of 1,701,000 workpeople. In the corresponding period of 1927 there were net increases of £29,700 in the weekly full-time wages of 275,000 workpeople, and net reductions of £374,000 in those of 1,734,000 workpeople.

### COST OF LIVING.

At 1st November the average level of retail prices of all 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 67 per cent. above that of July, 1914, as compared with 66 per cent. a month ago and 69 per cent. a year ago. For food alone the corresponding figures were 59, 57 and 63.

The rise in the percentage since 1st October was mainly due to seasonal increases in the prices of eggs.

These statistics are designed to indicate the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families, and accordingly, in making the calculations, the changes in the prices of the various items 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 October, was 27. In addition, 9 disputes which began before October were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in October (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 7,000, and the aggregate duration of all disputes during October was about 59,000 working days. These figures compare with totals of 10,800 workpeople involved and 56,000 working days lost in the previous month, and with 10,500 workpeople involved and 40,000 days lost in October, 1927.

The aggregate duration of all disputes in progress in the first ten months of 1928 was about 1,316,000 working days, and the total number of workpeople involved in these disputes was about 117,000. The figures for the corresponding period of 1927 were 1,081,000 days and 100,000 workpeople, respectively.





















The imports (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 102,868,500 lbs. in October, 1928, compared with 45,942,700 lbs. in September, 1928, and with 90,170,300 lbs. in October, 1927.

The exports of cotton yarn were 15,148,200 lbs. in October, 1928, compared with 11,244,500 lbs. in September, 1928, and with 15,334,100 lbs. in October, 1927.

The exports of cotton piece-goods were 334,003,900 square yards, as compared with 298,228,100 square yards in the previous month and with 312,115,100 square yards in October, 1927.

WOOL TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

DURING October employment continued bad in the woollen and worsted industry, and much idle machinery and short-time working were reported. There was a slight improvement on the whole as compared with September, but employment was below the level of October, 1927.

In the carpet section employment was generally fair, and was somewhat better than in the previous month.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed (including those temporarily stopped), as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 15.8 on 22nd October, 1928, as compared with 16.9\* on 24th September, 1928, and with 7.3 on 24th October, 1927.

Worsteds Section.—Employment on the whole continued bad. There was a slight increase, as compared with September, in the numbers of operatives totally unemployed, but, on the other hand, short-time working decreased. In the week ending 27th October the returns received from employers showed that 30½ per cent. of the operatives in the worsted section, taken as a whole, worked short time,† losing approximately 12 hours each, on the average. About 6 per cent. of the operatives were reported to be working overtime.

In the wool sorting, preparing and combing departments employment continued bad, and was about the same as in September, except that there was some improvement with certain classes of combers; in the week ending 27th October about 53 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns lost, on an average, nearly 16 hours each in short-time working. In worsted spinning there was, on the whole, not much change, but in this section also a little less short time was worked. According to the returns received from employers, 30 per cent. of the spinners worked short time, with a loss of 11 hours each, on an average, during the week ended 27th October; while about 7½ per cent. worked overtime, with an average of about 5 hours each.

With worsted weavers there was some improvement on the whole, but employment remained bad in the Bradford area; there was little change at Huddersfield where employment was fair. Less short time was worked, in general, about 25 per cent. of the worsted weavers losing, on an average, 10 hours each in short time† during the week ended 27th October.

Woollen Section.—Employment continued slack, on the whole, in this section. Employers' returns for the week ended 27th October showed that about 32 per cent. of the spinners and about 30 per cent. of the weavers worked short time,† losing, on an average, about 10½ and 12 hours each respectively. On the other hand, about 10 per cent. of the spinners worked overtime to the extent of approximately 8 hours each; there was little overtime with weavers. Taking the woollen section as a whole, 30 per cent. of the operatives lost, on an average, about 11½ hours each in short time,† while 7 per cent. worked overtime to the extent of about 6½ hours each.

In the Huddersfield and Colne Valley district employment remained very quiet. In the Heavy Woollen District of Dewsbury and Batley employment was very bad; most of the firms were working short time. At Leeds seasonal activity led to a slight improvement, but employment remained very slack, with much short-time working. At Wakefield employment in the woollen section was described as slack. At Morley employment was fair to good, but with a fair amount of short-time working; at Yeadon and Guiseley it was very bad. At Stockport employment was reported as good, and there was a slight improvement on the previous month. The rag and shoddy trade in Yorkshire remained depressed, but blanket workers in Yorkshire and in the West of England were moderately well employed. At Saddleworth employment in the flannel trade was slack, but it was slightly better towards the end of the month; at Rochdale employment remained poor.

In Scotland employment continued fairly good, and was generally better than in the English districts.

Carpet Section.—Employment continued fair, and was better than in September. At Kidderminster employment was good, and showed some recovery after the usual period of seasonal slackness; in Yorkshire employment continued fair. The employers' returns for the week ended 27th October showed that about 10 per cent. of the operatives were on short time, with a loss, on the average, of 7 hours each; there was only a little overtime.

\* The percentages for September have been revised. † The figures given in this article as to short time do not take into account, in the case of the weaving sections, other forms of under-employment, such as "playing for warps" and tending one instead of two looms.

The following Table summarises the returns from employers:—

Table summarizing returns from employers. Columns include: Department, Workpeople (Week ended 27th Oct., 1928; Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before; Index figure, Jan. 1926 = 100.), Total Wages paid to all Workpeople (Week ended 27th Oct., 1928; Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before; Index figure, Jan. 1926 = 100.). Sub-sections include WORSTED SECTION, WOOLEN SECTION, CARPET SECTION, and Districts\* (Bradford, Huddersfield, Halifax, Leeds, Keighley, etc.).

\* Most of the districts are indicated by the names of their principal towns, but neighbouring towns and areas are included in each case.

Table showing Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in numbers employed as compared with previous month. Columns: Spinning, Weaving, Other Depts, All Depts. (including not specified). Rows: WOOLEN SECTION (Huddersfield, Heavy Woollen, Leeds, etc.), CARPET SECTION, and TOTAL.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of Employment Exchanges in the principal wool textile trade centres at 22nd October, 1928:—

Table showing Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Registers at 22nd October, 1928. Columns: Department, Wholly Unemployed (Men, Women, Total), Temporarily Stopped (Men, Women, Total), Total. Rows: Wool Sorting, Wool Washing and Preparing, etc., and TOTAL.

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 24th September, 1928:—

Table showing increases and decreases as compared with 24th September, 1928. Columns: Department, Wholly Unemployed (Men, Women, Total), Temporarily Stopped (Men, Women, Total), Total. Rows: Wool Sorting, Wool Washing, etc., and TOTAL.

The imports (less re-exports) of raw wool (sheep's or lambs') were 2,848,200 lbs. in October, 1928, compared with 13,102,500 lbs. in September, 1928, and 9,808,000 lbs. in October, 1927.

The exports of woollen and worsted yarns were 4,517,400 lbs., compared with 3,312,000 lbs. in September, 1928, and with 5,145,100 lbs. in October, 1927.

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues were 12,712,400 square yards, compared with 12,772,500 square yards in September, 1928, and 13,060,700 square yards in October, 1927.

The exports of blankets were 133,592 pairs, 71,378 pairs and 98,536 pairs in October, 1928, September, 1928, and October, 1927.

BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during October showed a further slight improvement, but continued slack, with much short-time working, in all the principal centres; it was much below normal for the time of year.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 16.4 on 22nd October, as compared with 17.8\* on 24th September, and with 7.1 on 24th October, 1927.

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

\* The percentages for September have been revised.

Table showing Total Wages paid to all Workpeople. Columns: Number of Workpeople (Week ended 27th Oct., 1928; Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before; Per cent.), Total Wages paid to all Workpeople (Week ended 27th Oct., 1928; Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before; Per cent.). Rows: England and Wales (London, Leicester, etc.), Scotland, and Great Britain.

Returns from firms employing about 48,900 operatives in the week ended 27th October showed that about 56 per cent. of these operatives worked short time in that week, losing about 12½ hours each on the average.

Employment in London showed a further slight improvement, but was still only quiet, on the whole. At Leicester employment was slack, but showed some further improvement; two-thirds of the operatives covered by the employers' returns were on short time in the week ended 27th October, losing 13 hours each on the average. At Hincley employment was reported as fair, and better than in September. Employment at Northampton continued slack, and a slight decline was reported in the case of lasters and finishers; about 57 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns received were on short time, losing 13½ hours each, on the average, in the week ended 27th October. At Kettering employment was slack for the time of year, and showed little change; a large proportion of the workpeople were still on short time. At Higham and Rusden employment was reported as bad. At Wellingborough, and in the smaller Northamptonshire centres, there was little change; employment remained slack, with most of the factories working short time. At Stafford employment remained very slack; four-fifths of the workpeople covered by the employers' returns were on short time, losing 17 hours a week each, on the average. Employment at Stone was still depressed. There was a further slight improvement at Norwich; but employment was still described as bad, on the whole.

In the Bristol and Kingswood district some firms reported a slight improvement in the heavy boot trade, but, taking all sections together, employment showed a decline, and was below the normal for the time of year; short time was prevalent. At Street employment continued bad, but improved towards the end of the month. At Leeds there was little change, and employment remained bad, on the whole.

In the slipper trade in the Rossendale Valley and at Preston there was an improvement, though short-time working was still very prevalent.

In Scotland employment remained generally quiet, but improved slightly at Edinburgh and at Glasgow; it was reported as fairly good at Kilmarnock, as moderate to fair at Glasgow, and as bad at Maybole.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of Employment Exchanges in the principal centres of the boot and shoe industry at 22nd October, 1928:—

Table showing Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Registers at 22nd October, 1928. Columns: Department, Wholly Unemployed (Men, Women, Total), Temporarily Stopped (Men, Women, Total), Total. Rows: Boot and Shoe Manufacture (Preparing Department, etc.), and TOTAL.

\* Comparison of earnings is affected by changes in rates of wages.



REVISED PERCENTAGES OF INSURED PERSONS UNEMPLOYED, JULY TO SEPTEMBER, 1928.

The Table on pages 414 and 415 gives, industry by industry, the estimated numbers of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts at the beginning of July, 1928. It is not possible to compute the annual estimate until about the end of October, and consequently the percentages of insured workers recorded as unemployed at the end of July, August and September, 1928, as given in previous issues of this GAZETTE, were calculated on the estimated numbers insured at July, 1927. The following Table gives the corrected total percentages unemployed for each insured industrial group in Great Britain, and in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, respectively:—

Table with columns for Industry, Total Percentage Unemployed (Great Britain, Great Britain and Northern Ireland) for July, Aug., and Sept. 1928. Includes industries like Fishing, Mining, Leather and Leather Goods, Clothing Trades, etc.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

DETERMINATION OF CLAIMS TO UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT. THE following Table gives, for the period 11th September to 8th October inclusive, the number of claims to benefit made at Employment Exchanges and Juvenile Employment Bureaux, and the average number of claims current at all Local Offices in Great Britain during that period. The Table also gives an analysis of the decisions by the Insurance Officers, of the recommendations of Courts of Referees, and decisions by the Umpire, on claims referred to and considered by them:—

Table showing Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Great Britain. Includes sections for Number of Claims, Disallowances by Insurance Officers, and Recommendations of Courts of Referees.

Table showing Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Great Britain. Includes sections for Disallowances by Insurance Officers and Recommendations of Courts of Referees.

Table showing Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Great Britain. Includes sections for Disallowances by Insurance Officers and Recommendations of Courts of Referees.

NUMBERS OF INSURED WORKPEOPLE UNEMPLOYED. PROPORTIONS IN VARIOUS INDUSTRY GROUPS.

In the following Table the numbers of insured workpeople recorded as wholly unemployed and as temporarily stopped from the service of their employers in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 22nd October, 1928, are analysed so as to show for various industry groups the proportion of the total classified as belonging to each such group:—

Table showing Numbers of Insured Workpeople Unemployed. Proportions in Various Industry Groups. Columns include Industry Group, Males, Females, Total, and percentages of wholly unemployed and temporarily stopped.

It should be noted that the disallowances by Insurance Officers are those recorded during the period, and relate in a proportion of cases to claims made earlier. A similar remark applies to the figures relative to Courts of Referees and the Umpire. Section 11 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, as amended by the Fourth Schedule to the Unemployment Insurance Act of 1927, provides that when an insured contributor has, during a prescribed period (since fixed at six months), received benefit amounting in the aggregate to 78 days, the claim shall be reviewed by a Court of Referees. Table C (2) above shows the numbers and results of such reviews during the period 11th September, 1928, to 8th October; figures for the period ending 10th September, in which this provision has been in operation, are given in the following table:—

\* This condition at present operates only in the case of juveniles under 18 years of age. † See also E. below.



NUMBERS INSURED AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AGED 16-64 INCLUSIVE, AT JULY, 1928., PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 22ND OCTOBER, 1928., INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH 24TH SEPT., 1928., 24TH OCT., 1927., 26TH OCT., 1925., GREAT BRITAIN ONLY. TOTAL PERCENTAGE AT 22ND OCT., 1928.

\* The percentages for September have been revised.

† See footnote † on page 415.

Table with columns: GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND., ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AGED 16-64 INCLUSIVE, AT JULY, 1928., PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 22ND OCTOBER, 1928., INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH 24TH SEPT., 1928., 24TH OCT., 1927., 26TH OCT., 1925., GREAT BRITAIN ONLY. TOTAL PERCENTAGE AT 22ND OCT., 1928.

\* The percentages for September have been revised.

† Comparison is made with October, 1925, as the figures for October, 1926, were affected by the dispute in the coal-mining industry.

PRINCIPAL VARIATIONS DURING OCTOBER IN NUMBERS OF 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 October, 1928, differed from the figures for 24th September, 1928, to the extent of 1,000 or more:-

Table with columns: Industry, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers recorded as Unemployed at 22nd October, 1928, as compared with 24th September, 1928., Industry, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers recorded as Unemployed at 22nd October, 1928, as compared with 24th September, 1928.







DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

THE total number of cases\* of poisoning, anthrax, and epitheliomatous and chrome ulceration in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported during October, 1928, under the Factory and Workshop Act, or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, 1926, was 41. Eight deaths\* were reported during the month, five due to epitheliomatous ulceration and three due to lead poisoning.

Table with 2 columns: (a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING. (b) CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF POISONING. (c) CASES OF ANTHRAX. (d) CASES OF EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION. (e) CASES OF CHROME ULCERATION. Lists various occupations and their corresponding number of cases.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

THE number of workpeople, other than seamen, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, reported during October, 1928, as killed in the course of their employment was 187, as compared with 160 in the previous month and with 190 in October, 1927. Fatal accidents to seamen reported in October, 1928, numbered 49, as compared with 16 in the previous month and with 42 in October, 1927.

Table with 3 columns: RAILWAY SERVICE. FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS (continued). MINES. QUARRIES over 20 feet deep. FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS. SEAMEN. Lists categories of accidents and their respective counts.

POOR LAW RELIEF IN GREAT BRITAIN.

(Data supplied by the Ministry of Health in England and Wales and by the Board of Health in Scotland.)

THE number of persons\* relieved on one day† in October, 1928, in the poor-law areas in the thirty-one selected urban areas named below was 667,263, or 0.6 per cent. more than in the previous month, but 12.0 per cent. less than in October, 1927. The numbers relieved at these three dates were equivalent, respectively, to rates of 373, 371, and 424 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Table with 5 columns: Selected Urban Areas. Number of persons\* in receipt of Poor Law Relief on one day† in October, 1928. Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population. Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a) Month ago. b) Year ago. Includes data for England and Wales, Scotland, and Ireland.

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

THE number of assisted passages from Great Britain and Northern Ireland granted during October, 1928, in connection with agreed schemes under the Empire Settlement Act, and the total number of such passages granted from the inception of these schemes, together with the number of departures during the same periods, are shown in the following Table :-

Table with 5 columns: Assisted Passage Schemes. Assisted Passages Granted in Oct., 1928. Total Assisted Passages Granted. Departures in Oct., 1928. Total Departures. Includes data for Australia, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa, and Minor Schemes.

The figures are provisional and subject to revision; they include both applicants and dependants of applicants to whom assisted passages have been granted.

\* The figures include dependants, but exclude casuals, lunatics in asylums, registered hospitals and licensed houses, and persons receiving out-door medical relief only. † These urban areas include more than one poor-law union in the case of England and Wales, except in the Leeds, Leicester, Birmingham, Sheffield and West Ham districts; and more than one parish in the case of Scotland except in the Aberdeen and Edinburgh districts. ‡ Includes 221 not included in district figures.

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 period for which the rise is measured, suggest the need for caution in drawing conclusions from a comparison between the figures for any two countries or cities. It is also to be observed that in every case the percentage calculation is based on the assumption that the standard of living is identical at the various periods compared.]

I.—FOOD.

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

Table with 7 columns: Country. Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914. (July 1925, July 1926, July 1927, July 1928). Latest figures available. Rise, Date. Includes categories like Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Foreign Countries, British Dominions, etc.

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 7 columns: Country. Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914. (July 1925, July 1926, July 1927, July 1928). Latest figures available. Rise, Date. Includes categories like Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Foreign Countries, British Dominions, etc.

\* Exceptions to this are: France (other towns), August, 1914; The Hague, January to July, 1914; Rome and Milan, January to June, 1914; Switzerland and Luxembourg, June, 1914; Spain, South Africa, France (Paris, all items), Greece, average, 1914; Germany, average, 1913-1914; Amsterdam, 1911-1913; Belgium, April, 1914; Italy (food), United States (all items), Canada, 1913; Australia (all items), November, 1914; Poland, January, 1914. † Fuel and light are also included in these figures. ‡ Figure for August. § Figure for June. || A = Food; B = House-Rent; C = Clothing; D = Fuel and light; ¶ = Other or Miscellaneous Items. \* Figure for 3rd Quarter.

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—The following paragraphs include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment abroad, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in the various countries are, however, not the same as those of the statistics relating to this country; and therefore the figures quoted below cannot properly be used with those on pp. 401-402 to compare the actual level of employment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland with that of other countries. For details of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries, reference should be made to the Reports on Statistics of Unemployment issued by the International Labour Office (Studies and Reports, Series C., No. 7, and Series N., No. 7).]

GERMANY.\*

Reichsarbeitsblatt, the journal of the Federal Ministry of Labour states that in September the general situation of the labour market changed but little as compared with preceding weeks. There was some increase in the number of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit, but this was not considerable; and there was a decrease in the number of short-time workers.

The steadiness of the labour market during September is attributed to the increase of exports during the month, to better conditions in the building industry, which was almost fully employed, to increased sales of coal in the Ruhr mining industry, and to harvest activity, which afforded good opportunities of employment.

At the end of September the Employment Exchanges reported 1,153,751 persons as available and seeking work as against 1,162,000 at the end of August and 867,367 at the end of September, 1927. The number of vacant situations registered at the end of September was 64,151 as compared with 67,853 at the end of the preceding month, and 81,724 a year ago.

The number of insured persons in receipt of benefit in respect of total unemployment on 30th September was 663,745 (including 86,652 in receipt of emergency unemployment benefit). On 31st August the corresponding total was 654,689 (including 80,214 in receipt of emergency unemployment benefit).

Returns were received from national trade unions relating to 4,418,213 organised workers. Of these, 293,691 or 6.6 per cent. were totally unemployed on 29th September as compared with 6.5 per cent. on 25th August and 4.6 per cent. on 24th September, 1927. In addition, 303,466 or 6.9 per cent. were working short time, as against 7.1 per cent. on 25th August, and 2.4 per cent. at the end of September, 1927.

The following Table gives particulars of total unemployment and short time among the groups of trades represented in the above total:—

Table with 7 columns: Groups of Trades. Membership reported on at end of September, 1928. Percentage Wholly Unemployed and on Short Time at end of month. (Sept. 1928, Aug. 1928, Sept. 1927, Aug. 1927). Includes categories like All Unions making Returns, Mining, Quarrying, etc.

FRANCE.†

Employment continued good, with shortages of labour in some districts.

The total number of unemployed persons remaining on the "live register" of the Exchanges on 27th October was 10,704 (6,368 men and 4,336 women). At the end of September the corresponding total was 10,145. The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled on the same date was 14,249 (9,185 for men and 5,064 for women), as compared with 17,067 at the end of September. During the last week of October the Exchanges succeeded in placing 26,008 persons in situations, including 9,691 dock workers at seaports, and in addition found employment for 756 foreign immigrants.

ITALY.‡

According to statistics furnished by the National Social Insurance Fund, 268,883 workpeople were recorded as unemployed on 30th September, 1928, as compared with 248,100 at the end of August, 1928, and 305,930 at the end of September, 1927. The total for 30th September, 1928, includes 66,294 engaged in the building, road construction, etc., industries, 66,029 in agriculture and fishing and 30,705 in the textile industry. In addition, 23,746 persons were partially unemployed at that date as compared with 24,319 at

\* Reichsarbeitsblatt, 25th October, 1928. Berlin. † Bulletin du Marche du Travail, 3rd November, 1928. Paris. ‡ Bollettino Mensile di Statistica, October, 1928. Rome.









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