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

### EMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT during September showed little change, on the whole, as compared with August.

Among the workpeople, numbering approximately 11,800,000, insured against unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed in all industries taken together was 11.5 at 24th September, 1928, as compared with 11.7 at 20th August, 1928, and 9.3 at 26th September, 1927. The percentage wholly unemployed at 24th September was 8.6, as compared with 8.3 at 20th August; while the percentage temporarily stopped was 2.9, as compared with 3.4. The total number of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 1st October, 1928, was approximately 1,384,000, of whom 1,064,000 were men and 242,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls. At 27th August, 1928, it was 1,367,000, of whom 1,055,000 were men and 232,000 were women; and at 26th September, 1927, it was 1,075,000, of whom 855,000 were men and 155,000 were women.

In the coal-mining industry there was a further improvement in employment, a slight decline in the numbers wholly unemployed being accompanied by a considerable decline in the numbers temporarily stopped from the service of their employers. There was also some improvement in the iron and steel, pottery, motor vehicle, constructional engineering, boot and shoe, and furnishing industries. On the other hand, there was a decline in employment in the marine engineering, shipbuilding, tinplate, woollen and worsted, silk, textile bleaching and dyeing, tailoring, building, and transport industries.

### WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation during September resulted in an increase of about £2,850 in the weekly full-time wages of 39,000 workpeople, and in a reduction of £1,900 in those of over 20,000 workpeople.

The principal group of workpeople whose wages were increased were adult plain timeworkers employed in federated shipbuilding yards in England and Scotland. With the restoration of their bonus to 10s. per week most classes of skilled men received an increase of 1s. 6d. per week; other adult time-workers not in receipt of the full bonus of 10s. received the sum required to make up that amount, varying up to a maximum of 1s. 6d. per week. Timeworkers employed in the shipyards at Belfast had their wages similarly increased.

Among workpeople whose wages were reduced were those employed in the light castings industry in England

and Scotland, and coal miners at certain collieries in Warwickshire. There was a small reduction in the wages of blastfurnace workers in Cumberland.

During the nine completed months of 1928 the changes reported to the Department in the industries for which statistics are compiled have resulted in net increases of £20,150 in the weekly full-time wages of 201,000 workpeople, and in net reductions of £169,450 in those of 1,696,000 workpeople. In the corresponding period of 1927 there were net increases of £31,200 in the weekly full-time wages of 289,000 workpeople, and net reductions of £364,100 in those of 1,715,000 workpeople.

### COST OF LIVING.

At 1st October 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 66 per cent. above that of July, 1914, as compared with 65 per cent. a month ago and 67 per cent. a year ago. For food alone the corresponding figures were 57, 56 and 61.

The rise in the index figure since 1st September was mainly due to increases in the prices of milk, eggs, butter, and coal, which were partly counterbalanced by decreases in the prices of potatoes, bread, flour, and sugar.

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 September, was 20. In addition, 11 disputes which began before September were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in September (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 10,800, and the aggregate duration of all disputes during September was about 56,000 working days. These figures compare with totals of 5,400 workpeople involved and 23,000 working days lost in the previous month, and with 15,200 workpeople involved and 84,000 days lost in September, 1927.

The aggregate duration of all disputes in progress in the first nine months of 1928 was about 1,254,000 working days, and the total number of workpeople involved in these disputes was about 110,000. The figures for the corresponding period of 1927 were 1,041,000 days and 92,000 workpeople, respectively.

### RELATIVE LEVELS OF RATES OF WAGES AT AUGUST, 1914, AND SEPTEMBER, 1928.

In previous issues\* of this GAZETTE particulars have been given, from time to time, of the comparative levels of rates of wages in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at August, 1914, and at subsequent dates. In the following article a comparison is made, so far as this is possible from the information in the possession of the Department, between the levels of rates of wages at August, 1914, and the end of September, 1928.

It should be observed that no comprehensive information has been collected by the Department as to the rates of wages actually paid by individual employers in the various industries in 1914 and at September, 1928, and the information available for the purposes of such a comparison is in nearly all cases limited to (a) the standard or minimum rates of wages fixed by collective Agreements signed by the Employers' Associations and Trade Unions concerned or embodied in Arbitration Awards, Statutory Orders under the Trade Boards Acts, etc., or, (b) in some industries in which no such Agreements, Awards, or Orders have been made, to the minimum rates recognised by the Trade Unions concerned. In some cases in which the actual rates of wages at both dates are not embodied in signed Agreements, information which is available as to the amounts of general changes in the existing level of time or piece rates of wages, agreed upon from time to time by the employers' and workers' organisations, has been utilised. It is important, however, to realise that the rates of wages actually paid to individual workpeople, or to particular sections of workpeople, may, in a considerable proportion of cases, have been altered since 1914, independently of the general changes jointly agreed upon by Employers' Associations and Trade Unions, or fixed by Awards, Orders, etc. Moreover, no information exists as to the changes which have occurred in rates of wages in industries, or sections of industries, in which neither standard nor minimum rates, nor the general amounts of increase or decrease in rates of wages, have been fixed by collective Agreements, Arbitration Awards, Statutory Orders, etc. The particulars given below, therefore, while based on a careful examination of such material as is available to the Department, should be considered in the light of these qualifications and should not be regarded as furnishing more than an approximate indication of the relative levels of wage rates at the two dates; and caution should especially be observed in drawing from them conclusions which depend upon small margins of difference between one figure and another.

**Building Trades.**—At the end of September, 1928, the hourly rates of wages in the larger towns showed increases, compared with the pre-war rates, ranging mostly from 9d. to 11½d. an hour in the case of skilled men and 7½d. to 8½d. an hour in the case of labourers. On the basis of the unweighted averages of the standard rates of wages of the principal classes of workmen, the average increases in hourly and weekly rates at the end of September, 1928, in towns with populations over 100,000, were as shown in the following Table. The weekly rates shown have been computed by multiplying the hourly rates of wages by the number of hours constituting a full ordinary week (averaging approximately 49½ in 1914 and 44½ at September, 1928), both the summer and winter hours being taken into account for this purpose:—

Occupation.	Average (unweighted) of Recognised Rates of Wages in Large Towns at		Average Percentage Increase over Pre-war Rates at 30th Sept., 1928.
	4th Aug., 1914.	30th Sept., 1928.	
Hourly Rates.			
	d.	d.	Per cent.
Bricklayers ... ..	9-9	15-6	98
Masons† ... ..	9-8	19-6	100
Carpenters and Joiners ...	9-8	19-5	100
Plumbers ... ..	9-6	19-5	103
Plasterers ... ..	9-7	19-9	105
Painters ... ..	8-8	19-5	121
Labourers ... ..	6-6	14-6	123
Weekly Rates.			
	s. d.	s. d.	Per cent.
Bricklayers ... ..	40 7	72 6	79
Masons† ... ..	39 7	72 8	84
Carpenters and Joiners ...	39 11	72 8	81
Plumbers ... ..	39 8	72 5	83
Plasterers ... ..	40 0	74 0	85
Painters ... ..	36 3	71 11	98
Labourers ... ..	27 0	54 3	101

If the increases shown above are combined in the proportions of the relative numbers of men employed in the different occupations, the resulting general average increase over pre-war rates was approximately 9½d. per hour (or about 113 per cent.) at the end of September. The increase in weekly full-time wages, allowing for the effect of the reductions which have been made since 1914 in the weekly working hours, was approximately 30s. 11d., or about 92 per

\* See the issues for May, 1919; April, 1920; February, 1921; March, 1922; October, 1922; April, 1923; October, 1923; February, 1925; October, 1925; and October, 1927.

† Where different rates were paid to banker masons and fixers respectively the rates used are those for the former.

cent. It should be observed that the percentages given are general averages for all the large towns combined, and that there is much variation in the percentage increases in different towns.

**Coal Mining.**—The information available as to the changes in wages in the coal-mining industry is insufficient to enable a trustworthy estimate to be made of the average increase in rates of wages in this industry since 1914. The general district percentage additions to standard basis rates of wages in the principal coalfields at the beginning of August, 1914, and at the end of September,\* 1928, were as shown below:—

District.	Date of Basis.	Percentage Additions† to the Basis Rates of the Years Specified at	
		4th August, 1914.	30th September, 1928.*
Northumberland ... ..	1879	50	40
Durham ... ..	1879	57½	65
Yorkshire ... ..	1911	10	32·00; 30·33; 27·00†
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	1911	10	32
North Staffordshire ... ..	1911	10	35
North Derbyshire and Notts.	1915	6½	28
South Wales and Mon. ...	1888	75	110

These figures do not provide a full measure of the increases in wage rates, since special advances or allowances have been granted in many districts to particular grades of men. In some cases, the basis rates of wages (to which the percentages are added) have been varied; the lower-paid grades of men in many districts have received special "subsistence" allowances; men on afternoon and night shifts in South Wales, whose working week is generally one of five shifts, have been paid, since 1915, as for an extra shift each week; and piece rates of wages have been increased in the those districts where the normal working hours are now 7½ per shift compared with 8 in 1914. The average percentage increase in rates of wages resulting from the combined effect of all these changes cannot be reliably estimated.

As regards earnings, however, statistics compiled by the Mines Department indicate that the estimated average earnings per man-shift worked in June, 1914, and in the quarter ended 30th June, 1928, (the latest date for which information is available), were as shown in the following Table. The "subsistence" rates for lower-paid workers at June, 1928, are also given in the Table.

District.	Average Earnings per Shift.		Percentage Increase.	"Subsistence" Rates per Shift for lower-paid adult workers at June, 1928.‡
	June, 1914.	Quarter ended June, 1928.		
Northumberland ... ..	s. d. 6 2½	s. d. 7 3¼	18	6s. 9½d.
Durham ... ..	6 2½	7 11½	29	6s. 6½d.
Yorkshire ... ..	6 10	10 0½	47	See Note †.
Lancashire, Cheshire, and North Staffordshire.	6 0½	9 3½	54	See Note †.
North Derbyshire and Notts.	6 6½	10 4½	58	See Note †.
South Wales and Mon. ...	6 9	9 6½**	41	8s. 0½d.
Scotland ... ..	6 9	9 2½	37	7s. 0½d.††
All districts ... ..	6 5½	9 3	43	—

It may be observed that in September, 1928, the percentage additions to basis rates were generally the same as in June, and earnings per shift, therefore, were probably about the same as in the June quarter.

The hours of labour of underground workers in certain districts are now 7½ per shift compared with 8 in 1914, and those of surface workers are usually 48 to 49, compared with 51 to 58 in 1914. The percentage increases in hourly wages are thus greater than the percentage increases in earnings per man-shift shown above.

**Other Mining and Quarrying.**—For iron miners in Cleveland and limestone quarrymen in Durham, rates of wages at the end of September were about 25 to 45 per cent. over the pre-war rates. In Cumberland the bargain prices for iron-ore miners in September, 1928, were about 25 to 35 per cent. above the pre-war level. For limestone quarrymen in Cumberland the increases over pre-war rates ranged from 45 to 70 per cent.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—In the engineering industry the general advance over pre-war rates for men on time work now amounts to 19s. a week, except in certain districts where the men are

\* As the details given below as to average earnings relate to the quarter ended June, it may be mentioned that the percentage additions to basis rates generally remained unchanged between June and September.

† As the basis rates to which the percentages apply vary in different districts, the percentages quoted should not be taken as indicating the relative level of wages in different districts.

‡ The highest of these percentages applies to all classes of workers in South Yorkshire and to underground workers in West Yorkshire. The addition of 30·33 per cent. applies to surface workers in the Eastern Sub-division of West Yorkshire and that of 27·00 per cent. in the Western Sub-division.

§ The amounts quoted applied both in June and September.

¶ 6d. per shift in excess of earnings subject to a maximum of 8s. 9d. (inclusive). In North Derby and Notts a minimum rate of 7s. 11d. (inclusive) has also been fixed.

\*\* 1s. per shift in excess of earnings, subject to a maximum of 7s. 9d. (inclusive), and a minimum of 7s. for adult males.

†† This figure relates to the quarter ended July, 1928.

‡‡ The rate is subject to the provision that the addition to earnings shall not exceed 1s. per day, and applies to surface workers only.

paid at hourly rates, in which it is 19s. 10½d. In the shipbuilding industry the general advance on time rates amounts to 17s. or 17s. 10½d. a week. In some cases, however, further advances have been granted to particular classes in both industries.

The following Table shows the unweighted averages of the district\* time rates of wages of men in certain representative occupations in 16 of the principal engineering centres and 9 of the principal shipbuilding centres at 4th August, 1914, and at 30th September, 1928, with the percentage increase over pre-war rates:—

Occupation.	Average (unweighted) of Recognised Weekly Time Rates in the principal centres at		Average Percentage Increase over pre-war rates at 30th Sept., 1928.
	4th August, 1914.	30th September, 1928.	
Engineering—			
Fitters and Turners ...	s. d. 38 11	s. d. 58 9	51
Ironmoulders ... ..	41 8	62 1	49
Pattermakers ... ..	42 1	63 2	50
Labourers ... ..	22 10	41 11	83
Shipbuilding—			
Shipwrights ... ..	41 4	58 7	42
Ship Joiners ... ..	40 0	57 9	44
Labourers ... ..	22 10	39 11	75

For semi-skilled classes the percentages range between those shown for skilled men and those for labourers.

The above figures relate to a full ordinary week of 53 hours in some districts and 54 in others in 1914, and of 47 hours generally at September, 1928. The percentage increase in hourly rates is thus nearly 70 per cent. for skilled workers to about 105 per cent. for labourers in the engineering trade, and from about 60 to 65 per cent. for skilled men to about 100 per cent. for labourers in the shipbuilding trade.

In the case of pieceworkers the general advance over pre-war rates in the engineering industry amounts to 10 per cent. on basis piece rates, plus a flat rate advance of 10s. a week. In the shipbuilding industry the general advance is 10 per cent. on basis piece rates, plus a flat rate advance of 7s. a week; in addition, a portion of certain special advances, granted during the war under the "Standard Ship Cycle" of awards and consequential extensions, is still paid to some classes of men. The information at the disposal of the Department is not sufficient to enable a reliable calculation to be made of the percentage increase in the wages of piece-workers.

**Electrical Installation.**—The average of the recognised time rates of wages of wiremen employed by electrical contractors in 12 of the largest towns at the end of September, 1928, was 74s. 5d. a week, compared with 39s. 4d. a week at August, 1914, showing an average increase of 89 per cent. As the normal weekly hours of labour, which were usually 53 or 54 in 1914, were reduced to 47 in 1919, without any reduction in weekly wages, the increase in hourly rates since 1914 is greater, being about 110 per cent.

**Other Metal Trades.**—In the heavy iron and steel trades (smelting, puddling, rolling, forging, &c.), in which wages fluctuate in correspondence with the selling price of the finished products, the increases over pre-war rates vary very widely, being, in some cases (e.g., with certain blastfurnace labourers) equivalent to over 70 per cent. over the pre-war weekly rates, while at the other extreme the rates for iron and steel workers in South Wales show increases of less than 20 per cent. on pre-war weekly wages. In the tinplate and steel sheet trade in South Wales the increase over pre-war rates amounts to about 25 to 35 per cent., and in addition special advances have been granted to particular classes of workpeople. Among other metal-working industries the general increases over pre-war rates of wages at the end of September (for male timeworkers) were 19s. a week in the sheet-metal working trade, 19s. 6d. a week in the spring, tube and various other industries in the Midlands, and 20s. to 20s. 6d. a week in the light castings industry. In the iron and steel and tinplate industries a uniform shift of 8 hours was adopted for shift-workers in 1919 in place of 8 or 12 hours previously, and for day-workers the hours were reduced from about 53 to 47 per week. In the other metal trades the hours were reduced from 53 or 54 to 47.

**Cotton Industry.**—In August, 1914, piece rates of wages in this industry stood generally at 5 per cent. above the standard list prices. At the end of September, 1928, they were 95 per cent. above the standard. Part of this increase, however, was granted in 1919, concurrently with a reduction in weekly working hours from 55½ to 48, in order to maintain weekly wages at the same level as before. If proportionate allowance is made for this reduction in working hours, weekly full-time wages would appear to be generally about 61 per cent. above the pre-war level, the equivalent increase in hourly wages being about 86 per cent. If, however, the average hourly output of pieceworkers has increased as a result of the reduction in hours, the percentage increase in wages will be correspondingly higher. In addition, special increases or allowances have been granted to certain classes of operatives, the effect of which would be to augment the general percentages quoted.

**Wool Textile Industry.**—The rates of wages of woollen and worsted operatives in Yorkshire are calculated by the addition of a "cost-of-living wage" to basic rates. At the end of September, 1928, the pre-war basic rates had been increased generally by 10 per cent., and to the basic rates so increased was added a "cost-of-living wage" of 72½ per cent. for timeworkers\* and 63½ per cent. for pieceworkers, making total increases over pre-war rates of approximately 80 to 90 per cent. for a full working week. In addition special increases of varying amounts have been made in the rates of wages

\* In the computation of these averages, no account is taken of any variations of individual wage rates from the general district rates, statistics not being available as to the extent of such variations.

of particular sections of workpeople, which would tend to augment the percentages quoted. A general advance of over 15 per cent. on hourly and piece rates was also granted in March, 1919, concurrently with a reduction in weekly hours from 55½ to 48, in order to maintain weekly wages at the same level as before. The average percentage increase in hourly rates, therefore, is correspondingly greater than that in weekly rates quoted above.

**Other Textile Industries.**—In some other important sections of the textile trades the general increases over pre-war rates at the end of September, 1928, were as follows:—

Occupation.	Increases over Pre-war Rates.
Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing and Finishing:—	
Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire and Scotland:	
Men ... ..	21s. 4d. per week.†
Women ... ..	12s. 8d. per week.†
Yorkshire:	
Timeworkers ... ..	84 per cent.
Pieceworkers ... ..	64 per cent.
Hosiery Manufacture (Midlands) ...	58½ per cent.‡
Carpet Manufacture:—	
Timeworkers ... ..	60 per cent.
Pieceworkers ... ..	55 per cent.(approx.)

Apart from these increases in weekly wages, the weekly working hours, which generally varied from 54 to 56, were reduced in 1919 to 48, the weekly rates of timeworkers remaining unchanged, and the rates for pieceworkers being enhanced to compensate for the change in hours.

**Boot and Shoe Industry.**—In the manufacture of boots and shoes the minimum time rate of wages for the principal classes of skilled workmen at the end of September, 1928, was 56s. a week. Before the war it was 30s. a week for the majority of the workers in most districts, though in a few districts it was 28s. or 29s.; while for men in the heel-building department and in the stock and shoe rooms, a rate of 27s. a week was adopted in 1914, with effect from the beginning of 1915. For women of 20 years or over, employed in certain operations in the closing and heel-building departments and the stock and shoe rooms, the minimum rate is 34s. a week, compared with 17s. or 18s. adopted in 1914, but not operative till 1915. The hours of labour have been reduced from 52½ per week in 1914 to 48 per week.

**Railway Service.**—For the principal grades of adult workmen in the traffic sections of the railway service, the wages in operation at the end of September, 1928, showed increases ranging mostly from 25s. to 32s. a week above the pre-war averages for the corresponding grades. Owing to the wide variation in the pre-war rates of wages, the percentage increases varied considerably. For some of the porters on pre-war rates of about 18s. a week the increase was as much as 140 per cent.; on the other hand, for certain classes of higher-paid men, it amounted to a little under 100 per cent. The hours of labour were reduced to 48 a week in 1919, without any reduction in weekly rates of wages, and the increases in hourly rates are, therefore, higher than the percentage increases in weekly rates.

**Other Transport Services.**—For dock labourers, the rates generally paid in September, 1928, were 11s. to 13s. 6d. a day of eight hours, compared with about 4s. 6d. to 7s. for a day of usually 9 to 10½ hours in 1914. In the case of seamen, the standard rates in September were £9 a month for able seamen and £9 10s. for firemen, compared with £5 to £5 10s. and £5 10s. to £6 respectively in August, 1914. In the road transport industry the average of the weekly rates of wages for one-horse drivers in twelve of the principal towns was 53s. 3d. a week at the end of September, 1928, compared with 25s. 7d. in 1914, weekly hours being 48 in 1928 as compared with 55½ and upwards, usually, in 1914. In the tramway services it is estimated that the average weekly rates of wages at September, 1928, in over 50 large towns, were 59s. 11d. for drivers and 56s. 5d. for conductors, compared with 30s. 11d. and 27s. 5d. at August, 1914, increases of 94 and 106 per cent. respectively; as, however, the weekly hours of labour were reduced from an average of about 59 in 1914 to 48 in 1928 the approximate average increases in hourly rates of wages were 139 and 154 per cent. respectively.

**Agriculture.**—The rates of wages of ordinary agricultural labourers in England and Wales at September, 1928, ranged from 30s. to 36s. a week, including the value of certain allowances. In the same districts in 1914 the cash rates of wages (which were subject to the addition of certain allowances) ranged from 13s. to 21s. a week. It is estimated by the Ministry of Agriculture that the average of the rates of wages prevailing for ordinary labourers in England and Wales at September, 1928, was 31s. 8d., representing an increase of about 76 per cent. over the average of the cash rates and allowances in 1914, which was 18s. a week. This comparison takes no account of overtime payments, nor of extra earnings at special seasons, and no allowance is made for the shorter hours now worked.

**Other Industries.**—In the following Table particulars are given of the rates of wages at 4th August, 1914, and at September, 1928, of some of the principal classes of workpeople in the printing and book-binding, furniture making, and baking trades in a number of towns.

\* The full percentage is paid on basic rates up to 33s. a week; on basic rates over 33s. up to 51s. the cost-of-living wage is calculated either at the time-workers' full percentage on 33s., or at the equivalent of 80 per cent. of the time-workers' full percentage, whichever is the greater; on basic rates over 51s., the cost-of-living wage payable on 51s. is increased by 20 per cent. of the time-workers' full percentage on the first 13s. above that amount, and 8 per cent. of that percentage on the remainder.

† These amounts are exclusive of increases in basic rates, varying for different classes of workpeople, granted in 1919.

‡ This percentage includes an enhancement given in compensation for the reduction in hours in 1919. In addition, basic rates of wages have been increased in some cases.





deposit to the dock labour office. It is intended that these associations (formerly called co-operatives) shall be co-ordinated with the general organisation of trade associations, and shall form companies under the control of the provincial trade union of dock workers.

This method of organisation has already been inaugurated in the port of Genoa,\* where workers are organised in companies according to category, each company being under leaders (*consoli* and *vice consoli*) nominated by the independent commission of the port from candidates proposed by the provincial trade union of dock workers. The independent commission and the provincial trade union exercise joint control over the administration of the companies, and the commission provides for the division of the companies into groups, where necessary, and for the formation of squads and shifts of workers.

Payment for work done is made to the companies, who distribute the wages to the workers, making deductions, at rates approved by the port commission and the trade union, to cover the cost of acquiring, maintaining and repairing tools, administrative expenses, and indemnities due for damage done by workers. The company leaders are responsible, under the port officials, for seeing that the work is properly carried out, and for the control of the squad leaders. The companies are required to pay a deposit as a guarantee that their obligations will be carried out, damage made good, and fines paid.

## WAGES IN SWITZERLAND IN 1927.

STATISTICS of wages are regularly published in Switzerland, based upon data taken from the records of the Swiss National Fund for insurance against accidents. The figures relate to earnings, not rates of wages, and include bonuses, family allowances and other allowances regularly paid at the time of the accident.

The following Table, extracted from a recent issue of the official organ of the Federal Department of Public Economy, shows the average daily earnings of five classes of workpeople, in various industries, who were victims of industrial accidents in 1927 (approximately 72,000 in all). The length of the working day is not stated in the source.

Industries.	Average Daily Earnings, in Swiss Francs.†				
	Foremen.	Skilled and Semi-skilled Workmen.	Unskilled Workmen.	Women 18 Years and over.	Juvenile Workers under 18 Years.
Metal and engineering ...	16.89	12.46	9.78	...	4.85
Building ...	15.81	13.30	10.17	...	7.47
Woodworking ...	15.01	12.06	9.29	...	...
Bricks, tiles, pottery, etc. ...	...	...	9.30	...	5.40
Chemicals ...	...	...	10.36	...	...
Food and tobacco ...	17.43	13.37	11.14	5.71	...
Textiles ...	15.47	...	...	6.81	4.53
Watchmaking ...	...	12.16	...	7.15	...

The next Table shows the average daily earnings of the five classes of workpeople in all the industries covered (including some not mentioned in the above Table), in 1913, 1921, 1923, and 1927, and the percentage increase in 1927 over 1913:—

Class of Workpeople.	Average Daily Earnings, in Swiss Francs.†				Percentage increase in 1927 over 1913.
	1913.	1921.	1923.	1927.	
Foremen ...	7.80	16.82	16.03	16.08	106
Skilled and semi-skilled workmen ...	6.07	13.02	12.03	12.56	107
Unskilled workmen ...	4.79	10.65	9.47	9.91	107
Women, 18 years and over ...	3.22	7.07	6.37	6.61	105
Juveniles under 18 years ...	2.94	6.29	5.09	5.31	81

In 1921, these average earnings reached a peak; but they declined in 1922 and 1923, since when they have steadily increased again.

As a supplement to the above Tables, the average hourly earnings in certain industries and occupations, taken from the results of enquiries made by various employers' associations among their members, are quoted in the following Table. The Swiss Labour Office is taking steps to encourage the conduct of such enquiries at regular intervals.

Industry, Group of Workers and Date.	Average Hourly Earnings.	Industry, Group of Workers and Date.	Average Hourly Earnings.
<i>Brick, tile and artificial stone</i> (June, 1926).	Swiss Francs.	<i>Silk ribbon</i> (May, 1927).	Swiss Francs.
Foremen ...	1.48	Adult males ...	1.10
Skilled males ...	1.27	Adult females ...	.89
Semi-skilled males ...	1.14		
Unskilled males ...	1.06	<i>Chocolate</i> (Feb., 1927).	
Females ...	.75	Skilled males ...	1.56
		Unskilled males ...	1.32
<i>Pottery</i> (Sept.-Dec., 1926).		Females ...	.88
Skilled males ...	1.43		
Unskilled males ...	1.10	<i>Road Transport, other than State or municipal</i> (Jan.-Feb., 1927) ...	
Females ...	.72	Skilled males ...	1.68
		Unskilled males ...	1.41
<i>Chemical</i> (March, 1927).			
Skilled males ...	1.61		
Unskilled males ...	1.44		

\* *Bollettino del Lavoro*, 31st March, 1928. Rome.

† *Rapports Economiques et Statistique Sociale*, September, 1928. Berne.

‡ The exchange value of the Swiss franc is approximately 94d.

## INDUSTRIAL EARNINGS IN ITALY IN MARCH, 1928.

A RECENT supplement to the *Gazzetta Ufficiale*,\* the official organ of the Italian Government, gives the results of an inquiry into the hourly earnings of 868,794 workpeople employed in twenty-four important industries throughout Italy in March, 1928.

The figures relate to all workpeople in each group of establishments, without distinction of occupation, sex or age, and are obtained by dividing the total amount of the pay roll in each industrial group of establishments by the total number of hours (including overtime) worked by that group of workers.

The following Table shows the average hourly earnings in each industrial group covered by the inquiry, with the corresponding figure for May, 1925, where comparable:—

Industrial Group.	Average hourly earnings.		Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-).
	March, 1928.	May, 1925.	
<i>Textiles:—</i>	Lire.†	Lire.†	
Silk throwing ...	0.99	1.11	- 10.8
Silk weaving ...	1.77	1.84	- 3.8
Artificial silk ...	1.85	1.87	- 1.1
Cotton weaving ...	1.61	1.74	- 7.5
Wool... ..	1.86	2.04	- 8.8
Flax and hemp ...	1.41	...	...
Jute ...	1.43	...	...
Hosiery ...	1.56	...	...
<i>Metal and Engineering:—</i>			
Iron and steel ...	3.06	3.25	- 5.8
Metal founding ...	2.72	2.85	- 4.6
Motor cars ...	3.48	...	...
Construction and repair of railway rolling stock ...	2.59	2.84	- 8.8
Construction of electrical machines and material ...	2.68	2.77	- 3.2
Specialised engineering ...	2.86	...	...
General engineering ...	2.45	2.45	...
Shipbuilding ...	2.64	2.62	+ 0.8
<i>Leather:—</i>			
Boots and shoes ...	1.36	...	...
Tanning ...	2.56	...	...
<i>Other:—</i>			
Hats and caps ...	2.66	...	...
Rubber ...	2.76	...	...
Phosphate ...	2.51	2.68	- 6.3
Paper ...	1.92	1.99	- 3.5
Cement ...	2.27	...	...
Food paste (macaroni, etc.) ...	1.72	...	...
All industries ...	2.01	2.07	- 2.9

It will be seen that in those thirteen industries in which a comparison is made between the hourly earnings in 1925 and 1928, only shipbuilding shows a small increase; general engineering shows no change, and the other industries show reductions.

The source also gives the variations in the average hourly earnings by provinces in March, 1928. Compared with the general average earnings of 2.01 lire an hour for the kingdom as a whole, the highest averages are shown for Liguria, 2.60 lire an hour, where the chief industries are iron and steel, shipbuilding and engineering, and for Venetia Giulia, 2.57 lire an hour, where shipbuilding is the most important industry. In Piedmont and Lombardy, where the bulk of the workers covered by the enquiry are found, the averages are 2.15 and 1.96 lire an hour respectively. Other provincial averages are Tuscany, 2.03 lire an hour, Lazio, 2.23 lire an hour, Campagna, 1.88 lire an hour and Sicily, 1.69 lire an hour; the lowest average is in Calabria, 0.71 lira an hour.

## WAGES IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE National Industrial Conference Board of New York (a body composed of representative national and State employers' associations, and organised to provide information and to facilitate discussion and co-operative action on matters affecting industrial development) has recently published a volume† which gives the results of an inquiry into wages in July, 1914, and from 1920 to the fourth quarter of 1927, in 25 branches of manufacturing industry, as well as in agriculture, the railway service, public utility services, anthracite mining and building in the United States generally.

The information regarding the manufacturing industries, anthracite mining and public utilities was obtained directly from employers. The number of wage earners covered by the inquiry was in each case considerable, being about 20 per cent. of the total number of workers in the manufacturing industries, 27 per cent. in electricity supply, 42 per cent. in the gas industry and 70 per cent. in anthracite mining. In these three groups the figures given are hourly earnings. In building construction the hourly wage rates given are properly weighted averages based upon agreed wage rates in 17 crafts in 23 cities. Official documents have been drawn upon for wages in agriculture and on the railways.

A previous volume on the subject of wages issued by the above-named body was published in 1926, and contained the results of a similar investigation up to and including the first quarter of 1926. An account of this inquiry was given in this GAZETTE for October, 1926.

A comparison of the wages earned in the last quarter of 1927 with

\* *Supplemento ordinario alla Gazzetta Ufficiale del Regno d'Italia*, August, 1928. Rome.

† The exchange value of the lira is approximately 24d.

‡ *Wages in the United States, 1914-1927*. National Industrial Conference Board, Inc., 247 Park Avenue, New York. 1928.

those in the corresponding quarter of 1926 shows that, on the whole, there were but slight changes. This appears from the following Table:—

Industry.	Period for which wages are quoted.	Average Wage Rates or Earnings.		Index for 1927. (Base, 1926 = 100.)
		Amount.		
		1926.	1927.	
Agriculture... ..	Day	Dollars. 2.430	Dollars. 2.420	99.59
Building construction	Hour	1.122	1.151	102.58
Manufacture ...	Hour	0.562	0.569	101.25
Mining (anthracite coal) ...	Hour	0.902	0.900	99.78
Public utilities ...	Hour	0.605	0.599	99.01
Railroads ...	Hour	0.603	0.615	101.99

The maximum change indicated by the figures in the above Table occurred in building construction, where an advance of 2.58 per cent. is shown. In two other fields, manufactures and railroads, wage payments per worker increased in somewhat less degree; in three they receded by less than one per cent. The average result of all these changes, when weighted in proportion to the number of wage earners in each industry, shows an over-all increase of a little more than one per cent.

With regard to the actual hours worked in the 25 manufacturing industries covered by the inquiry, it is stated that the average actual working hours per week in the last quarter of 1926 were 50.0 for male unskilled, 47.9 for male skilled and semi-skilled, and 43.5 for women; for all males combined they were 48.3, and for all wage earners combined 48.2. In the last quarter of 1927, these weekly hours had for the most part been reduced by about an hour, the corresponding figures being 49.3 for male unskilled, 46.9 for male skilled and semi-skilled, 43.4 for women; for all males combined it was 47.4, and for all wage earners combined 47.3. The average nominal working hours were practically the same at both periods, being 49.6 in the last quarter of 1926 and 49.5 at the corresponding period of 1927.

## WAGES AND HOURS MOVEMENTS OVERSEAS.

### (a) GERMANY.

*Textile Industry.*—No agreement has been reached in the disputes in the Düren and München-Gladbach and Rheydt areas of which accounts were given in the last issue of this GAZETTE. In the Düren dispute, conciliation proceedings broke down on 24th September, while in the München-Gladbach district the employers met the demands of the workers by giving notice of a general lock-out for the whole area, unless the workers agreed to the extension of the existing general and wage agreements until the end of 1929. Informal negotiations were initiated by the Conciliation Officer, during which the employers notified their intention to extend the lock-out to workers in the Viersen silk industry. The lock-out became effective at the end of September, and involves some 45,000 workers. The informal conciliation proceedings broke down on 9th October, and the latest reports state that the dispute is likely to extend to all the textile workers (about 190,000) in the Rhineland and Westphalia.

Demands affecting wages and hours have also been advanced by the workers in a number of other districts, of which the following are the more important: North Hanover (7,000 workers); Saxony, where some 25,000 workers in the weaving mills have demanded a 25 per cent. increase in wages; Saxony-Thuringia, where an arbitration award affecting working hours has been rejected by the employers; Silesia; and Hamburg (2,200 workers).

*Coal Mining.*—On 4th September the employers' organisation in the Aix-la-Chapelle coalfield notified their intention to terminate the existing working hours agreement on 31st October. The workers' organisations have declared their opposition to any attempt to increase working hours, and advanced a counter demand for a reduction in working hours.

The miners in the Lower Silesian coalfields formulated a demand for a 15 per cent. increase in wages, which the employers declared could only be granted subject to authority for an advance in the price of Lower Silesian coal by 1 R.M.\* a ton. This condition was unacceptable to the workers, and the preliminary negotiations were accordingly broken off on 13th September. A strike was subsequently declared, and 27,000 workers ceased work on 2nd October. Conciliation proceedings resulted, on 8th October, in the issue of an award providing for a general increase in wages of 8 per cent. This award was rejected by both parties.

*Shipbuilding.*—The workers in the North-West shipyards notified their intention to terminate the existing wage agreement on 30th September last, and demanded modifications designed to adjust wages to the variation in the cost-of-living index figure. Direct negotiations were fruitless, and conciliation proceedings were accordingly instituted on 15th September, as the result of which an award was issued providing for an hourly increase in wages of 4 pfennigs, and the reduction of the working-week from 52 to 51 hours, the payment of wages to be made outside working time. This award was rejected by both sides, and subsequent negotiations at the Ministry of Labour having failed, 50,000 workers ceased work on 1st October.

The workers demand the 48-hour week and increases in the existing hourly rates for skilled men, which would bring the varying

\* One Reichsmark = 100 pfennigs = about 11.8d.

rates (83 to 87 pfennigs) in Hamburg to 1 R.M. and the rates in other shipyards (75 to 81 pfennigs) to 94 pfennigs. About 80 per cent. of the workers are piece workers, the piecework basis time rate in Hamburg being 20 per cent., and in other shipyards 26 per cent. above the ordinary time rate.

A number of shipyards have issued notices dismissing all workers on strike.

*Iron and Steel.*—Towards the end of September, the workers' organisations in the North-West Group of the iron and steel industry, comprising works in the area extending from Hamm to Düsseldorf, notified their intention of terminating the existing wage agreement concluded on 15th December, 1927, and demanded an increase of 15 pfennigs an hour for all workers over 21 years of age. Negotiations are proceeding.

### (b) FRANCE.

*Textile and Metal Workers at Halluin.*—Towards the end of July, 1928, engineers in the metallurgical works at Halluin demanded a wage increase of 50 centimes an hour and obtained an increase of 30 centimes. Engineers in the textile industries then went on strike in support of a similar demand. Other classes of textile workers ceased work in support of the engineers' demand, and by 14th September practically all the textile workers in Halluin were on strike. On that date a demand was made for an all-round increase of 50 centimes an hour, and on 19th September, following the rejection of this demand, the *Syndicat Unitaire* (communist) declared a general strike for Halluin and the surrounding districts. The *Syndicat Libre* of Halluin supported the strike, in which about 7,000 workers of all unions in Halluin participated. Efforts to extend the strike met with some success in certain of the small towns in the locality, but with small response in larger towns like Roubaix, Tourcoing, Lille and Armentières. Official figures show that on 26th September about 50 per cent. (or 19,000) of the workers in and around Halluin were on strike. At a meeting with the unions on 4th October the employers announced that they were not prepared, at present, to consider the question of an increase in wages. On 5th October a general strike in Tourcoing was declared by the *Syndicat Unitaire*, but of 40,000 workers in the town only 3,000 ceased work. Many strikers have returned to work in the district outside Halluin, and at Armentières and Houplines, in particular, it is reported that the resumption of work will soon be general.

*Bordeaux Dock-workers.*—On 24th September dockers at Bordeaux went on strike in support of a demand for an increase in the daily rate from 31 francs to 36 francs to meet the increased cost of living. On 5th October it was reported that the position was unchanged, and that no settlement was in sight.

### (c) POLAND.

*Lodz Textile Workers.*—On 20th September, 1928, approximately 40,000 textile workers in Lodz came out on strike as a protest against the issue by the employers of new regulations imposing severe disciplinary penalties. The number of workers affected by the strike increased rapidly, and a general strike was threatened. The workers invoked the intervention of the Government, and negotiations were arranged between representatives of the employers and the trade union. On the advice of the Government, the regulations in question, which the employers claimed to be in conformity with a Presidential Decree, were withdrawn, and the strikers returned to work on 24th September.

The wage agreement in the Lodz textile trade expired on 1st October, and, as the employers refused the workers' demand for a 20 per cent. rise in wages, 40,000 workers again went on strike on 4th October. They were joined by the workers in neighbouring textile centres, and by 12th October 120,000 workers were reported to be on strike.

### (d) CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

*Coal Miners.*—The miners in the Moravian-Ostrau district of Czechoslovakia have been negotiating with the employers, since the beginning of September last, for an increase of 15 per cent. upon the present piece rates, and a bonus on increased output. The Ministry of Labour assisted in the negotiations, but no settlement was arrived at, the employers claiming that the proposed increase in wages, affecting over 40,000 workers, would increase costs by more than 1,800 Czech kronen per worker per annum, which cannot be borne by the industry in its present depressed condition.

On 23rd September the workers' organisations gave a month's notice to terminate the present wage agreement, which dates from 7th October, 1923, unless their claims are granted. The Ministry of Labour is again attempting to mediate between the parties, and has invited the socialist union, the Christian union, and the communist international miners' union to send delegates to a conference with the employers' delegates in Prague at the beginning of October. A demonstration strike of one day was planned by the communist organisation, but this was rejected by the other unions at a meeting held on 6th October.

In the Kladno coal field the situation became acute during September, and, the employers' offer of a 2 per cent. increase having been rejected, a general strike, affecting at the outset over 10,000 men, began on 1st October. The employers announced that no increase of wages could be considered if the strikers had not resumed work by 8th October. The number of safety men in the pits is being reduced to the minimum, and no settlement of the dispute has yet been reached.

### (e) UNITED STATES.

The strike of textile workers at New Bedford, of which an account was given in the August number of this GAZETTE, page 285, was settled early in October by a compromise, which was brought about by the State Board of Arbitration and Conciliation, the employers having reduced their demand for a wage reduction of 10 per cent. to 5 per cent. Work was resumed on 8th October.

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

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

Table showing All Items included at 66% and Food only at 57%.

FOOD.

At 1st October the average level of the retail prices of the principal articles of food was slightly higher than a month earlier.

In the following Table is given a comparison of retail prices of these articles of food in July, 1914, and at 1st September and 1st October, 1928:—

Table of retail prices for various food items like Beef, Mutton, Flour, Tea, Sugar, etc., comparing 1914, 1928, and percentage changes.

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

Table showing Average Percentage Increase at 1st Oct 1928 as compared with July 1914, categorized by town size.

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

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 rents (including rates) of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 1st October, 1928, was approximately 51 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.

In the fuel and light group the prices of coal were advanced in a number of towns and at 1st October averaged between 75 and 80 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, as compared with between 70 and 75 per cent. at 1st September.

ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance in pre-war working-class family expenditure, allowance being also made for the increase in the prices of soap, soda, domestic ironmongery, brushware and pottery, tobacco, fares and newspapers (averaging about 80 per cent.), the resultant general average increase for 1st October is, approximately, 66 per cent.\* over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 65 per cent. at 1st September, 1928, and 67 per cent. at 1st October, 1927.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken in 1928 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).

SUMMARY TABLE: 1918 TO 1928.

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, 1918 to 1928:—

Table showing Average Percentage Increase since July, 1914 - All Items (Food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, etc.) from 1918 to 1928.

NOTE.

A brief Statement of the method of compiling these statistics was given on page 236 of the July, 1923, issue of this GAZETTE. A more detailed account was given in the issue of February, 1921.

\* If allowance is made for the changes in taxation since July, 1914, on the commodities included in these statistics, the average increase is about 2 per cent. less.

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

EMPLOYMENT during September showed little change, on the whole, as compared with August. In the coal-mining industry there was a further improvement in employment, a slight decline in the numbers wholly unemployed being accompanied by a considerable decline in the numbers temporarily stopped from the service of their employers.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Among workpeople numbering approximately 11,800,000, insured against unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and working in practically every industry except agriculture and private domestic service, the percentage unemployed at 24th September, 1928 (including those temporarily stopped as well as those wholly unemployed) was 11·5, as compared with 11·7 at 20th August, 1928, and 9·3 at 26th September, 1927.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

Mining and Quarrying.—In the coal-mining industry employment continued bad. There was, however, an improvement as compared with the previous month, which took the form mainly of a reduction in the number temporarily stopped.

Iron mining employment continued slack. In the shale mines in West Lothian there was an increase of 0·1 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed at the mines from which returns were received compared with August, 1928, but a decrease of 5·7 per cent. compared with September, 1927.

Manufacture of Pig Iron, Iron and Steel, and Tinplate.—In the pig-iron industry employment continued bad. Of 424 furnaces, the number of furnaces in blast at the end of September, 1928, was 131, as compared with 130 at the end of August, 1928, and with 160 at the end of September, 1927.

At iron and steel works employment continued bad, but showed an improvement as compared with the previous month. In the tinplate trade employment showed a decline towards the end of the month. In the week ended 29th September, 352 tinplate mills were in operation at the works for which information was available, compared with 401 in August, and with 289 in September, 1927.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Industries.—In engineering, employment was very slack, but rather better than during the previous month, an improvement being shown in constructional engineering and on motor vehicle work.

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

Textile Industries.—In the cotton industry there was little change in the general state of employment during September. In the American spinning section, about 11 per cent. of the spindles were reported

to be entirely stopped; in the Egyptian spinning section employment remained fairly good; in the manufacturing section it was very slack, except with operatives employed in the fine and fancy goods trade, with whom employment was fairly good.

In the wool textile industry, employment continued bad in most of the principal centres, and, with some exceptions, was slightly worse than in August. A good deal of machinery was idle during the month, and much short time was worked in all the principal districts. In the carpet section, employment remained fair, on the whole.

In the hosiery trade, employment was fair, on the whole, and showed little change as compared with the previous month; in the silk and artificial silk trades, taken together, it showed a marked decline; in the lace trade there was little change; in linen manufacture, employment was bad, and showed little change as compared with the previous month; in the jute trade there was a slight decline. In textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc., employment was generally slack, and worse than during the previous month.

Clothing Industries.—Employment in the retail bespoke trade in the ready-made and wholesale bespoke branches of the tailoring trade was moderate, on the whole, short time being worked at a number of centres. In the dressmaking and millinery trades employment was fair on the whole, whilst in the shirt and collar and corset trades it was fairly good at most centres. In the felt hat trade employment was fair, but showed an improvement as compared with the previous month. In the boot and shoe industry, employment showed a slight improvement, and a few factories that had been on short time were able to resume full-time working; a large majority, however, in all the principal districts continued to work short time.

Leather Trades.—Employment in the tanning and currying section showed a further slight decline; with saddlery and harness makers there was a slight improvement; in the portmanteau, trunk and fancy leather section, employment continued fair.

Building, Woodworking, etc.—Employment in the building trades showed a slight decline as compared with the previous month; it was fair, on the whole, with skilled operatives, and moderate with unskilled workers. As regards individual occupations, it was fairly good, on the whole, with carpenters and joiners; with bricklayers it declined somewhat but was generally fair; with masons it was also fair; with plasterers and plumbers it continued moderate to fair in most districts. With slaters, employment declined and was moderate; with painters it also declined, but was fair, on the whole, with skilled workers; with tradesmen's labourers it remained moderate. In brick manufacture, employment showed little change as compared with the previous month; in the Peterborough district it was again reported to be good.

Employment in the furnishing trades showed an improvement and was fairly good; with mill-sawyers it continued moderate and showed little change as compared with the previous month; with coach-builders it was also moderate.

Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.—With paper makers, employment was fair, on the whole. With letterpress printers employment was again moderate, on the whole, but showed an improvement in a number of districts, including London, Birmingham and Derby; a decline was reported at Manchester. With electrotypers and stereotypers employment generally continued good, but was not so good as in August in London, Manchester and Cardiff. With lithographic printers employment generally continued fair, though it showed a decline in London and Glasgow; there was an improvement at Manchester, while at Belfast employment was again reported as bad. With bookbinders employment generally continued fair.

Pottery and Glass.—Employment in the pottery industry showed a marked improvement as compared with the previous month, but much short time was still worked. In the glass trades, employment continued bad in the bottle-making section, in which it was worse than during the previous month; in other sections a slight improvement was reported.

Agriculture and Fishing.—In agriculture in England and Wales the supply of skilled labour was about sufficient for demand, while casual labour was ample for requirements. With fishermen, employment showed a slight decline as compared with the previous month.

Dock Labour and Seamen.—With dock labourers, employment was slack; with seamen it was moderate on the whole, the supply of seamen being more than adequate for requirements at most of the ports.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

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

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

(a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL INDUSTRIES.

Table with columns: Industry, Workpeople included in the Returns for September 1928, September 1928, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before, Year before. Rows include Coal Mining, Iron, Shale, Pig Iron, Tinplate and Steel Sheet, Iron and Steel.

(b) OTHER INDUSTRIES.

Table with columns: Industry, Number of Workpeople Employed, Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople, Week ended 22nd Sept., Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before, Year before, Per cent., £, Per cent., Per cent. Rows include Textiles, Cotton, Woollen, Worsted, Carpet, Boot and Shoe, Pottery, Brick.

UNEMPLOYMENT SUMMARY BY DISTRICTS.

The following Table shows the variations in the rates of unemployment at 24th September, 1928, among insured persons in the respective divisions into which the country is divided for the purpose of the administration of the Unemployment Insurance Acts :-

Table with columns: Divisions, Estimated Numbers Insured aged 16-64 inclusive, at July, 1927, Percentage Unemployed at 24th September, 1928, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Total Percentages as compared with a Month before, Year before. Rows include London, South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Special Schemes, TOTAL.

UNEMPLOYMENT DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

The following Table shows, month by month from September, 1927, the percentages unemployed among insured workpeople, and the approximate number of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges, etc., in Great Britain and Northern Ireland :-

Table with columns: Date, Males, Females, Wholly Unemployed and Casuals, Temporarily Stopped, Total, Date, Numbers. Rows show monthly data from 1927 to 1928.

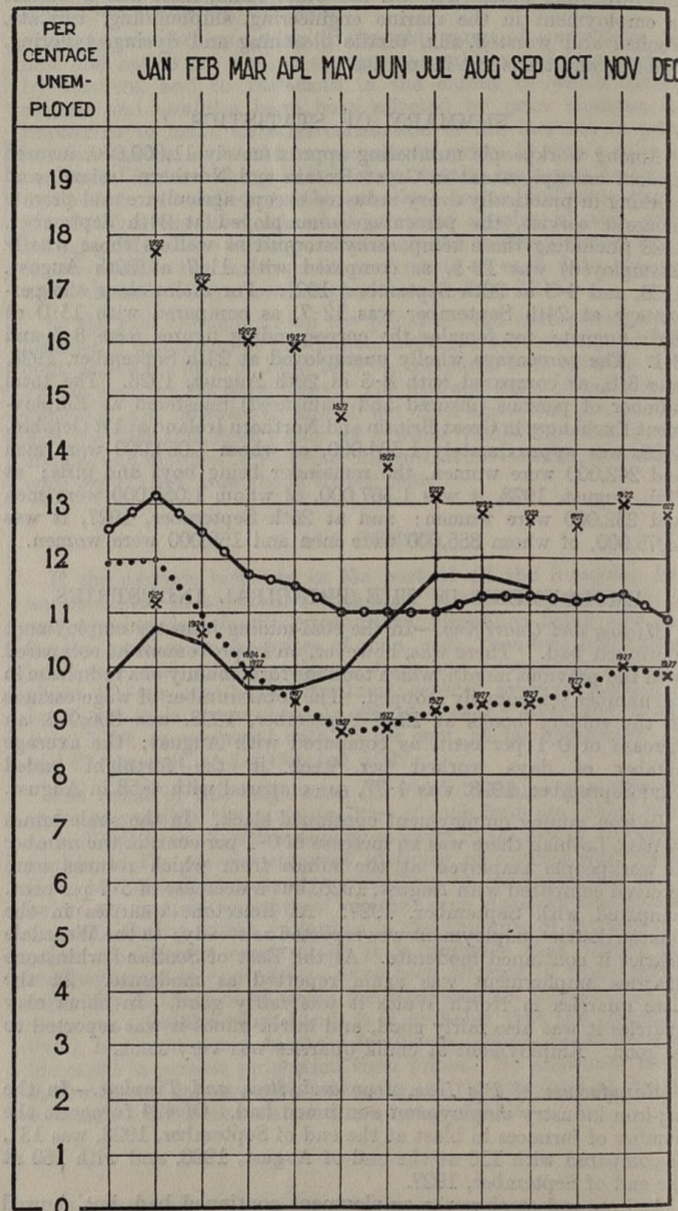
UNEMPLOYMENT CHART.

GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

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

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

x The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages unemployed in the months named, during the years 1922-5 and 1927.



NEW ENTRANTS INTO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BOOKS RECEIVED AT LOCAL OFFICES OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR IN GREAT BRITAIN DURING SEPTEMBER, 1928.

Table with columns: Area, Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total, Per centages of Numbers Insured at July, 1927. Rows include South-Eastern, Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Scotland, Wales, GREAT BRITAIN.

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

\* Aged 16-64 inclusive.

DETAILED REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

NOTE.—The numbers of workpeople employed given in the following Tables represent the numbers covered by the Returns received and not the total numbers employed in the various industries. The comparisons of numbers employed and wages paid at different dates relate to the same firms at each date, and cover all the wage-earners, irrespective of age, sex, or occupation, employed by these firms. In comparing the earnings in different industries, it should be remembered that any averages calculated from these figures will be affected not only by the variations in the state of employment and in rates of wages, but also by differences in the proportions of males to females, of adults to juveniles, and of skilled to unskilled workers in the respective industries.

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT during September continued bad, but showed an improvement as compared with the previous month. There were decreases in the numbers of insured persons temporarily stopped in every district, except Northumberland, Cumberland and Westmorland, and Wales and Monmouth.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 21.6 at 24th September, 1928, as compared with 25.5 at 20th August, 1928, and 19.1 at 26th September, 1927. The percentage wholly unemployed decreased by 0.2 from 15.5 to 15.3, and the percentage temporarily stopped by 3.7 from 10.0 to 6.3.

The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 22nd September, 1928, showed an increase of 0.1 per cent. as compared with 25th August, 1928, but a decrease of 8.8 per cent. as compared with 24th September, 1927.

The average number of days worked per week in the fortnight ended 22nd September, 1928, was 4.77, an increase of 0.19 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 25th August, 1928, but a decrease of 0.06 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 24th September, 1927.

The following Table shows, for the principal coal-mining districts, the total number of wage-earners on the colliery books and the average number of days worked per week\* during the fortnight ended 22nd September, 1928, as shown by returns obtained by the Mines Department. Small numbers of workpeople employed at coal mines in raising or handling minerals other than coal are included in the totals.

Table with columns: Districts, Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books at 22nd Sept., 1928, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before, Year before, Average Number of Days worked per week by the Mines, Fort-night ended 22nd Sept., 1928, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before, Year before. Rows include England and Wales, Scotland, GREAT BRITAIN.

The average number of coal-winding days lost in Great Britain during the fortnight ended 22nd September, 1928, was 1.03 days per week, of which 0.87 of a day was due to want of trade and transport difficulties. The figure for the fortnight ended 25th August, 1928, was 1.21 days per week, of which 1.10 days was due to want of trade and transport difficulties; for the fortnight ended 24th September, 1927, the figure was 0.97 of a day per week, of which 0.91 of a day was due to want of trade and transport difficulties. The average non-winding time for each of the three periods under review was about one-fifth of a day per week.

The output of coal in Great Britain for the four weeks ended 22nd September, 1928, was reported to the Mines Department as 18,520,800 tons, as compared with 16,199,200 tons in the four weeks ended 25th August, 1928, and 19,503,900 tons in the four weeks ended 24th September, 1927. The output of coal for the four weeks ended 25th August, 1928, was affected by holidays.

The exports of coal, including that shipped for the use of steamers engaged in the foreign trade, and the coal equivalent of coke and manufactured fuel, amounted to 5,896,600 tons in September, 1928, as compared with 6,070,200 tons in August, 1928, and with 6,204,000 tons in September, 1927.

\* The figures in this and the following article show the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short time) on which coal, iron, etc., were got from the mines included in the returns. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons worked every day the mines were open. Mines not working are omitted in computing the average number of days worked. † Including Cannock Chase.

The numbers and percentages unemployed among insured work people in the respective areas at 24th September, 1928, and the increases or decreases as compared with 20th August, 1928, and 26th September, 1927, are shown in the following Table :-

Table with columns: Area, Insured Persons Recorded as Unemployed at 24th September, 1928, Numbers, Percentages, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Total Percentages as compared with a Month before, Year before. Rows include Great Britain, England and Wales, Principal Districts in England and Wales, Northumberland, Durham, Cumberland and Westmorland, Yorkshire and Lancs, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Leicester, Warwickshire, Staffordshire, Salop, Glos. and Somerset, Kent, Wales and Monmouth.

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

IRON MINING.

EMPLOYMENT continued slack during September. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the iron ore and ironstone mining industry, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 14.2 at 24th September, 1928, as compared with 14.3 at 20th August, 1928, and 11.8 at 26th September, 1927.

The following Table summarizes the information received from those employers who furnished returns for the three periods.

Table with columns: Districts, Number of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns, Fort-night ended 22nd Sept., 1928, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before, Year before, Average No. of Days worked per week by the Mines, Fort-night ended 22nd Sept., 1928, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before, Year before. Rows include Cleveland, Cumberland and Lancashire, Other Districts, ALL DISTRICTS.

SHALE MINING.

The number of workpeople employed at the West Lothian mines during the fortnight ended 22nd September, 1928, by firms making returns, was 2,521, showing an increase of 0.1 per cent. compared with the previous month but a decrease of 5.7 per cent. compared with September, 1927. The average number of days\* worked per week by the mines was 6.00 in September, 1928, the same number as in August, 1928, as compared with 5.88 in September, 1927.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during September continued bad. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 18.4 at 24th September, 1928, as compared with 18.9 at 20th August, 1928, and with 15.2 at 26th September, 1927.

\* See footnote \* in previous column.







OCCUPATIONS.	*Esti- mated Number of Insured Work- people at July, 1927.	Total Numbers Unem- ployed at 24th Sept., 1928.	Number included in Previous Column who were Temporarily Stopped.	Per- centage Unem- ployed.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage as compared with a	
					Month before.	Year before.
Carpenters ...	128,090	8,489	283	6.6	+ 0.3	+ 1.8
Bricklayers ...	72,170	5,196	179	7.2	+ 0.7	+ 2.0
Masons ...	23,390	1,761	108	7.5	+ 0.2	+ 1.6
Slaters ...	5,850	570	26	9.7	+ 0.9	+ 5.2
Plasterers ...	21,080	1,759	77	8.3	+ 0.1	+ 5.9
Painters ...	109,080	13,674	235	12.5	+ 4.4	+ 0.4
Plumbers ...	32,600	2,719	108	8.3	- 0.4	+ 3.0
Labourers to above...	252,230	34,673	906	13.7	+ 0.9	+ 2.8
All other occu- pations ...	162,720	25,844	852	15.9	+ 0.9	+ 4.0
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>807,210</b>	<b>94,685</b>	<b>2,774</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>+ 1.2</b>	<b>+ 2.6</b>

#### BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

Returns from Local Authorities in 140 of the principal urban areas in Great Britain (except the London County Council Area), with a total population of 16,062,000, show that in September, 1928, plans were passed for buildings of an estimated cost of £6,039,500, as compared with £3,891,100 in August, 1928, and £4,856,400 in September, 1927. Of the total for September, 1928, dwelling-houses accounted for £3,616,100; factories and workshops for £696,600; shops, offices, warehouses and other business premises for £644,800; and other buildings, and additions and alterations to existing buildings, for £1,062,000. For figures for the quarter ended September, 1928, in comparison with the corresponding quarter of 1927, see page 378.

#### BRICK INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during September showed little change as compared with the previous month. In the Peterborough district it was again reported to be good.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the brick, tile, etc. trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 11.4 at 24th September, 1928, as compared with 11.0 at 20th August, 1928, and 7.2 at 26th September, 1927.

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

Districts.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a	
	Week ended 22nd Sept., 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Week ended 22nd Sept., 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Month before.	Year before.
Northern Counties, York- shire, Lancashire and Cheshire ...	1,876	+ 0.1 - 4.7	4,515	+ 2.6 - 5.3		
Midlands and Eastern Counties ...	5,226	+ 0.5 - 4.0	14,666	+ 2.4 + 3.7		
South and South-West Counties and Wales ...	1,515	+ 0.3 - 8.6	3,801	+ 2.9 - 6.6		
Scotland ...	191	+ 1.1 + 3.8	498	+ 2.3 + 2.5		
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>8,808</b>	<b>+ 0.3 - 4.8</b>	<b>23,480</b>	<b>+ 2.5 + 0.1</b>		

Returns from employers relative to short-time working, exclusive of time lost on account of bad weather, showed that, of 8,105 workpeople employed by firms furnishing information, 14.2 per cent. were working on an average about 8.7 hours less than full time in the week ending 22nd September, 1928; on the other hand, 8.5 per cent. were on overtime to the extent of 4½ hours, on the average.

#### POTTERY INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in North Staffordshire showed a marked improvement as compared with the previous month, but much short-time working was still reported. At Derby and Worcester short-time working was also reported. In the stoneware section in Scotland employment was again reported to be slack.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 13.8 at 24th September, 1928, as compared with 21.5 at 20th August, 1928, and 12.3 at 26th September, 1927.

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

\* Aged 16-64 inclusive.

BRANCHES.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a	
	Week ended 22nd Sept., 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Week ended 22nd Sept., 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Month before.	Year before.
China Manufacture ...	1,225	- 1.0 + 1.8	2,493	+ 4.6 + 5.1		
Earthenware Manufacture ...	8,030	+ 2.5 + 0.5	15,203	+ 7.0 + 0.0		
Other Branches (including unspecified) ...	1,831	- 1.0 - 4.5	3,568	+ 1.7 + 10.9		
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>11,086</b>	<b>+ 1.5 - 0.3</b>	<b>21,264</b>	<b>+ 5.8 + 2.3</b>		

Returns from employers relative to short-time working showed that, of 10,392 workpeople employed by firms making returns, 4,218, or 40.6 per cent., were working on an average about 10 hours less than full time in the week ended 20th September, 1928.

#### PAPER MANUFACTURE, PRINTING, AND BOOKBINDING.

EMPLOYMENT in the paper-making trade continued fair, on the whole, during September.

With letterpress printers employment was again moderate on the whole, but showed some improvement compared with the previous month in a number of districts, including London, Birmingham, Bradford, Bristol, Derby and Leicester; a decline was reported at Manchester, Sheffield and Cardiff. With electrotypers and stereotypers employment generally continued good, but was not so good as in August in London, Manchester and Cardiff.

With lithographic printers employment generally continued fair, though it showed a decline in London and Glasgow; there was an improvement at Manchester, while at Belfast employment was again reported as bad.

Lithographic artists were generally fairly well employed, the principal exception being Manchester, where employment was slack and worse than in the previous month; some falling-off was also reported in London and at Leeds.

Employment in the bookbinding industry continued generally fair. The percentage unemployed among insured workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts in the printing and bookbinding industries was 4.3 at 24th September, compared with 4.2 at 20th August, and 4.3 at 26th September, 1927. In the paper and paper board industry the percentage was 5.2 at 24th September, compared with 4.7 at 20th August, and 5.1 at 26th September, 1927. In the cardboard box, paper bag, and stationery industries the percentage was 4.2 at 24th September, compared with 4.1 at 20th August, and 3.6 at 26th September, 1927.

The following Table summarises the returns received from Trade Unions :-

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Sept., 1928.		Percentage Unemployed at end of		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a		
	Week ended 22nd Sept., 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Sept., 1928.	August, 1928.	Sept., 1927.	Month before.	Year before.
Letterpress Printing: London ...	39,731	4.4	5.5	5.5	- 1.1	- 1.1	
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lanca- shire and Cheshire Midlands and Eastern Counties ...	16,851	3.6	3.7	3.8	- 0.1	- 0.2	
Scotland ...	10,932	2.4	2.6	2.0	- 0.2	+ 0.4	
Other Districts ...	7,001	4.3	4.4	4.3	- 0.1	...	
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>10,572</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>+ 0.4</b>	<b>+ 0.1</b>	
Lithographic Printing ...	10,867	3.0	2.5	3.2	+ 0.5	- 0.2	
Bookbinding ...	20,202	3.1	3.5	3.6	- 0.4	- 0.5	

#### SEAMEN.

EMPLOYMENT during September was moderate on the whole, the supply of seamen being more than adequate for requirements at most of the ports.

Among insured workpeople in the shipping service the percentage unemployed at 24th September, 1928, was 14.9, compared with 14.6 at 20th August, 1928, and 13.7 at 26th September, 1927.

The demand for men on the Thames was very fair, except for a decline in the third week of the month. It was fairly active on the Tyne in the first half of September, and moderate afterwards. The demand was quiet on the Wear and on the Tees, but improved towards the end of the month; a shortage of able seamen occurred at West Hartlepool. At Hull the demand was moderate; at Southampton it was fairly good in the first week of September, and quiet to moderate subsequently. It declined to very dull at Bristol during the first three weeks of the month, but showed a considerable improvement later; at Avonmouth the demand declined in the first half of September and improved afterwards, being described as moderate in the closing stages. It was fair at Newport, and fair to good at Cardiff. The demand varied from quiet to fairly good at Swansea, some scarcity of deck hands being reported. It continued fair to good on the Mersey until the last week of the month, when

#### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

DETERMINATION OF CLAIMS TO UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT.

The following Table shows, for the period 14th August to 10th September inclusive, the number of claims to benefit made at Employment Exchanges and Juvenile Employment Bureaux, the average number of claims current at all Local Offices in Great Britain during that period, and an analysis of the decisions by the Insurance Officers, of the recommendations of Courts of Referees, and decisions by the Umpire, on claims considered by them :-

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in			
	Sept., 1928.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before.	Year before.	Nine Months ended Sept., 1928.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES:</b>				
Liverpool ...	12,182	- 3,561	- 3,373	111,449
Manchester ...	670	+ 68	+ 10	6,603
London ...	10,657	- 1,327	+ 211	92,776
Southampton ...	12,289	+ 226	+ 1,542	93,907
Tyne Ports ...	3,072	- 137	- 368	25,082
Sunderland ...	252	- 345	- 50	3,213
Middlesbrough ...	562	+ 79	+ 58	4,031
Hull ...	1,118	- 290	- 12	11,504
Bristol ...	807	- 300	- 377	8,787
Newport, Mon. ...	734	+ 177	+ 69	6,469
Cardiff ...	2,572	+ 19	+ 361	23,845
Swansea ...	661	- 46	- 288	6,527
<b>SCOTLAND:</b>				
Leith ...	276	- 365	- 58	3,411
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth ...	358	- 277	+ 155	3,851
Glasgow ...	4,308	+ 5	+ 1,043	29,232
<b>NORTHERN IRELAND:</b>				
Belfast ...	136	+ 20	- 108	1,519
<b>TOTAL for above Ports</b>	<b>50,654</b>	<b>- 6,642</b>	<b>- 1,185</b>	<b>432,506</b>

#### DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT during September was slack.

Among insured workpeople in the canal, river, dock and harbour service 32.1 per cent. were recorded as unemployed at 24th September, 1928, as compared with 31.4 per cent. at 20th August, 1928, and with 22.1 per cent. at 26th September, 1927.

London.—The following Table shows the average daily number of dock labourers employed at docks and wharves in respect of which returns were received for each week of the month :-

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.				
	In Docks.			At Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors.	By Ship- owners, etc.	Total.		
Week ended—					
1st September, 1928	3,956	1,813	5,769	7,022	12,791
8th " "	4,015	2,271	6,286	7,172	13,458
15th " "	4,016	1,759	5,775	7,552	13,327
22nd " "	4,762	1,630	6,392	7,027	13,419
29th " "	4,771	2,021	6,792	7,219	14,011
Average for 5 weeks ended 29th Sept., 1928 ...	4,304	1,899	6,203	7,198	13,401
Average for August, 1928	3,927	2,130	6,057	7,250	13,307
Average for Sept., 1927	4,809	2,271	7,080	7,404	14,484

Tilbury.—The average daily number of dock labourers employed during September was 850, compared with 904 in August, and with 990 in September, 1927.

East Coast.—Employment at the North-East Coast ports was mainly fair. It remained fair at Hull and Middlesbrough, but declined at Grimsby. Employment at Yarmouth continued good, and it was good or fair at most of the other East Coast ports.

Liverpool.—Employment remained slack, but was a little better than in August with coal trimmers. The average weekly number of dock labourers registered at the clearing houses under the Liverpool Docks Scheme as employed in the four weeks ended 28th September was 13,966, compared with 13,907 in August, and with 14,652 in September, 1927. The average weekly amount of wages paid to these men through the clearing houses was £36,350 in the four weeks ended 28th September, compared with £35,013 in August, and with £39,833 in September, 1927.

Other Ports in England and Wales.—At most of the South Wales ports the improvement reported last month was maintained, but at Barry employment showed a decline. At Bristol and Gloucester work continued fair. Work was slack at most of the South-Western ports. At Southampton employment was fair.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—Employment was good at Dundee, and better than a month before. It was fair at Glasgow and Leith.

\* It will be understood that the numbers given are the numbers of separate engagements, and not of separate individuals.

† Including Birkenhead and Garston.

‡ Including Avonmouth and Portishead.

§ Including Barry and Penarth.

#### C.—Recommendations of Courts of Referees.

	10,232	5,619	15,851
Total cases considered ...	10,232	5,619	15,851
Recommended for allowance ...	3,845	1,671	5,516
Recommended for disallowance:—			
Permanent provisions:			
First statutory condition* ...	2	1	3
Not unable to obtain suitable employment ...	301	599	900
Not genuinely seeking work ...	2,511	2,351	4,862
Trade disputes ...	41	55	96
Employment lost through misconduct ...	932	249	1,181
Employment left voluntarily without just cause ...	920	411	1,331
Other grounds ...	308	72	380
Transitional provisions (Sec. 14 (2), U.I. Act, 1927) ...	1,372	210	1,582
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>6,387</b>	<b>3,948</b>	<b>10,335</b>

#### D.—Decisions by Umpire.

	128	22	150
Cases referred by Insurance Officer	128	22	150
Appeals by Associations ...	86	7	93
Appeals by Claimants ...	194	22	216
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>533</b>

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.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.†

The following Table shows approximately the receipts of, and payments from, the Unemployment Fund in the periods specified, and the liabilities of the Fund :-

	Five weeks ended 29th Sept., 1928.	Four weeks ended 25th Aug., 1928.	Four weeks ended 24th Sept., 1927.
Contributions received from—			
Employers ...	£ 1,570,000	£ 1,190,000	£ 1,240,000
Employed Persons ...	1,360,000	1,020,000	1,075,000
Exchequer ...	1,130,000	845,000	885,000
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>4,060,000</b>	<b>3,055,000</b>	<b>3,200,000</b>
Unemployment Benefit ...	4,550,000	3,690,000	2,570,000
Cost of Administration ...	475,000	380,000	365,000
Interest accrued on Treasury Advances	130,000	100,000	85,000
Other Items ...	10,000	10,000	10,000
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>5,165,000</b>	<b>4,180,000</b>	<b>3,030,000</b>
Treasury Advances outstanding ...	27,030,000	26,560,000	22,690,000
Other Liabilities (net), including Accrued Interest and Deposits ...	1,115,000	480,000	380,000

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

† A detailed account of the Fund is presented to Parliament annually (see House of Commons Paper No. 5 of 1928 for the period ending 31st March, 1927).

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

The statistics here presented show, industry by industry, the estimated number of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, the number and percentage of such persons who were unemployed on the 24th September, 1928, and the increase or decrease at that date in the total percentages unemployed compared with a month earlier, a year ago, and three\* years ago, respectively.

The Unemployment Insurance Acts provide, subject to certain exceptions, for the compulsory insurance against unemployment of substantially all employed persons. The principal classes of persons who are exempted from such compulsory insurance are juveniles under 16 years of age, and (since 2nd January, 1928) persons aged 65 and over, persons employed otherwise than by way of manual labour at a rate of remuneration exceeding in value £250 per annum, persons employed in agriculture and private domestic service, and outworkers. Persons employed by local public authorities, railways and certain other public utility undertakings, members of the police forces, and persons with rights under a statutory superannuation scheme may, in certain circumstances, also be exempted.

An unemployment book, on which is recorded, inter alia, the industry in which he is employed, is issued to every insured person, and this book must be lodged at an Employment Exchange whenever the insured person to whom it relates makes a claim for unemployment benefit, or, without claiming benefit, ceases to be employed in an insured trade. The book must be removed and deposited with the employer for stamping as soon as employment in an insured trade is resumed.

The file of "lodged" books at the Employment Exchanges thus furnish for each industrial group a record of the unemployment of insured persons. In arriving at this figure the books of those persons who are known to be working in an uninsured trade, or to be sick or deceased, or who are known to have emigrated or gone abroad, are of course excluded. In cases where information on these points is lacking the books remain in the "lodged" files, and are included in the statistics of unemployment, for a period of two months from the date on which the insured person was last in touch with the Employment Exchange.

This last item determines in the main the difference between the total number of unemployed persons given in the following Table and the figure given on page 374 showing the total number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges. The difference would be greater were it not that this latter figure includes uninsured persons who are maintaining registration. These do not appear in the figures of "books lodged," which relate solely to insured persons.

Insured persons who are disqualified for the receipt of unemployment benefit under the trade dispute disqualification are not included in the numbers unemployed, unless they are definitely maintaining registration for other employment.

The statistics of unemployment in insured industries are presented in two separate Tables, one showing the numbers recorded as unemployed, and the other showing the estimated numbers insured and the percentages unemployed.

Special Note. Persons aged 65 and over.

Under the provisions of the Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act, 1925, all persons aged 65 and over ceased to be insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts as from 2nd January, 1928. (The employers of such persons, however, are required to pay contributions at the employer's rates.) The estimates of the numbers of insured persons in each industry prepared on the basis of the information obtained from the exchange of unemployment books in July, 1927, have therefore been revised to exclude persons aged 65 and over who, it is computed, numbered approximately 323,000 men, and 24,000 women. Such persons no longer appear in the statistics showing the number of insured persons recorded as unemployed, and the figures for dates subsequent to 2nd January, 1928, are therefore not comparable with those for earlier dates. The number of insured persons aged 65 and over whose books were lodged at the beginning of January did not exceed 30,000, and a proportion of these continued to register as uninsured persons. For all practical purposes, however, the percentages unemployed can be regarded as comparable with the corresponding figures published each month since July, 1923.

NUMBERS OF INSURED PERSONS RECORDED AS UNEMPLOYED AT 24TH SEPTEMBER, 1928.

Table with columns for Industry, Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total), and Great Britain Only (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total). Rows include Fishing, Mining, Non-metalliferous Mining Products, Glass Trades, Chemicals, Metal Manufacture, Engineering, and Construction and Repair of Vehicles.

\* See footnote \* on page 373.

Table with columns for Industry, Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total), and Great Britain Only (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total). Rows include Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing, Metal Trades, Textile Trades, Leather and Leather Goods, Clothing Trades, Sawmilling and Woodwork, Printing and Paper Trades, Building and Construction of Works, Other Manufacturing Industries, Gas, Water and Electricity Supply, Transport and Communication, Distributive Trades, Commerce, Banking, Insurance and Finance, and Miscellaneous Trades and Services.

\* Including 81,615 Casuals (Males 80,160, Females 1,455).

NUMBERS INSURED AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.

INDUSTRY.	GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.															GREAT BRITAIN ONLY. TOTAL PERCENTAGE AT 24TH SEPT., 1928.		
	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AGED 16-64 INCLUSIVE, AT JULY, 1927.																	
	PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 24TH SEPTEMBER, 1928.																	
	WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (Including Casuals).			TEMPORARY STOPPAGES.			TOTAL.			INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH								
Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	20TH AUG., 1928.	26TH SEPT., 1927.	21ST SEPT., 1925.*				
Fishing ...	26,600	950	27,550	9.3	1.9	9.0	0.3	0.3	0.3	9.6	2.2	9.3	+ 1.2	+ 0.8	- 1.7	9.4		
Mining :-																		
Coal Mining ...	1,157,580	6,800	1,164,380	15.4	9.3	15.4	6.2	6.0	6.2	21.6	15.3	21.6	- 3.9	+ 2.5	- 2.1	21.6		
Iron Ore and Ironstone Mining and Quarrying ...	14,220	30	14,250	11.0	...	10.9	3.2	...	3.3	14.2	...	14.2	- 0.1	+ 2.4	- 14.6	14.0		
Lead, Tin and Copper Mining ...	5,420	60	5,480	11.6	...	11.5	0.5	...	0.5	12.1	...	12.0	+ 0.7	+ 2.6	+ 3.1	12.0		
Stone Quarrying and Mining ...	40,900	330	41,230	7.3	1.8	7.2	2.6	1.8	2.6	9.9	3.6	9.8	+ 0.1	+ 2.2	+ 1.9	3.4		
Slate Quarrying and Mining ...	10,690	10	10,700	2.5	30.0	2.5	0.9	...	0.9	3.4	30.0	3.4	+ 0.1	+ 2.2	+ 1.9	3.4		
Mining and Quarrying not separately specified ...	16,130	1,590	17,720	7.2	7.3	7.2	2.6	1.5	2.5	9.8	8.8	9.7	+ 0.2	+ 0.5	+ 2.5	9.6		
Clay, Sand, Gravel and Chalk Pit Digging ...	14,570	160	14,730	5.9	3.8	5.9	0.5	3.1	0.5	6.4	6.9	6.4	+ 1.2	+ 1.7	+ 3.2	6.4		
Non-Metalliferous Mining Products :-																		
Coke Ovens and By-Product Works	11,180	120	11,300	11.5	13.3	11.5	2.5	...	2.5	14.0	13.3	14.0	- 0.2	+ 0.9	- 3.0	13.9		
Artificial Stone and Concrete Manufacture ...	15,040	1,350	16,390	14.6	5.5	13.8	3.6	1.4	3.4	18.2	6.9	17.2	- 0.4	+ 5.3	+ 1.5	17.3		
Cement, Limekilns and Whiting Works ...	17,930	880	18,810	6.4	5.7	6.4	0.7	0.4	0.6	7.1	6.1	7.0	+ 0.5	+ 0.6	+ 2.3	7.1		
Brick, Tile, etc., Making ...	75,010	7,570	82,580	9.0	8.0	8.9	2.3	4.1	2.5	11.3	12.1	11.4	+ 0.4	+ 4.2	+ 4.9	11.4		
Pottery, Earthenware, etc. ...	32,110	37,790	69,900	6.6	5.4	6.0	6.9	8.7	7.8	13.5	14.1	13.8	- 7.7	+ 1.5	- 1.8	13.9		
Glass Trades :-																		
Glass (excluding Bottles and Scientific Glass) Manufacture ...	19,650	5,300	24,950	8.6	5.4	7.9	1.9	0.7	1.7	10.5	6.1	9.6	- 0.4	- 0.6	- 1.4	9.6		
Glass Bottle Making ...	15,510	2,170	17,680	14.9	5.9	13.8	8.2	3.1	7.6	23.1	9.0	21.4	+ 1.7	+ 0.3	- 2.5	21.4		
Chemicals, etc. :-																		
Chemicals Manufacture ...	70,040	22,560	92,600	6.3	2.6	5.4	0.8	0.3	0.6	7.1	2.9	6.0	- 0.4	- 0.3	- 3.6	6.0		
Explosives Manufacture ...	12,360	5,990	18,350	4.1	4.5	4.2	0.7	0.9	0.8	4.8	5.4	5.0	- 0.4	- 1.2	- 3.1	5.0		
Paint, Varnish, Japan, Red and White Lead Manufacture ...	13,790	4,300	18,090	4.5	3.0	4.1	0.3	0.8	0.5	4.8	3.8	4.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.7	- 0.2	4.6		
Oil, Grease, Ghee, Soap, Ink, Match, etc., Manufacture ...	55,700	20,920	76,620	5.6	2.9	4.9	1.4	0.7	1.2	7.0	3.6	6.1	- 0.4	- 0.3	- 0.7	6.1		
Metal Manufacture :-																		
Pig Iron Manufacture (Blast Furnaces) Steel Melting and Iron Puddling Furnaces, Iron and Steel Rolling Mills and Forges ...	23,090	270	23,360	14.7	7.0	14.6	3.8	2.3	3.8	18.5	9.3	18.4	- 0.5	+ 3.2	- 6.9	18.4		
Manufacture of Brass, Copper, Zinc, Tin, Lead, etc. ...	35,910	3,030	38,940	8.3	5.5	8.1	2.6	1.1	2.4	10.9	6.6	10.5	+ 0.8	+ 1.2	- 0.8	10.5		
Manufacture of Tin Plates ...	26,820	3,950	30,770	3.1	1.7	2.9	16.2	10.0	15.5	19.3	11.7	18.4	+ 1.0	+ 1.6	+ 9.0	18.4		
Iron and Steel Tube Making ...	26,110	1,340	27,450	7.3	8.5	7.3	5.4	1.6	5.3	12.7	10.1	12.6	+ 1.2	+ 0.8	- 4.7	12.6		
Wire, Wire Netting, Wire Rope Manufacture ...	17,820	3,950	21,770	7.3	5.7	7.0	6.1	2.4	5.4	13.4	8.1	12.4	- 1.6	- 5.0	- 3.1	12.4		
Engineering, etc. :-																		
General Engineering; Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding ...	535,820	42,100	577,920	7.3	3.2	7.0	3.5	2.0	3.4	10.8	5.2	10.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.4	- 2.1	10.3		
Electrical Engineering ...	61,130	16,670	77,800	4.6	3.6	4.4	0.9	0.8	0.9	5.5	4.4	5.3	- 0.7	+ 0.7	- 0.1	5.3		
Marine Engineering, etc. ...	54,840	1,130	55,970	12.8	2.4	12.6	1.7	0.1	1.7	14.3	2.5	14.3	+ 1.0	+ 1.6	+ 9.0	14.1		
Constructional Engineering ...	25,740	1,050	26,790	8.4	4.1	8.2	2.3	0.5	2.3	10.7	4.6	10.5	- 3.6	+ 3.3	- 1.0	10.5		
Construction and Repair of Vehicles :-																		
Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft ...	207,310	22,820	230,130	8.0	5.8	7.8	1.9	1.8	1.9	9.9	7.6	9.7	- 1.6	+ 0.4	+ 2.0	9.7		
Construction and Repair of Carriages, Carts, etc. ...	18,020	2,250	20,270	8.4	4.5	7.9	1.4	2.3	1.5	9.8	6.8	9.4	- 0.2	+ 0.1	- 1.3	9.3		
Railway Carriage, Wagon and Tramcar Building ...	52,830	1,320	54,150	6.6	1.8	6.5	3.7	1.6	3.7	10.3	3.4	10.2	- 1.2	+ 4.6	+ 3.3	10.2		
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing ...	205,140	3,340	208,480	28.5	4.6	28.2	1.7	0.9	1.6	30.2	5.5	29.8	+ 2.6	+ 8.0	- 6.2	29.8		
Metal Trades :-																		
Stove, Grate, Pipe, etc., and General Iron Founding ...	77,010	7,830	84,840	9.1	7.3	8.9	3.6	2.5	3.5	12.7	9.8	12.4	- 1.4	+ 3.9	+ 1.5	12.4		
Electrical Wiring and Contracting ...	13,150	1,160	14,310	7.3	2.0	6.9	0.5	...	0.4	7.8	2.0	7.3	- 1.6	+ 1.6	+ 0.7	7.3		
Electrical Cable, Wire and Electric Lamp Manufacture ...	53,170	30,560	83,730	5.6	3.3	4.7	0.7	0.5	0.7	6.3	3.8	5.4	+ 0.1	- 0.4	- 0.3	5.4		
Hand Tool, Cutlery, Saw, File Making Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Rivets, Nails, etc., Manufacture ...	23,660	10,560	34,220	10.8	5.6	9.2	8.2	2.8	6.5	19.0	8.4	15.7	- 0.3	- 2.0	+ 3.6	15.7		
Brass and Allied Metal Wares Manufacture ...	14,230	11,110	25,340	7.4	9.4	8.3	4.3	2.3	3.4	11.7	11.7	11.7	- 0.1	+ 2.4	- 1.3	11.7		
Heating and Ventilating Apparatus Watches, Clocks, Plate, Jewellery, etc., Manufacture ...	18,020	10,740	28,760	8.0	7.3	7.8	2.2	1.4	1.9	10.2	8.7	9.7	- 0.6	- 0.2	- 2.0	9.6		
Metal Industries not separately specified ...	23,220	20,600	43,820	6.1	4.2	5.2	1.4	1.5	1.5	7.5	5.7	6.7	- 0.5	+ 0.9	- 3.3	6.8		
Textile Trades :-																		
Cotton ...	202,250	359,880	562,130	5.9	5.8	5.9	6.6	9.5	8.4	12.5	15.3	14.3	- 1.9	+ 5.0	+ 4.3	14.3		
Woolen and Worsted ...	96,430	143,370	239,800	6.2	3.7	4.7	11.6	12.9	12.4	17.8	16.6	17.1	+ 2.2	+ 8.9	+ 3.8	17.1		
Silk and Artificial Silk ...	21,920	31,660	53,580	8.7	3.4	5.6	8.1	10.8	9.7	16.8	14.2	15.3	+ 6.0	+ 8.7	+ 8.0	15.2		
Linen ...	25,490	57,370	82,860	18.1	18.9	18.7	8.4	9.6	9.2	28.5	27.9	28.5	+ 0.5	+ 19.5	- 3.2	28.5		
Jute ...	12,230	26,170	38,400	10.9	8.1	9.0	0.6	0.6	0.6	11.5	8.7	9.6	+ 0.4	+ 2.8	- 3.6	9.6		
Hemp Spinning and Weaving, Rope, Cord, Twine, etc., Making ...	7,060	11,960	19,020	7.4	8.4	8.0	2.5	6.0	4.8	9.9	14.4	12.8	+ 1.6	+ 3.2	- 5.3	12.3		
Hosiery ...	21,410	78,100	99,510	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.1	5.4	4.9	6.0	8.3	7.8	+ 0.2	+ 2.1	- 1.4	9.2		
Lace ...	6,990	10,320	17,310	4.9	3.4	4.0	5.1	5.2	5.2	10.0	8.6	9.2	- 0.2	+ 2.4	- 11.9	8.8		
Carpet Manufacture ...	9,540	14,840	24,380	3.2	2.7	2.9	3.9	7.2	5.9	7.1	9.9	8.8	+ 1.4	+ 1.5	- 4.8	9.0		
Textile Industries not separately specified ...	13,080	30,210	43,290	5.9	6.0	6.0	2.4	4.1	3.5	8.3	10.1	9.5	+ 0.2	+ 2.5	- 1.2	9.0		
Textile Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc. ...	82,250	33,080	115,330	4.3	4.0	4.2	13.0	11.8	12.7	17.3	15.8	16.9	+ 1.6	+ 6.1	+ 1.5	16.6		
Leather and Leather Goods :-																		
Tanning, Currying and Dressing ...	31,980	9,380	41,360	5.4	3.8	5.0	2.9	2.0	2.7	8.3	5.8	7.7	+ 0.3	+ 2.0	- 4.3	7.7		
Saddlery, Harness and other Leather Goods Manufacture ...	12,920	13,160	26,080	6.2	4.2	5.2	1.9	1.7	1.8	8.1	5.9	7.0	- 0.7	+ 0.8	- 2.0	7.0		
Clothing Trades :-																		
Tailoring ...	67,030	130,950	197,980	8.3	3.6	5.2	2.6	8.5	6.5	10.9	12.1	11.7	+ 2.2	+ 3.0	- 1.5	11.5		
Dress and Mantle Making and Millinery ...	10,250	94,710	104,960	5.1	2.6	2.9	0.3	1.8	1.6	5.4	4.4	4.5	- 0.6	+ 0.2	- 2.3	4.4		
Hat and Cap (including Straw Plait) Manufacture ...	12,980	19,960	32,940	4.3	6.0	5.3	0.6	1.9	1.4	4.9	7.9	6.7	- 0.8	+ 1.8	- 1.0	6.7		
Blouses, Shirts, Collars, Underclothing, etc., Making ...	7,250	67,250	74,500	5.4	4.6	4.7	1.1	5.1	4.7	6.5	9.7	9.4	- 0.6	+ 4.8	+ 1.7	7.1		
Dress Industries not separately specified ...	9,500	17,490	26,990	5.5	2.2	3.3	0.7	1.9	1.6	6.2	4.1	4.9	- 0.6	+ 0.7	- 4.0	4.9		
Boot, Shoe, Slipper and Clog Trades	85,540	52,470	138,010	8.6	6.7	7.9	10.2	8.4	9.5	18.8	15.1	17.4	- 1.7	+ 9.2	+ 4.4	17.4		

\* See footnote \* on page 373.

COMPOSITION OF UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

On page 370 an explanation is given of the unemployment statistics published weekly in the Press, and monthly in this GAZETTE. The following Table gives figures relating to the 24th September, 1928, for the total of each group included in these statistics. Lines 2 to 5 make up the number of persons on the register; while, by omitting the uninsured persons (line 5) and including lines 1 and 6, the number of books lodged, or, in other words, the number of insured persons recorded as unemployed, is obtained :-

Table showing composition of unemployment statistics by gender (Men, Boys, Women, Girls) and category (Unemployed - Special Schemes, Claims admitted, etc.).

ANALYSIS OF NUMBERS ON REGISTER.

At 24th September, 1928, the number of persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain was 1,295,234; in Great Britain and Northern Ireland it was 1,342,511.

In the following Table the figures are analysed so as to show separately the numbers on the Registers who were normally in regular employment, but who were respectively wholly unemployed and temporarily stopped from the service of their employers, and the numbers who were normally in casual employment.

Statistics for men, boys, women and girls, separately, under each of these headings are given :-

Table showing analysis of numbers on register by category (Persons normally in regular employment, Wholly unemployed, Temporary stoppages, Persons normally in casual employment) and gender (Men, Boys, Women, Girls) for Great Britain.

Table showing analysis of numbers on register by category and gender for Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

VACANCIES NOTIFIED AND FILLED.

The following Table gives particulars relating to the work of Employment Exchanges\* in Great Britain and Northern Ireland in filling vacancies for employment during the four weeks ended 24th September, 1928. Of the 96,300 vacancies filled, 49,458 were for men, 24,880 for women and 21,962 for juveniles :-

Table showing vacancies notified and filled by week ended, categorized by week (27th August, 3rd September, 10th, 17th, 24th) and average.

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

† " Vacancies filled" include certain types of cases (described as Class B placings) in which the work of the Exchanges was limited; for instance, obtaining for an employer former employees, or placing the same men on relief works in alternate weeks. During the four weeks ended 20th August, 1928, the average number of such placings was 3,924 per week. The average number of placings of casual workers during the four weeks ended 24th September, 1928, was 725 per week.

PERSONS ON THE REGISTERS AT PRINCIPAL TOWNS.

The following Table shows for each of the Employment Exchange administrative areas, and for the principal towns therein, the number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 24th September, 1928. In certain cases (e.g., Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield, Liverpool, Glasgow, etc.) the figures cover more than one Exchange area.

Large table showing the number of persons on registers at principal towns and administrative areas (London, South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland) as of 24th September, 1928.

[Percentage rates of unemployment, for each of 653 towns in Great Britain, are given in the monthly " Local Unemployment Index."]

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

Rates of Wages.

IN the industries covered by the Department's statistics\* the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in September in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate increase of about £2,850 in the weekly full-time wages of 39,000 workpeople and in a reduction of £1,900 in those of over 20,000 workpeople.

The groups of industries principally affected were as shown below :-

Table showing approximate number of workpeople affected by changes in wages, categorized by industry (Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding, Other) and direction of change (Increases, Decreases).

The principal change in September affected men 21 years of age and over employed as plain timeworkers in federated shipbuilding yards in England and Scotland, who, with the restoration of their bonus to 10s. per week, the amount at which it stood prior to the reductions which began in November 1922, received an increase of 1s. 6d. per week in the case of most classes of skilled men, and in the case of other men who had not previously had their bonus made up to 10s. per week, an increase of 1s. 6d. or such smaller amount as was necessary to restore the bonus to 10s. Similar increases were given to adult male timeworkers employed in the shipbuilding industry at Belfast. The reductions in the metal group mainly affected workpeople employed in the light castings industry in England and Scotland, whose wages were reduced by 1s. per week in the case of labourers and 1s. 6d. per week in that of other adult timeworkers, while adult pieceworkers had their bonus reduced by 2s. 6d. per week. There was also a small reduction (1/2 per cent. on base rates) in the wages of blast furnace workers in Cumberland.

In other industries the principal body of workpeople whose wages were changed in September were coal miners employed at certain collieries in Warwickshire, where the percentage addition to base rates was reduced by the equivalent of nearly 7 1/2 per cent. on current rates, and reductions were also made in subsistence wages. Minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts were reduced in the case of workpeople employed in the boot and shoe repairing trade in

Northern Ireland, and revisions were also made in such rates in the case of certain classes employed in the retail bespoke tailoring trade in some districts in the Midland Counties of England.

Of the total increase of £2,850 per week, nearly the whole amount was the result of direct negotiation between employers and workpeople, the principal exception being a small amount (estimated at less than £100 per week) which took effect under Orders made under the Trade Boards Acts.

Of the total reduction of £1,900 per week, about £750 took effect under arrangements made by a Conciliation Board or other joint standing body of employers and workpeople; over £100 took effect as the result of Orders under the Trade Boards Acts; under £50 took effect under sliding scales based on selling prices; and the remaining sum was the result of direct negotiation between employers and workpeople.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES REPORTED IN JANUARY-SEPTEMBER, 1928.

Summary table showing approximate number of workpeople affected by net changes and net amount of change in weekly wages for various industries (Mining, Brick, Pottery, Iron and Steel, etc.).

In the corresponding nine months of 1927, there were net increases of £31,200 in the weekly wages of over 289,000 workpeople and net reductions of £364,100 in those of 1,715,000 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

No important changes were reported in September.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING SEPTEMBER, 1928.

Detailed table of principal changes in rates of wages during September 1928, listing industry, locality, date of change, classes of workpeople, and particulars of change.

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

† In addition to the numbers quoted, wages stand at the same level as at the beginning of the year in the case of about 81,000 workpeople, whose wages have been increased and reduced by equal amounts during the year.

‡ These reductions received the approval of the District Wages Board after reviewing the special circumstances in each case, as submitted by the individual companies concerned.

§ Under selling-price sliding-scale arrangements. It was agreed between the Companies and the Joint Committee representing the Craft Unions that, from the date shown, the sliding-scale percentage addition to basis rates should be stabilised at 25 until the end of 1928.

¶ The change took effect by agreement between the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation and the various trade unions. By the terms of the agreement the restored bonus, in the case of the timeworkers affected, was to be increased to 10s. per week in two instalments on 1st July and 1st September. Timeworkers who received under the agreement a total advance of 1s. 6d. per week or less received the whole amount on 1st July, and timeworkers whose advance exceeded 1s. 6d. had 1s. 6d. from 1st July and the balance on 1st September. The increase in bonus did not apply in the River Thames, Bristol Channel, Mersey and Manchester Ship-repairing districts to men whose total weekly wage, including bonus, exceeds the pre-war wage of the district for their class by 17s. per week. Engineers were not generally affected by the change, except at Southampton and East Cowes, and also at Belfast.

\*\* In some cases the increase took effect from a later date.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING SEPTEMBER, 1928 (continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
Light Castings Manufacture.	England and Scotland	3 Sept.	Workpeople employed in the light castings industry.	Decrease of 1s. 6d. per week for all timeworkers, except labourers, of 21 years of age and over, of 1s. per week for labourers, and of 2s. 6d. per week in the money bonus of pieceworkers 21 years of age and over; with proportionate reductions for youths and boys under 21 years of age. Rates after change for timeworkers include: England—labourers, 43s. per week; Scotland—moulders, 65s. 7½d.; labourers, 44s. 6d.
Sailmaking	Tyne, Wear and Tees Districts.	1 Sept.	Sailmakers ... ..	Increase of 1s. 6d. per week. Rate after change: 1s. 2d. per hour, plus 3s. per week.
	Hull ... ..	1 Sept.	Sailmakers ... ..	Increase of 1s. 6d. per week. Rates after change: machinemen, 62s. 1d.; bench hands, 60s. 1d.
	Clyde District ... ..	1 Sept.	Sailmakers ... ..	Increase of 1s. 6d. per week (58s. to 59s. 6d.).
	Dundee ... ..	1 Sept.	Sailmakers ... ..	Increase of 1s. per week (58s. 9d. to 59s. 9d.).
Retail Bespoke Tailoring.	Central Midland Districts.*	3 Sept.	Female workers of Grade I (i.e., those 20 years and over with not less than 5 years' employment, including not less than 3 years' apprenticeship and/or learner-ship) employed in the retail bespoke tailoring trade.	General minimum time and piecework basis time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts applicable to Area A reduced by ¼d. per hour and those applicable to Area C increased by ¼d. per hour, the rates for Areas B and D remaining unchanged, leaving the minimum time and piecework basis time rates respectively:—Area A, 10d., 11d.; Area B, 9½d., 10½d.; Area C, 9d., 10d.; Area D, 7½d., 8½d.†
	Bewdley, Tewkesbury, Brownhills, Nalls-worth and Shipston-on-Stour.	3 Sept.	Workpeople employed in the retail bespoke tailoring trade.	Minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts to be those applicable to Area D in the Central Midland district in lieu of Area C as previously fixed, resulting in the case of adult workers in reductions in minimum time and piecework basis time rates of 1d. or 1½d. per hour for males, and of ½d. or 1d. per hour for females. Minimum time and piecework basis time rates respectively after change: male workers, 10d. to 1s. 2d.; 11½d. to 1s. 3½d.; female workers, 8½d. or 7½d.; 7½d. or 8½d.†
	Rushden ... ..	3 Sept.	Workpeople employed in the retail bespoke tailoring trade.	Minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts to be those applicable to Area C in the Central Midland district in lieu of Area D as previously fixed, resulting in the case of adult workers in increases in minimum time and piecework basis time rates of 1d. or 1½d. per hour for males and of ½d. or 1d. per hour for females. Minimum time and piecework basis time rates respectively after change: male workers, 11d. to 1s. 3½d.; 1s. 1d. to 1s. 5d.; female workers, 7d. or 9d.; 8d. or 10d.†
	Croydon ... ..	3 Sept.	Workpeople employed in the retail bespoke tailoring trade.	Minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts to be those applicable to Area B in the London district in lieu of Area A (2) as previously fixed, resulting in the case of adult workers in a reduction of ¼d. per hour in the minimum time and piecework basis time rates (except for lowest rated male workers, whose time rates remained unchanged) leaving minimum time and piecework basis time rates respectively:—male workers, 10d. to 1s. 5d.; 1s. 2½d. to 1s. 6½d.; female workers, 7d. or 9d.; 8d. or 10d.†
Boot and Shoe Repairing.	Northern Ireland (excluding Belfast and Londonderry).	3 Sept.	Workpeople employed in the boot and shoe repairing trade:— Timeworkers:— Male workers (other than learners).	Decreases in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Act (Northern Ireland) 1923, of from 1s. 6d. to 4s. per week. Minimum rates after change: 14s. at 15 years, increasing each year to 25s. at 18 and to 53s. at 21 and over.†
			Male learners ... ..	Decreases in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Act (Northern Ireland), 1923, of from 6d. to 2s. per week. Minimum rates after change: 5s. during 1st year, increasing to 20s. during 4th year.†
			Pieceworkers ... ..	Decreases in the minimum piecework basis time rates fixed under the Trade Boards Act (Northern Ireland), 1923, of 1d. per hour for male workers (1s. 3d. to 1s. 2d.), and of ½d. per hour for female workers (10½d. to 9½d.), and new scale of general minimum piece rates fixed for making and repairing, resulting in a decrease of approximately 1½ per cent.†
Waterworks Undertakings.	London ... ..	28 July†	Engineering mechanics (fitters, turners, boiler-makers, and smiths), employed by Metropolitan Water Board.	Increase of 1½d. per hour to those on maintenance and repair work, and of 1d. per hour to those on less important work. Rates after change: 54s. 4½d. or 52s. 5d. per week, plus bonus of 21s. 6½d.
Local Government (Non-Trading Services).	Chester - le - Street Rural District.	1st pay in Sept.	Manual workers ... ..	Cost-of-living bonus increased§ from 64 to 65 per cent., making, with special 5 per cent. on bonus rates, a total of 70 per cent. above basis rates. Rates after change: roadmen—2nd class 50s. 2d.; 3rd class, 45s. 11d.; labourers, 54s. 8d.; scavengers 55s. 3d.
Co-operative Societies.	Certain Societies in Northumberland, Durham, Cumberland, North Riding of Yorkshire and part of Westmorland.¶	Pay day in week ending 8 Sept.	Employees of Co-operative Societies (distributive).	Temporary reduction of 5 per cent. on rates operative from October, 1922. Minimum rates after change: Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7, districts:—men—skilled, 52s. 3d. at 21 increasing to 58s. at 24; unskilled, 50s. 5d. at 21 increasing to 56s. 1d. at 24; women (skilled), 31s. 10d. No. 3 district:—men—skilled, 49s. 5d. at 21 increasing to 55s. 2d. at 24; unskilled, 49s. 5d., women (skilled), 30s. 9d.

\* Gloucestershire (except Bristol), Herefordshire Northamptonshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire.

† See page 346 of September GAZETTE.

‡ The change took effect from the date shown under the terms of a Resolution passed by the Board on 28th September.

§ Under cost-of-living sliding scale arrangements.

¶ The change took effect under an award of the National Conciliation Board for the Co-operative Service. It was provided that the reduction should not apply to employees of the following Societies: Carlisle, Newcastle, Jarrow, Gateshead, Darlington, Hartlepool, Blyth, Middlesbrough, Stockton, Ryhope, Station Town, North Shields Cleator Moor, Tweedside, Walker and Blaydon; nor to those of any Society which has already had a reduction granted by the Joint Wages Council. It has been reported that the following Societies have voluntarily refrained from operating the reduction: Hetton Downs, Bear Park, Northallerton, Burnopfield, Birtley, Workington Beehive, Murton Colliery, Annfield Plain, Barnard Castle, Windy Nook, Egremont, Brandon and Byeshottles, Sherburn Hill, Craghead, East Cleveland and Maryport.

CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN OCTOBER, 1928.

The following groups of workpeople are among those affected by changes in wages already reported as having been arranged to take effect in October:—*Increase.*—Blastfurnace workers in the Cleveland district; female workers employed in the cement making trade (under a Trade Board Order). *Decreases.*—Iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen in the Midlands; workpeople employed in the sawmilling industry and packing case makers at Liverpool; labourers in timber yards at Bristol Channel ports; road transport workers at Liverpool.

TRADE DISPUTES IN SEPTEMBER.\*

*Number, Magnitude and Duration.*—The number of disputes involving a stoppage of work, reported to the Department as beginning in September in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 20, as compared with 12 in the previous month and 18 in September, 1927. The total number of workpeople involved in these disputes (including those thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes) was approximately 7,300. In addition, about 3,500 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 11 disputes which began before September and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 31, involving about 10,800 workpeople, and resulting in a loss during September of about 56,000 working days. The following Table analyses the disputes in progress in September in Great Britain and Northern Ireland:—

Groups of Industries.	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 ...	3	6	9	9,800	50,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ...	2	2	4	300	1,000
Building, Public Works Contracting, etc. ...	3	1	4	200	2,000
Other Industries ...	3	11	14	500	5,000
<b>Total, Sept., 1928 ...</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>10,800</b>	<b>56,000</b>
<b>Total, August, 1928 ...</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>5,400</b>	<b>23,000</b>
<b>Total, Sept., 1927 ...</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>15,200</b>	<b>84,000</b>

*Causes.*—Of the 20 disputes beginning in September, 12, directly involving 4,100 workpeople, arose on questions respecting wages; 6, directly involving 1,800 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; and 2, directly involving 40 workpeople, on other questions.

*Results.*—Settlements were effected in the case of 18 new disputes, directly involving 5,900 workpeople, and 4 old disputes, directly involving 2,200 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 3, directly involving 2,000 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 9, directly involving 3,600 workpeople, in favour of the employers; and 10, directly involving 2,500 workpeople, were compromised.

TOTALS FOR THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1927 AND 1928.†

Groups of Industries.	January to September, 1927.			January to September, 1928.		
	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.
Coal Mining ...	76	59,400	622,000	75	74,200	378,000
Other Mining and Quarrying ...	3	100	6,000	3	300	9,000
Bricks, Pottery, Glass, etc. ...	4	100	8,000	9	600	20,000
Engineering ...	5	2,100	5,000	9	600	4,000
Shipbuilding ...	17	5,700	24,000	19	3,600	14,000
Other Metal ...	32	4,800	34,000	12	2,700	37,000
Textile ...	19	3,700	21,000	21	22,500	677,000
Clothing ...	8	5,400	179,000	6	200	1,000
Woodworking and Furniture ...	12	400	7,000	19	500	8,000
Building, Public Works Contracting, etc. ...	28	7,700	123,000	33	2,800	80,000
Transport ...	15	2,000	7,000	12	1,500	10,000
Commerce, Distribution and Finance ...	1	100	†	5	300	8,000
Other ...	6	300	5,000	9	500	8,000
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>91,800</b>	<b>1,041,000</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>110,300</b>	<b>1,254,000</b>

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING SEPTEMBER, 1928.

Occupations and Locality.	Approximate Number of Workpeople involved.		Date when Dispute		Cause or Object.	Result.
	Directly.	Indirectly.‡	Began.	Ended.		
COLLIERY WORKPEOPLE:— Pontefract (near) ... ..	1,950	...	1928. 23 Aug.	1928. 1 Sept.	Against proposed reduction in wages, following failure to agree as to deductions for dirt filled with coal.	Temporary agreement reached as to deductions for dirt, pending enquiry into the question by workers' representatives.
Hamilton, Motherwell and other districts of Lanarkshire.	3,000	...	17 Sept.	19 Sept.	Alleged breach of agreement by employers through non-payment of overtime rates to ordinary coal miners employed on Saturday afternoons and Sundays.	Work resumed on employers' terms.

PRICES AND WAGES IN THE IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRIES.

The following Table shows the results of recent ascertainties of selling-prices of pig iron and of manufactured iron and steel:—

Product and District.	Price according to last Audit.¶		Inc. (+) or Dec. (–) of last Audit   on	
	Period covered by last Audit.	Average selling price per ton.	Previous Audit.	A year ago.
Pig Iron:	1928.	s. d.	– s. d.	– s. d.
Cleveland (No. 3) ...	Apr.–June	62 11½	– 0 0½	– 11 7
	July–Sept.	63 2	+ 0 2½	– 4 0½
Cumberland ...	May–June	68 7½	– 1 10½	– 12 5½
(Hematite mixed numbers.)	July–Aug.	68 3	– 0 4½	– 8 7½
Lincolnshire ...	Jan.–Mar.	57 10½	– 2 2½	– 15 7½
	Apr.–June	58 11	+ 1 0½	– 12 6½
Nottinghamshire ...	Apr.–June	62 3½	– 2 5½	– 8 8½
North Staffordshire ...	Apr.–June	66 3½	– 0 6½	– 9 5½
Northamptonshire ...	Apr.–June	55 9½	– 0 8½	– 12 9½
West of Scotland ...	Apr.–June	72 2	+ 0 1	– 10 10
Manufactured Iron:				
North of England ...	May–June	181 9½	+ 0 6	– 32 0
(Bars and angles.)				
West of Scotland ...	May–June	209 4½	– 7 6	– 20 11½
(Rounds, flats, tees, angles, hoops and rods.)				
Steel:				
South-West Wales... (Steel tin bars.)	Apr.–June	112 3	+ 0 9	– 10 7½
South Wales and Monmouthshire ... (Steel rails and steel tin bars.)	Mar.–May	125 2½	– 1 9½	– 11 7
	June–Aug.	120 4½	– 4 9½	– 17 0

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

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

‡ Less than 500 working days. § I.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred but not themselves parties to the disputes.

¶ Stated to the nearest farthing.











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