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Summary of the Monthly Statistics

Full details on
pages

Employment

The estimated total number in civil employment in Great Britain in mid-February was 24,046,000. This was 1,000 more than in January. Changes included increases in manufacturing industries, construction, financial, professional and scientific services and miscellaneous services excluding catering and hotels. The largest decrease was in the distributive trades. 153-156

Unemployment

There were 415,000 persons registered as wholly unemployed in Great Britain on 16th March and 10,000 registered as temporarily stopped from work; a total of 425,000 (1.9 per cent. of all employees). Between 10th February and 16th March unemployment fell by 39,000. There were decreases in most industries and services. The number unemployed for more than eight weeks was 251,000—60 per cent. of the wholly unemployed. Excluding school-leavers the numbers wholly unemployed fell by 38,000; the normal monthly seasonal decrease is about 19,000. 157-159

Unfilled Vacancies

There were 297,000 unfilled vacancies on 11th March, 47,000 more than on 5th February. 160

Overtime and Short-time

In the week ended 15th February the estimated number of operatives working overtime in the manufacturing industries was 1,971,000 and the estimated number on short-time was 26,000. 155

Rates of Wages

The indices of weekly rates of wages and of hourly rates of wages at 31st March (January 1956 = 100) were, respectively, 138.6 and 146.2, compared with 138.2 and 145.7 at 29th February. 168-177

Retail Prices

The retail prices index at 17th March (January 1962 = 100) was 105.2, compared with 104.8 at 18th February. The index for the food group was 105.8, compared with 105.4 the previous month. 178

Stoppages of Work

About 59,600 workers were involved in March in stoppages of work due to industrial disputes: they lost about 170,000 working days. 179

Table 7.—Bricks, pottery, glass, cement, etc.

Table with 8 columns: (1) Description, (2) Males, (3) Females Full-time, (4) Females Part-time, (5) Total males and females, (6) Apprentices, (7) Others aged 21 and under being trained Males, (8) Others aged 21 and under being trained Females. Rows include Part A (Administrative, Technical and Clerical Workers), Part B (Skilled Operatives including Persons Being Trained), and Part C (Other Employees).

Table 8.—Timber, furniture, etc.

Table with 8 columns: (1) Description, (2) Males, (3) Females Full-time, (4) Females Part-time, (5) Total males and females, (6) Apprentices, (7) Others aged 21 and under being trained Males, (8) Others aged 21 and under being trained Females. Rows include Part A (Administrative, Technical and Clerical Workers), Part B (Skilled Operatives including Persons Being Trained), and Part C (Other Employees).

Table 9.—Paper, printing and publishing

Table with 8 columns: (1) Description, (2) Males, (3) Females Full-time, (4) Females Part-time, (5) Total males and females, (6) Apprentices, (7) Others aged 21 and under being trained Males, (8) Others aged 21 and under being trained Females. Rows include Part A (Administrative, Technical and Clerical Workers), Part B (Skilled Operatives including Persons Being Trained), and Part C (Other Employees).

Table 10.—Other manufacturing industries

Table with 8 columns: (1) Description, (2) Males, (3) Females Full-time, (4) Females Part-time, (5) Total males and females, (6) Apprentices, (7) Others aged 21 and under being trained Males, (8) Others aged 21 and under being trained Females. Rows include Part A (Administrative, Technical and Clerical Workers), Part B (Skilled Operatives including Persons Being Trained), and Part C (Other Employees).

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH IN SOUTH EAST ENGLAND

The Government's conclusions on the recent "South East Study",* prepared by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in consultation with other Departments, are set out in a Command Paper, published concurrently, entitled "South East England".†

The Command Paper outlines the findings concerning expected population growth and the broad strategy of the proposals contained in the comprehensive examination which the Study provides of the housing and land use problems of Greater London and the South East during the period up to 1981. It concludes that a radical change in the pattern of development is required to secure a better distribution of the inevitable growth and to reduce the dominance of London, and says that in the Government's view this can best be achieved if some of the population and employment increases which would otherwise take place in London and the congested metropolitan region are brought about in alternative centres of growth. Accordingly, the need for new and expanded towns to accommodate 1-1½ million people in ways which would provide effective relief for the pressures on London is accepted, and the Paper goes on to discuss the pattern of development in terms of land allocations, long term building programmes, planned expansion schemes, the maintenance of the green belt and high quality agricultural land, railway closure proposals, the benefit of improved communications envisaged in the construction of the Channel Tunnel, and the need for consultation with local planning authorities and others concerned before final decisions are taken.

On the problem of employment growth, which has been faster in the South East than in any other part of the country, the Command Paper notes that a great part of this growth has been in the service industries such as commerce, building, distribution, transport and other forms of employment closely tied to the populations they serve; there is tight control over expansions of manufacturing industry, particularly in London, and the South East has been an

* *The South East Study 1961-1981*. H.M. Stationery Office, price 15s. (15s. 10d. including postage).

† *South East England*. Cmd. 2308. H.M. Stationery Office, price 8d. (11d. including postage).

DEVELOPMENTS AND GOVERNMENT ACTION IN WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE, 1963

The Report on Developments and Government Action in Wales and Monmouthshire in 1963 has recently been presented to Parliament by the Minister for Welsh Affairs. It has been published as a Command Paper (Cmd. 2284) and is obtainable from H.M. Stationery Office, price 8s. 6d. (9s. including postage).

In an introductory chapter the Report notes that the then Prime Minister announced on 5th April 1963 that the Minister for Welsh Affairs, Sir Keith Joseph, was to become responsible for a long-term survey of the future prospects for Wales on which the Government could base its plans for land use and public investment. The survey was to be carried out under the leadership of the Welsh Office of the Minister of Housing and Local Government and Minister for Welsh Affairs—to be known in future as the Welsh Office—acting in concert with the other Government Departments concerned. The results of this survey will be co-ordinated by the Secretary of State for Industry, Trade and Regional Development with those surveys being made for other areas of Great Britain, and it is the Government's intention that the resulting plans will provide not only a co-ordinated framework for public investment but also a stimulus to the growth and encouragement of private investment.

The Report records that the Welsh Grand Committee met on four occasions during the year, the subjects discussed being industry and employment, transport, tourism and regional development. There was also a debate on Welsh Affairs in the House of Commons on 29th July when a new housing programme for Wales was announced.

A review of the employment situation shows that although the number of unemployed rose to a peak figure of 58,000 early in 1963, owing to the chaotic weather conditions, a rapid recovery was made: the benefits of the technical changes in the older industries and the greater diversity of the new were increasingly apparent during the year and by December the total unemployed register was 28,700—20 per cent. below that of December 1962.

The total number of employees rose to the highest ever level of 983,000—despite the greater use in industry of automation and other technological advances—and there were significant changes in the pattern of employment, with the proportion of employees in the extractive industries continuing to decline. There was also a drop of 1.2 per cent. in the manufacturing industries but other industries, including building and civil engineering, increased proportionally to cover 56 per cent. of the working population. More women and girls entered employment and the latest figures available showed that together they formed 30 per cent. of the working population.

In the early part of the year employers were reluctant to take on workers owing to the adverse weather conditions but the economy quickened from March onwards and, by the end of the year, placings had reached 90,000, or 7 per cent. above the figure for 1962. On the whole the flow through the Employment Exchanges

important source of industry for the development districts. There will certainly be jobs enough for the increased population of the South East and the problem is essentially one of distribution, enough employment being required in the right places and at the right times for the new expansion schemes intended to relieve the pressures on London. However, the provision of employment for these schemes will not be allowed to detract from the efforts to develop other parts of the country, and there will continue to be a rigorous examination of individual firms' proposals for industrial expansion in the South East. It will be of particular importance, the Paper adds, to secure much more decentralisation of offices from London, and this should be an important source of employment for some of the expansion schemes. The Government has set up the Location of Offices Bureau to encourage and help firms to leave London, and on the basis of the recommendations made by Sir Gilbert Flemming it is pressing ahead with more decentralisation of Government work.

Commenting on the threat that the growth of office employment in London could exhaust the capacity of the suburban railway lines, the Command Paper points out that preliminary results of a fresh examination by British Railways of their services show that technically their present network could cater for many more commuters, though very considerable changes in the pattern of railway services would be involved. The Victoria line, now under construction, will be an important supplement to London Transport's services. British Railways and London Transport are developing proposals to increase their capacity and the Government will work with them and with the local authorities concerned to evolve, in the light of the London Traffic Survey, a comprehensive transport plan for London which must take full account of the plans for new housing and of the financial implications.

The Command Paper expresses, finally, the Government's belief that the process of regional planning can contribute greatly to the well-being and prosperity of the country as a whole. The programmes published for Central Scotland and the North East (see page 481 of the December 1963 issue of this GAZETTE) are now being implemented, and studies of other regions are being prepared. In this way the special needs of individual regions can be identified and a proper national balance achieved and maintained.

is quick; the results of a survey undertaken at six Welsh Exchanges in the autumn of 1962 indicated that even in that difficult period about one-fifth of the people who came on to the registers returned to employment within two weeks. Many older people, too, find work reasonably quickly. The same survey showed that in the areas concerned about one-quarter of all the people at work were over 50 but that only about one-sixth of those becoming unemployed were over that age. On the other hand, only about a seventh of those restarting work were over 50 so that, broadly speaking, it appears that someone over 50 is less likely to lose his job than his younger colleagues, but once unemployed he finds it difficult to restart. Nevertheless, there are good indications that many employers are well aware that elderly people have much to offer in the employment field.

In 1963 there were 32,320 school-leavers, 1,512 fewer than in 1962, and on the whole they obtained work more quickly. There was a growing tendency for boys and girls to continue their education beyond the statutory school-leaving age and the proportion entering industry after the age of 16 was appreciably higher than a year earlier. Unemployment among young persons generally was higher than usual during the first nine months of the year but improved during the autumn, and by December 2,357 were unemployed, compared with 3,038 a year before. Out of 16,538 boys entering employment during the year 4,061 obtained apprenticeships. This was less than in 1962 but interest in the first year apprenticeship training schemes at the Cardiff Government Training Centre continued and the Ministry of Labour has made plans for 1964 to extend and improve training facilities there in larger and more modern premises and to set up a new centre at Llanelli. These two centres will provide a total of 430 places, compared with the existing 140 at present.

There were fewer stoppages of work than in 1962 but the improved position was marred by disputes between craft unions and the Steel Company of Wales which temporarily closed the plant shortly before Christmas.

In a section on Industrial Development the Report notes that the main feature of the year was the notable improvement in the general economic climate which, in Wales, brought rising production and employment without extensive new capital investment.

Figures given in a chapter concerned with agriculture, fisheries, forestry and rural industries show that the Principality's agricultural labour force continued to decline. Regular whole-time workers totalled 21,823, a reduction of 576 compared with 1962, while the total of seasonal or temporary workers fell from 7,777 to 6,515.

The Report, which is illustrated, also contains sections on education; research; health, housing, planning and public services; social services; communications; cultural activities; and the army and civil defence.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING ACT 1964

In the March issue of this GAZETTE it was announced, on page 104, that the Industrial Training Act had become law. A 15-page guide entitled "Industrial Training Act 1964: Scope and Objectives" has now been prepared.

In a foreword to the guide the Minister of Labour, the Rt. Hon. Joseph Godber, M.P., commends it to all those interested and, in particular, to members of employers' organisations and trade unions. Industrial training arrangements in this country, he says, are capable of considerable improvement, and the Act provides the machinery by which such improvements can be achieved. Effective operation of that machinery, however, requires that employers and trade unions show real readiness to re-examine existing arrangements and to accept the changes shown to be necessary. Industrial training boards for the engineering, construction, iron and steel and wool textile industries will be the first to be established and discussions are taking place with other industries. In the meantime the Minister strongly urges that industries do not wait for boards to be established before undertaking a re-appraisal of their existing training arrangements.

Copies of the guide have already been sent to a number of employers' and workers' organisations and to other interested bodies. Others who would like to have copies may obtain them free of charge from Regional Offices of the Ministry of Labour or through local Employment Exchanges.

TRADE UNION (AMALGAMATIONS, ETC.) ACT 1964

The Trade Union (Amalgamations, etc.) Bill received the Royal Assent on 25th March and became law as the Trade Union (Amalgamations, etc.) Act 1964. The new Act will be brought into force by Order on a date to be fixed by the Minister of Labour as soon as he has drafted, in consultation with the interests concerned, regulations laying down the detailed procedure to be followed under the Act.

The Act will make it easier for unions to amalgamate, that is, to come together to form a new union, or to transfer their engagements to, and become absorbed by, another union which otherwise retains its previous identity.

The existing law requires that a ballot must be held in each of the unions concerned. The law also specifies the proportion of members which must vote in the ballot and the size of the majority required to approve the proposed transaction. The new Act retains the ballot but makes it possible for an amalgamation or transfer of engagements to be approved by a simple majority of those voting. Individual unions, if they want to, may choose to adopt stiffer requirements for themselves in their rules.

The Act safeguards the rights of individual members by requiring that each of them must receive a notice explaining the proposed merger before voting takes place. Individual members are also given the right of complaining to the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies against alleged irregularities in the voting.

The Act will also simplify the procedure for changes of names of trade unions, providing for these to be made in accordance with unions' rules instead of by securing the consent of a specified proportion of unions' members.

SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE

Notification of Employment of Persons Order

On 6th April the Minister of Labour made the Notification of Employment of Persons Order 1964 which prescribes the form of notices which employers are required by section 49 of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963 to serve on the appropriate authorities (see Appendix II to "Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963: A General Guide"). Copies of the Order, S.I. 1964 No. 533, are obtainable from H.M. Stationery Office, price 8d. (11d. including postage), and the guide may also be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, price 2s. 6d. (2s. 10d.), or from any Employment Exchange.

One form of notice (OSR.7) is prescribed for use in the case of railway premises and certain office premises connected therewith, and another form of notice (OSR.1) is prescribed for use in the case of all other premises to which the Act applies.

The Order also prescribes the period of three months beginning on 1st May 1964 as the period within which notification must be made by employers who already employ people on that date in premises to which the Act applies.

Employers who intend to begin, after that date, to employ persons in premises to which the Act applies are required by section 49(1) of the Act to give prior notice to the appropriate authority.

Copies of the prescribed form OSR.1 may be obtained free of charge from enforcing authorities or from any Employment Exchange. Separate arrangements are being made for the distribution of OSR.7 to railway undertakings.

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NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED IN PRINCIPAL TOWNS AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS

The following table shows, for some principal towns and all areas designated as Development Districts under the Local Employment Act 1960, the numbers of persons registered as unemployed at Employment Exchanges and Youth Employment Offices on 16th March 1964 and the percentage rates of unemployment.

Table with columns for Men 18 and over, Women 18 and over, Boys and girls under 18, Total, Temporarily stopped (inc. in total), and Percentage rate of unemployment. Includes sections for Principal Towns (by Region) and Development Districts (by Region).

An explanation of the method of calculation of local percentage rates of unemployment was given on pages 134-135 of the April 1960 issue of this GAZETTE. The percentage rate of unemployment relates to the total number registered as unemployed, wholly unemployed and temporarily stopped combined.

Table with columns for Men 18 and over, Women 18 and over, Boys and girls under 18, Total, Temporarily stopped (inc. in total), and Percentage rate of unemployment. Includes sections for Development Districts (by Region) and Principal Towns (by Region).

NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED: INDUSTRIAL ANALYSIS: MARCH 1964

The table below gives an analysis of the numbers of persons registered as unemployed in Great Britain and in the United Kingdom at 16th March 1964, according to the industry in which they were last employed. The analysis is based on the Standard Industrial Classification (1958). Figures are shown for each industry Order and for selected industries or groups of industries within the Orders. Statistics for industries not shown or not separately identified are available on application to Statistics Department, Stats. A.I., Ministry of Labour, Orphanage Road, Watford, Herts.

Large table with columns for Industry, Wholly unemployed (including casuals), Temporarily stopped, Total (Males/Females), and United Kingdom (all classes). Includes a GRAND TOTAL at the bottom.

* Statistics relate to more than one industry; figures in round brackets refer to the Standard Industrial Classification (1958) and identify industries covered. † The totals include unemployed casual workers (7,047 males and 352 females in Great Britain and 7,699 males and 380 females in the United Kingdom).

* Number registered as unemployed expressed as a percentage of the estimated total number of employees (employed and unemployed) at mid-1962. † Figures include those for certain adjacent Employment Exchange areas details of which were given on page 500 of the December 1963 issue of this GAZETTE.

Changes in Rates of Wages Coming into Operation during March—continued

Table with 4 main columns: Industry, District, Date from which change took effect, Classes of workers, and Particulars of change. Rows include Wholesale distribution, Slaughtering, Wholesale newspaper distribution, Retail distribution, Coal and coke distribution, Cinematograph film production, Broadcasting, Laundering, National government service, Local authorities' services, and Health services.

* These increases were agreed in January 1964 with retrospective effect to the date shown.
† Under sliding-scale arrangements based on the official index of retail prices.
‡ These increases were agreed in March with retrospective effect to the date shown.
§ These increases took effect under an Order made under the Wages Councils Act (Northern Ireland).
|| These increases were authorised in March with retrospective effect to the date shown.
¶ This forms part of a three-year agreement which includes further increases of 3 1/2 per cent.
** These increases, which were agreed in November 1963, were authorised in March 1964 with retrospective effect to the date shown.

Changes in Rates of Wages Coming into Operation during March—continued

Table with 4 main columns: Industry, District, Date from which change took effect, Classes of workers, and Particulars of change. Rows include Health services and Gold, silver and jewellery trades.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF WORK COMING INTO OPERATION DURING MARCH

Table with 4 main columns: Industry, District, Date from which change took effect, Classes of workers, and Particulars of change. Rows include Leavers lace manufacture, Fellmongering, Civil engineering construction, Road roller hire service, Road passenger transport, and Cinematograph film production.

* These increases were agreed in February 1964 with retrospective effect to the date shown. It has also been agreed that from November 1964 and November 1965 there will be further increases of 2 1/2 d. an hour; in addition, from 6th April 1964 a service supplement of 7s. a week will be paid to those full-time employees with at least 5 years' continuous hospital authority service.

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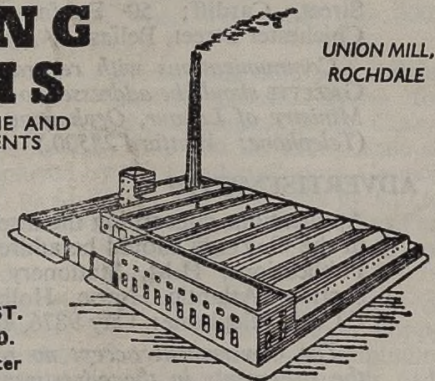
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