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

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT continued to decline in August. Among workpeople insured against unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed in all industries taken together was 17.5 at 25th August, 1930, as compared with 17.1 at 21st July, 1930, and 9.9 at 26th August, 1929. For males alone the percentage at 25th August, 1930, was 17.7, and for females 17.2. At 21st July, 1930, the corresponding percentages were 17.4 and 16.5.

Insured Persons in Work in Great Britain.—It is estimated that on 25th August, 1930, there were approximately 9,548,600 insured persons aged 16 to 64 in work in Great Britain. This was 36,100 less than a month before, and 726,100 less than a year before.

Numbers Unemployed (excluding persons normally in casual employment).—At 25th August, 1930, there were 1,333,850 persons on the Registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain who were out of a situation. This was 107,446 more than a month before and 533,314 more than a year before. The total on 25th August, 1930, included 961,962 men, 47,990 boys, 282,713 women, and 41,185 girls. It was made up approximately of 875,700 insured persons who had paid at least 30 contributions during the preceding two years and therefore satisfied the full contributions condition for the receipt of unemployment benefit; 367,100 insured persons who had paid less than 30 contributions during the preceding two years; and 91,050 uninsured persons. The claimants for benefit, numbering 1,197,813, included 216,596 men, 5,365 boys, 45,131 women, and 2,433 girls who had been on the Register for less than one month.

Numbers Temporarily Stopped.—At 25th August, 1930, there were registered as unemployed in Great Britain 381,650 men, 11,992 boys, 203,092 women, and 12,575 girls who were on short time or were otherwise suspended from work on the definite understanding that they were shortly to return to their former employment. The total of 609,309 was 43,142 less than a month before, but 329,607 more than a year before.

Numbers Unemployed normally in Casual Employment.—At 25th August, 1930, there were on the Registers in Great Britain 93,794 men, 221 boys, 2,506 women, and 22 girls who normally seek a livelihood by means of jobs of short duration: these are mainly employed in dock, harbour, river and canal service. The total of 96,543 was 2,668 more than a month before, and 20,978 more than a year before.

Industries in which Principal Variations occurred.—There was a further increase in the numbers unemployed in iron and steel manufacture, engineering, motor and other vehicle manufacture, shipbuilding, most of the metal trades, the textile industries with the exception of jute manufacture, the clothing trades (except boot and shoe manufacture), building and public works contracting, and dock, harbour, river and canal service.

On the other hand there was a substantial improvement in jute manufacture, and some improvement in cocoa, chocolate and sugar confectionery. In the coal-mining industry an increase in the numbers wholly unemployed was more than counterbalanced by a great reduction in the numbers temporarily stopped.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Ministry of Labour, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation during August resulted in a net increase of £2,250 in the weekly full-time wages of 48,000 workpeople, and in a net decrease of £3,450 in those of 35,000 workpeople.

The principal bodies of workpeople whose wages were increased were tinsmiths in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and brush and broom makers, the latter of whom were affected by increases in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts. Among those whose wages were reduced were paper makers in various districts, most classes of silk workers at Leek, and iron miners and blastfurnace workers in North Lincolnshire.

During the eight completed months of 1930 the changes reported to the Department, in the industries for which statistics have been compiled, have resulted in net increases of £57,300 in the weekly full-time wages of 756,000 workpeople, and in net decreases of £111,400 in those of 1,031,000 workpeople. In the corresponding period of 1929 there were net increases of £7,000 in the weekly wages of 94,000 workpeople, and net decreases of £36,450 in those of 491,000 workpeople.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st September the average level of retail prices of the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and miscellaneous items) was the same as a month earlier, viz. 57 per cent. above that of July, 1914; the figure for food alone, 44 per cent. above pre-war, was also unchanged. The corresponding percentages a year ago were 64 and 54 respectively.

These statistics are designed to indicate the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families. Accordingly, the changes in the prices of the various articles included are combined in proportions corresponding with the relative importance of those items in pre-war working-class family expenditure, and no allowance is 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 August was 35. In addition, 10 disputes which began before August were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in August (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 8,200, and the aggregate duration of all disputes during August was about 49,000 working days.

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.

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT during August showed an improvement as compared with a month before, but remained bad on the whole.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 23.6 at 25th August, 1930, as compared with 28.2 at 21st July, 1930, and 16.2 at 26th August, 1929.

The total number of wage earners on the colliery books at 23rd August, 1930, showed a decrease of 0.8 per cent. as compared with 26th July, 1930, and of 4.2 per cent. as compared with 24th August, 1929.

The average number of days worked per week in the fortnight ended 23rd August, 1930, was 4.80, an increase of 0.72 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 26th July, 1930, but a decrease of 0.25 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 24th August, 1929.

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 23rd August, 1930, as shown by returns obtained by the Mines Department.

Table with columns for Districts, Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books (23rd August, 1930), Average Number of Days worked per week by the Mines (23rd August, 1930), and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before and Year before.

The average number of coal-winding days lost in Great Britain during the fortnight ended 23rd August, 1930, was 0.99 of a day per week, of which 0.94 of a day was due to want of trade and transport difficulties.

The output of coal in Great Britain for the four weeks ended 23rd August, 1930, was reported to the Mines Department as 16,935,900 tons, as compared with 16,580,800 tons in the four weeks ended 26th July, 1930, and 18,390,800 tons in the four weeks ended 24th August, 1929.

* The figures in this and the following article show the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short time) in which coal, iron, etc., were got from the mines included in the returns.

† Including Cannock Chase.

24th August, 1929. The output for each of the three periods was affected by holidays.

The numbers and percentages unemployed among insured workpeople in the respective areas at 25th August, 1930, and the increases or decreases as compared with 21st July, 1930, and 26th August, 1929, are shown in the following Table:—

Table showing Insured Persons Recorded as Unemployed at 25th August, 1930, categorized by Area, Numbers, Percentages, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Total percentages as compared with a Month before and Year before.

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 5,726,100 tons in August, 1930, as compared with 6,332,200 tons in July, 1930, and with 6,891,800 tons in August, 1929.

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

IRON MINING.

EMPLOYMENT during August showed little change and remained bad on the whole.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, in the iron ore and ironstone mining industry, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 22.5 at 25th August, 1930, as compared with 21.4 at 21st July, 1930, and 4.9 at 26th August, 1929.

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

Table showing Number of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns and Average No. of Days worked per week by the Mines, categorized by Districts and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before and Year before.

SHALE MINING.

The number of workpeople employed at the West Lothian mines during the fortnight ended 23rd August, 1930, by firms making returns was 2,531, showing a decrease of 2.8 per cent. as compared with July, 1930, but an increase of 1.9 per cent. as compared with 24th August, 1929.

August, 1929. The average number of days* worked per week by the mines making returns was 6.00 in August, 1930, as compared with 5.81 in July, 1930, and 5.94 in August, 1929.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during August continued to decline and was bad.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 30.5 at 25th August, 1930, as compared with 28.3 at 21st July, 1930, and with 10.4 at 26th August, 1929.

Returns received from 76 firms, employing 14,431 workpeople, at the end of August, showed a decrease of 2.4 per cent. compared with July, and a decrease of 31.1 per cent. compared with August, 1929.

According to returns received by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, 104 furnaces were in operation at the end of August, compared with 105 at the end of July, and 170 at the end of August, 1929.

The following Table shows the number of furnaces in operation at the end of August, 1930, July, 1930, and August, 1929:—

Table showing Number of Furnaces in Blast, categorized by Districts, Total Number of Furnaces, Number of Furnaces in Blast (Aug. 1930, July 1930, Aug. 1929), and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before and Year before.

The production of pig iron in August amounted to 416,700 tons, compared with 486,100 tons in July, and 682,000 tons in August, 1929.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET INDUSTRIES.

In the tinplate industry employment continued to be affected by stoppages under arrangements for the control of output; in the week ended 30th August, 1930, 371 tinplate mills were in operation at works for which information is available, as compared with 387 in the week ended 26th July, 1930, and with 400 in the week ended 31st August, 1929.

In steel sheet manufacture employment showed a decline, and was bad. In the week ended 30th August, 1930, 66 mills were in operation, as compared with 79 in the week ended 26th July, 1930, and with 125 in the week ended 31st August, 1929.

The following Table shows the number of mills in operation at works covered by the returns:—

Table showing Number of Works Open and Number of Mills in Operation, categorized by Works, Week ended 30th Aug., 1930, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before and Year before.

* See footnote * on previous page.

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in August, 1930, amounted to 58,981 tons, or 33,500 tons less than in July, 1930, and 41,207 tons less than in August, 1929.

IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE.

EMPLOYMENT during August continued to decline and was bad. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, as indicated by the number of unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 37.2 at 25th August, 1930, as compared with 33.0 at 21st July, 1930, and 20.0 at 26th August, 1929.

According to returns received from firms employing 47,913 workpeople in the week ended 23rd August, 1930, the volume of employment in that week (as indicated by the number of workpeople employed, combined with the number of shifts* during which work was carried on in each department) decreased by 6.9 per cent. as compared with July, 1930, and by 21.7 as compared with August, 1929.

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

Table showing No. of Workpeople employed by Firms making returns and Aggregate number of Shifts, categorized by Departments and Districts, Week ended 23rd Aug., 1930, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before and Year before.

The production of steel ingots and castings, as shown in returns received by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 451,300 tons in August, 1930, as compared with 621,400 tons in July, 1930, and 753,300 tons in August, 1929.

SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING.

EMPLOYMENT remained very bad during August, and showed a decline in nearly all districts. With one exception, every division showed at least 20 per cent. unemployed; while in Wales the percentage rose to 62.7, and in the two principal districts (Scotland and the North-East Coast), the percentage was between 35 and 40 per cent.

Compared with a year ago, there was a heavy decline in employment, nearly all districts being affected. In Northern Ireland, where the figures showed an improvement, employment a year ago was affected by a dispute.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, at 25th August, 1930, and the increase or decrease as compared with 21st July, 1930, and 26th August, 1929:—

* The figures relate to the number of shifts during which the works were in operation, taken in conjunction with the number of men employed. No account is taken of time lost by individuals owing to absenteeism, etc., and it is not intended to imply that the number of "shifts" shown were actually worked by all the men employed.

† Most of the iron and steel works in Scotland were closed on account of holidays in the week ended 26th July, 1930. For the week ended 23rd August, 1930, the number of workpeople in Scottish works covered by the returns received was 11,229 and the aggregate number of shifts 57,997, as compared with 12,273 workpeople and 67,945 shifts in August, 1929.

NUMBERS INSURED AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AGED 16-64 INCLUSIVE, AT JULY, 1929, and PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 25TH AUGUST, 1930. Includes sub-sections for GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND and GREAT BRITAIN ONLY.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AGED 16-64 INCLUSIVE, AT JULY, 1929, and PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT 25TH AUGUST, 1930. Includes sub-sections for WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals), TEMPORARY STOPPAGES, and TOTAL. Also includes columns for INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH 21ST JULY, 1930, 26TH AUG. 1929, 20TH AUG. 1928, and GREAT BRITAIN ONLY PERCENTAGES AT 25TH AUG. 1930.

NUMBERS OF INSURED WORKPEOPLE UNEMPLOYED.

PROPORTIONS IN VARIOUS INDUSTRY GROUPS. In the following Table the numbers of insured workpeople recorded as unemployed in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 25th August, 1930, are analysed so as to show the proportion of the total unemployed classified as belonging to various industry groups :-

Table with columns: Industry Group, Males, Females, and percentage of total unemployed. Lists various industry groups like Fishing, Mining, Non-Metalliferous Mining, etc.

PRINCIPAL VARIATIONS DURING AUGUST IN NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED.

The following Table indicates for Great Britain and Northern Ireland the industries in which the numbers of insured persons recorded as unemployed at 25th August, 1930, differed from the figures for 21st July, 1930, to the extent of 1,500 or more :-

Table with columns: Industry, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers recorded as Unemployed at 25th August, 1930, as compared with 21st July, 1930, and Total. Lists industries like Coal Mining, Jute, Cocoa, etc.

JUVENILE UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS.

JUVENILES AGED 14 AND UNDER 18 ON THE REGISTER AT 25TH AUGUST, 1930.

Table with columns for Division, Boys (Insured, Uninsured, Total), and Girls (Insured, Uninsured, Total). Rows include London, South-Eastern, South-Western, Midlands, North-Eastern, North-Western, Scotland, Wales, and Great Britain.

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

Table showing percentage rates of unemployment among insured juveniles aged 16 and 17, broken down by Division and sex.

JUVENILES PLACED IN EMPLOYMENT. FOUR WEEKS ENDED 4TH AUGUST, 1930.

Table showing juveniles placed in employment, four weeks ended 4th August 1930, by Division and sex.

JUVENILES IN ATTENDANCE AT JUNIOR INSTRUCTION CENTRES AND CLASSES. FOUR WEEKS ENDED 27TH AUGUST, 1930.

Table showing juveniles in attendance at junior instruction centres and classes, four weeks ended 27th August 1930, by Division and sex.

INSURED PERSONS ON THE REGISTERS OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.

POSITION UNDER FIRST STATUTORY CONDITION.

The following Table gives an analysis of the numbers of insured persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges at 25th August, 1930, relative to their position with regard to the First Statutory Condition for the receipt of unemployment benefit...

* Based on the number of Juvenile Unemployment Books lodged at Local Offices, which exceed the numbers of insured juveniles on the registers. † In the case of S.W. and Scotland Divisions, all Centres and Classes were closed for holidays during three and two weeks respectively of this period. In other Divisions, Centres and Classes were not open for the full period owing to holidays. ‡ Girls over 15 years of age are also admitted to certain Home Training Centres administered by the Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment.

portion of such cases in which the condition was satisfied was the same as among those in which the position had been determined, it may be estimated that of this number 69,170 will have satisfied the condition and 15,709 will have failed to satisfy it.

The persons classified in the Table as "insured non-claimants" consist, in the case of adults, almost entirely of individuals who have failed to satisfy not only the first statutory condition, but also the "transitional" conditions.

Numbers.

Table showing numbers of claimants categorized by position with regard to First Statutory Condition, Wholly unemployed, Temporarily stopped, and Insured non-claimants, broken down by sex and condition.

Percentages.

Table showing percentages of claimants categorized by position with regard to First Statutory Condition, Wholly unemployed, Temporarily stopped, and Insured non-claimants, broken down by sex and condition.

WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED BENEFIT CLAIMANTS.

ANALYSIS ACCORDING TO LENGTH OF TIME ON THE REGISTER.

The following Tables give an analysis of the claimants for unemployment benefit who were out of a situation and were on the registers of Employment Exchanges at 25th August, 1930, according to the length of time they had been on the Register since they last became unemployed.

Table showing analysis of wholly unemployed benefit claimants according to length of time on the register, broken down by sex and duration.

Table showing percentage of claimants who had been on the Register for various durations, broken down by sex and age group.

DETERMINATION OF CLAIMS TO UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT IN GREAT BRITAIN.

15TH JULY TO 11TH AUGUST, 1930.

The following Table gives for the period from 15th July to 11th August, 1930, inclusive, the number of claims to benefit made at local offices in Great Britain, the average number of claims current during that period, an analysis of the decisions of Courts of Referees and of the Umpire, the number of cases disallowed by Insurance Officers under the trade dispute disqualification, and of the appeals against such disallowances dealt with by Courts of Referees.

A.—Number of Claims.

Table showing number of claims, broken down by sex and category: Fresh and renewal claims made, Average number of claims current.

B.—Decisions of Courts of Referees.

Table showing decisions of Courts of Referees, categorized by ground on which referred, and further broken down by sex and decision type.

C.—Trade Dispute* Cases.

Table showing trade dispute cases, categorized by type of case and sex.

D.—Decisions by Umpire.*

Table showing decisions by Umpire, categorized by type of case and sex.

CUMULATIVE FIGURES, 13TH MARCH TO 11TH AUGUST, 1930.

Table showing cumulative figures for trade dispute cases and decisions by Umpire, from 13th March to 11th August 1930.

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.

The following Table shows approximately the receipts and payments and the liabilities of the Fund:—

Table showing receipts and payments of the Unemployment Fund, broken down by category and time period.

A detailed account of the Fund is presented to Parliament annually. (See House of Commons Paper No. 55 of 1929 for the period ended 31st March, 1929.)

* The decisions of Courts of Referees, and of the Umpire, on trade dispute disallowances refer largely to test cases. The total number of individuals affected by such decisions may be considerably in excess of the figures shown in the Table.

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

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

Table showing average increases: All Items included ... 57%, Food only ... 44%

FOOD.

At 1st September the average level of the retail prices of food was about the same as a month earlier, reductions averaging 1d. per 7 lbs. in the prices of potatoes being counterbalanced by an increase of nearly 1d. each in the average price of eggs and advances in the price of milk in London and a number of other towns.

The average increase over the level of July, 1914, in the retail prices (in Great Britain and Northern Ireland) of the articles of food included in these statistics was 44 per cent. at both 1st September and 1st August, 1930, as compared with 54 per cent. at 31st August, 1929.

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

Table comparing retail prices of various food items (Beef, Mutton, Flour, etc.) across different dates (July 1914, Aug 1930, Sept 1930) with percentage changes.

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

Table showing percentage comparison of retail prices for various food items across different dates and population sizes.

* If this kind is seldom dealt with in a locality, the returns quote the price of another kind locally representative.
† The description of cheese specified for quotation is Canadian or American, but where such cheese is seldom sold in a locality the returns quote the price of another kind locally representative.

RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT.

As regards rents, inquiries which have been made into the changes which have taken effect under the Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Acts indicate that the average increase in the controlled rents (including rates) of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 1st September, was approximately 49 per cent. When decontrolled rents are also included, the combined average increase in working-class rents since July, 1914, is approximately 53 per cent. This latter figure has been utilised in calculating the final percentage increase for all the items included in these statistics.

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

In the fuel and light group the prices of coal at 1st September averaged between 75 and 80 per cent. above the level of July, 1914. The average price of gas was between 45 and 50 per cent. above the pre-war level. For the fuel and light group as a whole (including coal, gas, oil, candles and matches) the average increase at 1st September, as compared with July, 1914, was about 70 per cent.

ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance in pre-war working-class family expenditure, allowance being also made for the increase in the prices of soap, soda, domestic ironmongery, brushware and pottery, tobacco, fares and newspapers (averaging about 75 per cent.), the resultant general average increase for 1st September, 1930, is, approximately 57 per cent.* over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 57 per cent. at 1st August, 1930, and 64 per cent. at 31st August, 1929.

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

SUMMARY TABLE: 1920 to 1930.

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

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

Summary table showing average percentage increase for all items from January 1920 to December 1930.

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 1 per cent. less.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—While the percentages given in the following Summary Tables are derived from the most authoritative sources of statistical information, certain differences in the nature and scope of the data used, in the methods of combining such data and in the periods for which the rise is measured, suggest the need for caution in drawing conclusions from a comparison between the figures for any two countries or cities. It is also to be observed that in every case the percentage calculation is based on the assumption that the standard of living is identical at the various periods compared.]

I.—FOOD.

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

Table showing percentage increase in retail food prices for various countries (Great Britain, Foreign Countries, British Dominions & C.) compared with July 1914.

II.—ALL ITEMS.

PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES IN THE COST OF FOOD, TOGETHER WITH (SO FAR AS POSSIBLE) HOUSE-RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT, AND OTHER HOUSEHOLD REQUIREMENTS, AS COMPARED WITH JULY, 1914.*

Table showing percentage increase in all items for various countries (Great Britain, Foreign Countries, British Dominions & C.) compared with July 1914.

* Exceptions to this are: France (other towns), August, 1914; Rome and Milan, January to June, 1914; Switzerland and Luxembourg, June, 1914; Spain, South Africa, France (Paris, all items), Poland, 1914; Germany, average, 1913-1914; Amsterdam, 1911-1913; Belgium, April, 1914; Italy (food), United States (all items), Canada, 1913; Australia (all items), November, 1914.

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

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

THE total number of cases* of poisoning, anthrax, and epitheliomatous and chrome ulceration in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported during August, 1930, under the Factory and Workshop Act, or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, was 36. Eight deaths* were reported during the month, five due to lead poisoning and three due to epitheliomatous ulceration.

Table showing cases of poisoning, anthrax, and epitheliomatous ulceration by occupation (Smelting of Metals, Plumbing, etc.)

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

THE number of workpeople, other than seamen, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, reported during August, 1930, as killed in the course of their employment was 173, as compared with 185 in the previous month and with 184† in August, 1929. Fatal accidents to seamen reported in August, 1930, numbered 39, as compared with 32 in the previous month and with 38 in August, 1929.

Table showing fatal industrial accidents by sector: Railway Service, Factories and Workshops, Mines, Quarries, and Seamen.

* Cases include all attacks reported during the month, and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding 12 months. Deaths include all fatal cases reported during the month whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not.
† Of the two persons affected in the pottery industry one was a female.
‡ The figure previously published for August, 1929, has been revised.

—Conduits—Laying: Bournemouth, New Milton and Highcliffe (Hants): W. Dobson (Edinburgh), Ltd., Edinburgh; Prescott, Runcorn and Newton-le-Willows (Lancs): W. Dobson (Edinburgh), Ltd., Edinburgh; Liverpool, Heswall (Cheshire) and Upton Cheshire: W. Dobson (Edinburgh), Ltd., Edinburgh; Hurst (Berks), Watlington (Oxon), etc.: W. Dobson (Edinburgh), Ltd., Edinburgh; Lindfield and Haywards Heath—East Grinstead (Sussex): Edinborough; Bridgwater Bros., Ashted, Surrey; East Horsley (Surrey): Bridgwater Bros., Ashted, Surrey; Fairfield—Sanderstead and Upper Warringham: Bridgwater Bros., Ashted, Surrey; Downland (Surrey) Telephone Exchange Area (Scheme 2): Bridgwater Bros., Ashted, Surrey; Tottington (Lancs): Thornleys (Bolton), Ltd., Bolton; Southbourne (Hants): Whittaker Ellis, Ltd., London, S.W.; Shaftesbury (Dorset): Wort & Way, Salisbury; Sunderland (North Side): The Norwest Construction Co., Ltd., Litherland, Liverpool; Wembley Auto Exchange Area West: The Norwest Construction Co., Ltd., Litherland, Liverpool; Glasgow—Ayr: The Norwest Construction Co., Ltd., Litherland, Liverpool; Norton-on-Tees: The Norwest Construction Co., Ltd., Litherland, Liverpool; Caterham (Surrey) and Orpington (Kent): C.D.L. Construction Co., Ltd., Egham, Surrey; Battersea—Earlsfield: J. Cochrane & Sons, Ltd., London, S.W.; Nottingham Central (Schemes 6 and 7): J. F. Hodge, Selly Oak, Birmingham; Glasgow—Ayr—Troon: Crawford & Co., Eskbank, Midlothian; Tilehurst (Berkshire): Hodge Bros. (Contractors), Ltd., Northfield, Birmingham; Rainham (New Road), Essex: Hodge Bros. (Contractors), Ltd., Northfield, Birmingham; Battersea, etc.: Hodge Bros. (Contractors), Ltd., Northfield, Birmingham; Hammersmith, etc.: O. C. Summers, London, N.; Addingham: T. P. Leach & Sons, Ltd., Gillingham, Bradford; Colchester: May Gurney & Co., Ltd., Trowse, Norwich; Kendal—Barrow-in-Furness (Sections I, II, III, IV, V): W. P. & P. G. Hayes, Ltd., Grappenhall, Warrington; Sheffield—Beauchief: W. P. & P. G. Hayes, Ltd., Grappenhall, Warrington; Spondon—Ibstock—Market Bosworth: W. P. & P. G. Hayes, Ltd., Grappenhall, Warrington.—**Filters for Ventilating Plant:** Various Automatic Exchanges: The Visco Engineering Co., Ltd., London, S.W.—**Loading Coils and Terminations:** Liverpool—Colwyn Bay Cable: British Insulated Cables, Ltd., London, W.C.—**Radio Station—Two Low Power Telephone Transmitting Equipments:** Rugby: Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Co., Ltd., London, W.C.—**Telephone Exchange Equipment:** Western Park (Leicester): Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Hove (Brighton): Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E.; Evington (Leicester): Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. Sub-Contractors: The English Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C., for Charging Machine. Crompton-Parkinson, Ltd., Chelmsford, for Ringing Machines. The Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., Clifton Junction, near Manchester, for Batteries. Byron (South Harrow): Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, W.C. Sub-Contractors: The Electric Construction Co., Ltd., London, W.C., for Motor Generators. Crompton-Parkinson, Ltd., Chelmsford, for Ringing Machines. The Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., Clifton Junction, near Manchester, for Batteries. Stockport (Manchester): Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, W.C. Sub-Contractors: The Electric Construction Co., Ltd., London, W.C., for Charging Machines. Crompton-Parkinson, Ltd., Chelmsford, for Ringing Machines. The Tudor Accumulator Co., Ltd., London, W.C., for Batteries. Holborn (Tandem): Automatic Telephone Manufacturing Co., Ltd., London, W.C.; Museum: Automatic Telephone Manufacturing Co., Ltd., London, W.C.; Downland: Automatic Telephone Manufacturing Co., Ltd., London, W.C. Sub-Contractors: The Electric Construction Co., Ltd., London, W.C., for Motor Generators and Ringing Machines. The Alton Battery Co., Ltd., Alton, Hants, for Batteries.

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