

# THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE

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

### EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

THERE was some improvement, during August, in employment among insured workpeople; but the total numbers unemployed, insured and uninsured, showed a slight increase at 20th August, 1934, as compared with a month earlier owing to the registration for employment of juveniles who had left school at the end of July.

Among workpeople insured against unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed was 16·6 at 20th August, 1934, as compared with 16·8 at 23rd July, 1934, and 19·1 at 21st August, 1933. For males alone the percentage at 20th August, 1934, was 18·9, and for females 10·4. At 23rd July, 1934, the corresponding percentages were 19·2 and 10·4, and at 21st August, 1933, they were 22·4 and 10·5.

*Insured Persons in work in Great Britain.*—It is estimated that at 20th August, 1934, there were approximately 10,170,000 insured persons aged 16–64 in employment in Great Britain. This was 34,000 more than at 23rd July, 1934, and 376,000 more than at 21st August, 1933.

*Numbers Unemployed (excluding Persons normally in Casual Employment).*—At 20th August, 1934, there were 1,598,338 persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain who were out of a situation. This was 44,591 more than at 23rd July, 1934, but 245,179 less than at 21st August, 1933. The total on 20th August, 1934, included 1,301,971 men, 62,126 boys, 185,704 women and 48,537 girls. It was made up of 500,214 insured persons with claims for insurance benefit, 753,364 applicants for transitional payments, 189,437 other insured persons not in receipt of benefit or transitional payments, and 155,323 uninsured persons.

There was an increase of 32,824, between 23rd July and 20th August, in the number of boys and girls registered as wholly unemployed. A temporary increase, due to children reaching the school-leaving age, normally occurs after the end of each school term.

*Numbers Temporarily Stopped.*—At 20th August, 1934, there were registered as unemployed in Great Britain 310,754 men, 6,517 boys, 134,170 women and 5,400 girls who were on short time or otherwise suspended from work on the understanding that they were shortly to return to their former employment. The total of 456,841 was 36,031 less than at 23rd July, 1934, and 26,591 less than at 21st August, 1933. It included 408,649 insured persons with claims for insurance benefit, 21,006 applicants for transitional payments, and 27,186 persons not in receipt of benefit or transitional payments.

*Numbers Unemployed normally in Casual Employment.*—At 20th August, 1934, there were on the registers in Great Britain 79,594 men, 72 boys, 1,729 women and 4 girls who normally seek a livelihood by means of jobs of short duration; these are largely employed in dock and harbour service. The total of 81,399 was 1,758 more than at 23rd July, 1934, but 2,789 less than at 21st August, 1933. It included 58,428 insured persons

with claims for insurance benefit, 21,804 applicants for transitional payments, and 1,167 persons not in receipt of benefit or transitional payments.

*Industries in which Principal Variations occurred.*—The industries in which the improvement in employment was most marked included coal mining, building, shipbuilding and ship repairing, tube manufacture, and cocoa, chocolate, etc. manufacture. There was also a substantial reduction in the numbers registered as temporarily stopped in the jute industry, following upon the termination of local holidays. On the other hand, there was a further decline in employment in the boot and shoe industry and most of the clothing trades, in the motor vehicle industry, and in the manufacturing section of the cotton industry; a slight set-back also occurred in iron and steel manufacture, the hosiery industry, and the distributive trades.

### WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in August resulted in a decrease of over £2,000 in the weekly full time wages of about 69,000 workpeople and in an increase of about £1,650 in those of over 35,000 workpeople.

Almost all the workpeople affected by decreases in wages were employed in steel melting shops and at steel rolling mills in various districts of England and Scotland, their wages being reduced in correspondence with a fall in selling prices.

The increases in wages mainly affected coal miners in Warwickshire, iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen in the Midlands, machine calico printers in Lancashire, silk dyers at Macclesfield, and certain passenger road transport workers in Scotland.

The changes so far reported in the eight completed months of 1934 have resulted in a net increase of over £33,000 per week in the full-time rates of wages of about 357,000 workpeople, and in a net decrease of nearly £2,800 in those of about 36,000 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 approximately 43 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, as compared with 42 per cent. at 1st August, 1934, and 41 per cent. at 1st September, 1933. For food alone the corresponding percentages at these three dates were 26, 23 and 22 respectively.

### TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work reported to the Department as beginning in August was 34. In addition, 12 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, though not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 15,600, and the aggregate duration of all disputes in August was about 65,000 working days.











EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

THERE was some improvement, during August, in employment among insured workpeople; but the total numbers unemployed, insured and uninsured, showed a slight increase at 20th August, 1934, as compared with a month earlier owing to the registration for employment of juveniles who had left school at the end of July.

The industries in which the improvement was most marked included coal mining, building, shipbuilding and ship-repairing, tube manufacture, and cocoa, chocolate, etc., manufacture. There was also a substantial reduction in the numbers registered as temporarily stopped in the jute industry, following the termination of local holidays. On the other hand, there was a further decline in employment in the boot and shoe industry and most of the clothing trades, in the motor vehicle industry, and in the manufacturing section of the cotton industry; a slight set-back also occurred in iron and steel manufacture, the hosiery industry and the distributive trades.

The improvement in employment was most marked in Wales, but there was also a substantial reduction, following the termination of local holidays, in the numbers registered as unemployed in Scotland. There was little change in other areas, apart from a slight decline in the North-Western Division. In London and the South-Eastern Counties employment continued fairly good, and in the South-West it was fair. In the Midlands it was moderate. In the North of England and in Scotland it continued bad, while in Wales it was still very bad. In Northern Ireland it remained bad.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

AMONG the workpeople, numbering approximately 12,883,000, 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 20th August, 1934 (including those temporarily stopped as well as those wholly unemployed), was 16.6\*, as compared with 16.8\* at 23rd July, 1934, and with 19.1 at 21st August, 1933. The percentage wholly unemployed at 20th August, 1934, was 13.0\*, as compared with 12.9\* at 23rd July, 1934; while the percentage temporarily stopped was 3.6\*, as compared with 3.9\*. For males alone, the percentage at 20th August, 1934, was 18.9\* and for females, 10.4\*; at 23rd July the corresponding percentages were 19.2\* and 10.4\*.

At 20th August, 1934, the number of persons on the Registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain was 1,598,338 wholly unemployed, 456,841 temporarily stopped, and 81,399 normally in casual employment, making a total of 2,136,578. This was 10,318 more than a month before, but 274,559 less than a year before. The total included 1,692,319 men, 68,715 boys, 321,603 women and 53,941 girls.

The persons on the Registers included 967,291 insured persons with claims for insurance benefit (see page 332); 796,174 insured persons with applications for transitional payments; 217,741 insured persons not in receipt of insurance benefit or transitional payments, and 155,372 uninsured persons. In Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the total number of persons on the Registers of Employment Exchanges at 20th August, 1934, was 2,195,212.

Mining and Quarrying.—In the coal mining industry employment showed some improvement. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 25th August, 1934, showed a decrease of 0.5 per cent. as compared with 21st July, 1934, but an increase of 1.0 per cent. as compared with 26th August, 1933. The average number of days worked per week in the fortnight ended 25th August, 1934, was 4.61, an increase of 0.60 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 21st July, 1934, and of 0.38 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 26th August, 1933.

In the iron mining industry employment showed a decline. At the West Lothian shale mines there was a slight decline, but employment was still fair. At the limestone quarries in the Cleveland area employment continued slack; in the Clitheroe area it remained fair; it was fair also, though declining slightly, in the Buxton area. At the slate quarries in North Wales employment continued fairly good. At chalk quarries it remained very slack, and at china clay quarries it was slack. At tin mines it continued bad. At the East of Scotland whinstone quarries employment remained moderate.

Pig Iron, Iron and Steel, and Tinplate.—In the pig iron industry employment showed a slight decline. The number of furnaces in blast at the end of August was 97, compared with 99 at the end of July, and 73 at the end of August, 1933.

In the iron and steel industry there was also a decline. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed was 27.3 at 20th August, 1934, compared with 25.4 at 23rd July, 1934, and 37.0 at 21st August, 1933.

In the tinplate industry employment remained bad. It continued bad also in steel sheet manufacture.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Industries.—In the engineering industry employment showed little general change. In marine engineering there was some further improvement, but employment was still very bad in that section. In motor vehicle manufacture there was a further seasonal decline, but employment continued fair on the whole. In other sections the general level of employment remained approximately the same as in the previous month.

\* Provisional figures. See footnote \* in first column on page 320.

In the shipbuilding industry there was a further improvement, particularly in Scotland, but employment was still very bad.

In the other metal trades employment continued fair on the whole. It was fairly good in the brasswork, hollow-ware, ironfounding (other than engineers' ironfounding), jewellery and plated ware, and nut, bolt, nail, rivet, etc., trades; fair in the wire manufacturing, tube, sheet metal, file, and needle and fishing tackle trades; and moderate in the edge tool trades.

Textile Industries.—In the cotton industry employment was much affected by holiday stoppages, which were extended in some cases. As compared with the previous month, there was some decline in employment in the Egyptian section of the spinning department, and there was also a slight decline in the weaving department. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed was 24.3 at 20th August, 1934, compared with 24.0 at 23rd July, 1934, and 25.4 at 21st August, 1933.

In the wool textile industry employment showed a further decline in some sections and districts, but some improvement in others; in several districts it was affected by local holidays. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed was 23.4 at 20th August, 1934, compared with 24.1 at 23rd July, 1934, and 12.5 at 21st August, 1933. In the carpet section employment continued good.

Employment in the hosiery trade showed a further decline and was moderate on the whole. In the lace industry it improved slightly and was fair. In silk manufacture employment showed a slight decline and was moderate. In artificial silk manufacture it continued fair. In the linen trade employment showed a slight improvement, but remained slack. In the jute industry it continued bad, although there was a considerable reduction, following the termination of local holidays, in the numbers of insured persons registered as temporarily stopped. In the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc., trades employment showed little change and remained very slack, with much short-time working.

Clothing Industries.—Employment in the retail bespoke and ready-made and wholesale bespoke branches of the tailoring trade continued to decline, and remained slack on the whole. In the dressmaking and millinery trades there was a decline, but employment generally was still fair. There was also a decline in the shirt and collar trade, where employment was only moderate. In the glove and corset trade employment continued good. In felt hat manufacture it showed an improvement and was fair on the whole.

In the boot and shoe industry employment during the first part of the month was still much affected by seasonal slackness, but towards the end of the month there was some recovery. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed was 25.1 at 20th August, 1934, compared with 22.9 at 23rd July, 1934, and 19.0 at 21st August, 1933.

Leather Trades.—Employment in the tanning, currying and leather dressing sections of the leather trades showed a slight decline and was slack on the whole. In other sections there was a slight improvement, and employment continued fair.

Building, Woodworking, etc.—In the building industry employment showed a slight improvement. As regards individual occupations, employment remained good with bricklayers and plasterers, fair with carpenters, and moderate or slack with most other branches of the industry. In brick manufacture there was little change, and employment continued fair on the whole.

Employment in the furnishing trades and with mill-sawyers showed little change and continued moderate. With coachbuilders it showed a slight decline and was moderate on the whole.

Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.—Employment in the paper-making industry showed little variation and continued good on the whole. With letterpress printers it was fair generally. With electrotypers and stereotypers it continued good. With lithographic printers, employment continued fair. With lithographic artists it was fairly good. With bookbinders employment was still fair.

Pottery and Glass.—In the pottery industry employment in North Staffordshire continued slack on the whole, and in some cases the August holidays were extended. At Bristol employment continued good. At Worcester it was fairly good. At Derby it was moderate.

In the glass trades employment showed a slight improvement; it remained slack in the bottle-making section and moderate in other sections.

Fishing.—Employment with fishermen showed a slight decline and was slack on the whole.

Dock Labourers and Seamen.—With dock labourers employment remained slack generally. With seamen also it was slack.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

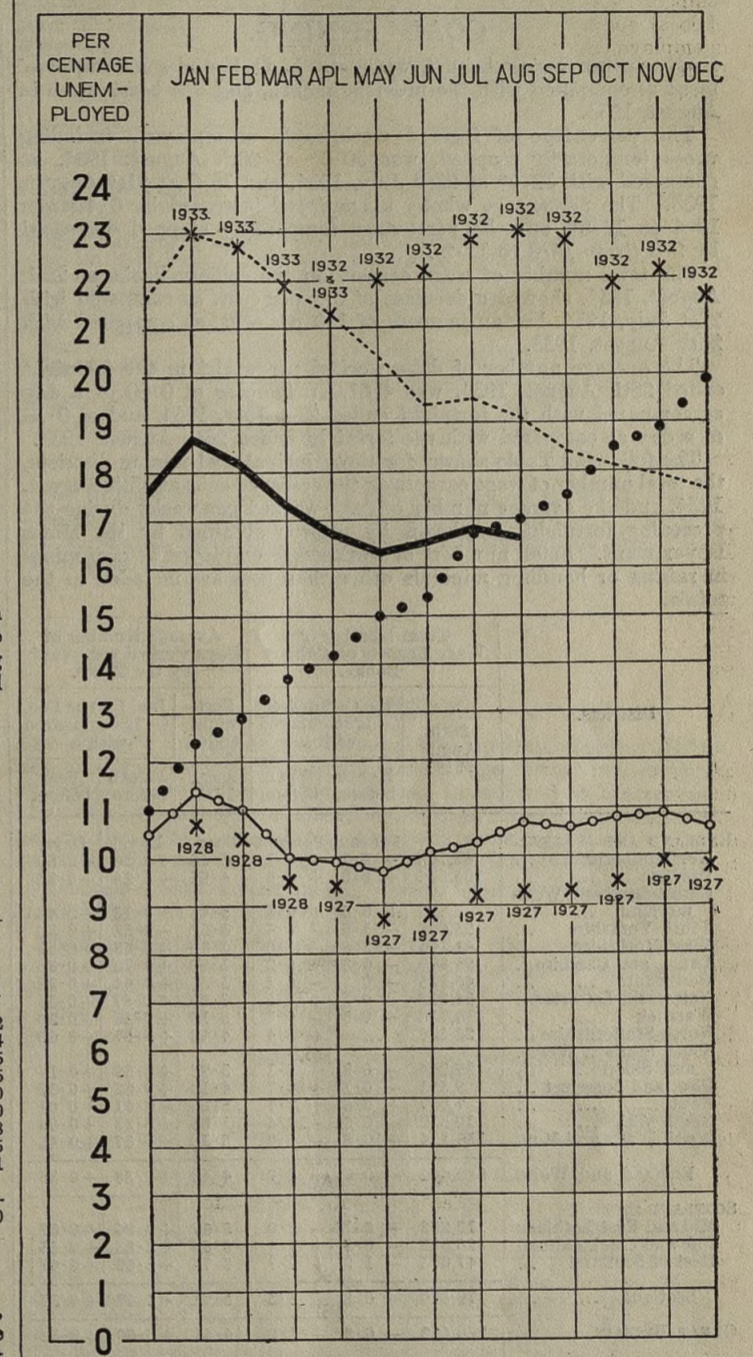
In Tables which appear on subsequent pages of this GAZETTE detailed statistics bearing on the state of employment during August are given, based on information obtained from employers or employers' associations in certain industries. In the following Tables some of the principal features of these statistics are briefly summarised (a) for certain mining and metal industries, and (b) for

UNEMPLOYMENT CHART.\*

PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED AMONG WORKPEOPLE INSURED AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT IN GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND:—

Plain Curve - - - - - = 1934. Broken Curve - - - - - = 1933. Dotted Curve - - - - - = 1930. Chain Curve - - - - - = Mean for 1924-29†.

\* The crosses indicate the minimum and maximum monthly percentages unemployed during the years 1924-1933†.



various other industries:—

(a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL INDUSTRIES.

Table with columns: Industry, Workpeople included in the Returns for August, 1934, August, 1934, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before, Year before, Days Worked per week by Mines, Days, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before, Year before.

(b) OTHER INDUSTRIES.

Table with columns: Industry, Number of Workpeople Employed, Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople, Week ended 25th August, 1934, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before, Year before, Week ended 25th August, 1934, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before, Year before, £, Per cent., £, Per cent.

UNEMPLOYMENT SUMMARY BY DISTRICTS.

The following Table shows, for each of the main areas into which the country is divided for the purposes of the administration of the Unemployment Insurance Acts, the proportions unemployed among insured workpeople and the number of unemployed persons (insured and uninsured) on the registers of Employment Exchanges, etc.:

Table with columns: Divisions, Males, Females, Total, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Total Percentages as compared with a month before, Number, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month before, a year before.

UNEMPLOYMENT DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

The following Table shows, month by month from August, 1933, the percentages unemployed among insured workpeople, and the number of unemployed persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges, etc., in Great Britain and Northern Ireland:—

Table with columns: Date, Males, Females, Wholly Unemployed and Casuals, Temporarily stopped, Total, Percentages Unemployed† among Insured Workpeople, Number of Unemployed Persons (Insured and Uninsured) registered at Employment Exchanges, etc.

NEW ENTRANTS INTO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.‡ AUGUST, 1934.

Table with columns: Area, Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total, Number, Percentage of numbers Insured at July, 1933.

\* Comparison of earnings is affected by changes in rates of wages. † The percentages for August, 1933, and subsequent months are based on the estimated numbers insured at the beginning of July, 1933, and are subject to slight revision when information becomes available as to the changes in the insured population since that date.

‡ See footnote † in previous column. † Excluding the period April, 1926, to March, 1927. ‡ The figures now include men to whom unemployment books have been issued on discharge from H.M. Forces, who were excluded from the figures published for dates prior to January, 1934.

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, while still bad, showed some improvement as compared with the previous month, and was better than in August, 1933.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 30.0\* at 20th August, 1934, as compared with 32.4\* at 23rd July, 1934, and 38.0 at 21st August, 1933.

The total number of wage earners on the colliery books at 25th August, 1934, showed a decrease of 0.5 per cent. as compared with 21st July, 1934, but an increase of 1.0 per cent. as compared with 26th August, 1933.

The average number of days worked per week in the fortnight ended 25th August, 1934, was 4.61, an increase of 0.60 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 21st July, 1934, and of 0.38 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 26th August, 1933.

The following Table shows, for the principal coal mining districts, the total number of wage earners on the colliery books at 25th August, 1934, and the average number of days worked per week during the preceding fortnight, as shown by returns obtained by the Mines Department.

Table with columns: Districts, Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books (25th Aug. 1934, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a month before, Year before), Average Number of Days worked per week by the Mines (Fortnight ended 25th Aug. 1934, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a month before, Year before).

The average number of coal-winding days lost in Great Britain during the fortnight ended 25th August, 1934, was 1.18 days per week, of which 1.07 days were due to want of trade.

The output of coal in Great Britain for the four weeks ended 25th August, 1934, was reported to the Mines Department as 15,195,200 tons, as compared with 14,987,100 tons in the four weeks ended 21st July, 1934, and 13,783,700 tons in the four weeks ended 26th August, 1933.

The numbers and percentages\* unemployed among insured workpeople in the respective areas at 20th August, 1934, and the increases or decreases as compared with 23rd July, 1934, and 21st August, 1933, are shown in the following Table:—

\* The percentages unemployed among insured workpeople at 20th August, 1934, and 23rd July, 1934, quoted in this issue of the GAZETTE, have been computed on the basis of the total numbers insured at July, 1933.

Table with columns: Area, Insured Persons recorded as Unemployed at 20th Aug., 1934. (Numbers, Percentages\*), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Total as compared with a month before, 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 4,882,200 tons in August, 1934, as compared with 4,776,100 tons in July, 1934, and with 4,747,500 tons in August, 1933.

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

IRON MINING.

EMPLOYMENT during August showed a decline. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, in the iron ore and ironstone mining industry was 27.7\* at 20th August, 1934, as compared with 23.7\* at 23rd July, 1934, and 46.2 at 21st August, 1933.

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

Table with columns: Districts, Number of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns (Fortnight ended 25th Aug. 1934, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a month before, Year before), Average No. of Days worked per week by the Mines (Fortnight ended 25th Aug. 1934, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a month before, Year before).

SHALE MINING.

The number of workpeople employed at the West Lothian mines during the fortnight ended 25th August, 1934, by firms making returns, was 2,090, a decrease of 1.0 per cent. as compared with July, 1934, but an increase of 1.2 per cent. as compared with August, 1933.

The average number of days worked per week by the mines making returns was 5.86, as compared with 6.00 in July, 1934, and August, 1933.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during August showed a slight decline. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 24.2\* at 20th August, 1934, compared with 25.5\* at 23rd July, 1934, and 37.6 at 21st August, 1933.

\* Provisional figures. See footnote \* in previous column. † See footnote † in previous column.

According to information received from the British Iron and Steel Federation, 97 furnaces were in operation at the end of August, 1934, compared with 99 at the end of July, 1934, and 73 at the end of August, 1933.

The following Table shows the number of furnaces in operation at the end of August, 1934, July, 1934, and August, 1933:—

Table with columns: Districts, Total Number of Furnaces (Aug. 1934, July 1934, Aug. 1933), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before, Year before.

The production of pig iron in August, 1934, amounted to 503,300 tons, compared with 528,300\* tons in July, 1934, and 362,700 tons in August, 1933.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET INDUSTRIES.

In the tinplate industry employment continued bad. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 29.2† at 20th August, 1934, as compared with 26.3† at 23rd July, 1934, and 31.5 at 21st August, 1933.

In steel sheet manufacture employment continued bad. In the week ended 25th August, 1934, 87 mills were in operation at works for which information was available, as compared with 91 in the week ended 21st July, 1934, and 78 in the week ended 26th August, 1933.

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

Table with columns: Works, Number of Works Open (Week ended 25th Aug. 1934, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before, Year before), Number of Mills in Operation (Week ended 25th Aug. 1934, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before, Year before).

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in August, 1934, amounted to 46,267 tons, or 10,457 tons less than in July, 1934, and 14,324 tons less than in August, 1933.

IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE.

EMPLOYMENT during August showed a decline as compared with the previous month, but was considerably better than a year ago. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 27.3† at 20th August, 1934, as compared with 25.4† at 23rd July, 1934, and 37.0 at 21st August, 1933.

At certain firms, employing 50,280 workpeople, from which returns were received for the week ended 25th August, 1934, the volume of employment in that week (as indicated by the number of shifts† during which work was carried on in each department) decreased by 1.0 per cent. as compared with the week ended 21st July, 1934, but increased by 16.9 per cent. as compared with the week ended 26th August, 1933.

\* Revised figures. † Provisional figures. See footnote \* in first column on page 320. ‡ The figures relate to the number of shifts during which the works were in operation, taken in conjunction with the number of men employed.

Table with columns: DEPARTMENTS, No. of Workpeople employed by Firms making returns (Week ended 25th Aug. 1934, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a month before, Year before), Aggregate number of Shifts (Week ended 25th Aug. 1934, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a month before, Year before).

The production of steel ingots and castings, as shown in returns from the British Iron and Steel Federation, amounted to 667,000 tons in August, 1934, as compared with 718,200 tons in July, 1934, and 551,300 tons in August, 1933.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT during August showed little general change. There was some further improvement in marine engineering, but employment was still very bad in that section.

Compared with a year ago employment was substantially better in all sections of the industry.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, at 20th August, 1934, and the increase or decrease as compared with a month before and a year before:—

Table with columns: Divisions, Numbers of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 20th August, 1934. (General Engineers, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a month before, Year before), Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month before, Year before.

Table with columns: Divisions, Percentages Unemployed at 20th August, 1934. (General Engineers, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a month before, Year before).

\* See footnote † in previous column. † Most of the iron and steel works in Scotland were closed on account of holidays in the week ended 21st July, 1934.





The following Tables show, by districts and by departments, the percentage increases and decreases in the numbers employed in the week ended 25th August, 1934, by those firms who supplied returns for the purpose of the foregoing Table (excluding the carpet section), as compared with the week ended 21st July, 1934 :—

Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in numbers employed as compared with previous month. ... WOOLEN SECTION : Huddersfield ... Bradford ...

Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in numbers employed as compared with previous month.

WOOLEN SECTION : Huddersfield ... Bradford ... Wool Sorting ... Wool Washing and Preparing ...

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of 17 Employment Exchanges in the principal wool textile trade centres at 20th August, 1934 :—

Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Registers at 20th August, 1934. Department. Wholly Unemployed. Temporarily Stopped. Total.

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 23rd July, 1934 :—

Department. Wholly Unemployed. Temporarily Stopped. Total. Wool Sorting ... Wool Washing and Preparing ...

The imports (less re-exports) of raw wool (sheep's or lambs') were 14,208,000 lbs. in August, 1934, compared with 16,257,000 lbs. in the previous month and 17,622,000 lbs. in August 1933.

The exports of wool tops in August, 1934, were 2,650,000 lbs. compared with 2,566,000 lbs. in July, 1934, and with 3,722,000 lbs. in August, 1933.

The exports of woollen and worsted yarns in August, 1934, were 3,339,800 lbs., compared with 3,726,600 lbs. in July, 1934, and with 4,594,000 lbs. in August, 1933.

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues in August, 1934, were 11,014,000 square yards, compared with 9,905,000 square yards in the previous month, and with 10,490,000 square yards in August, 1933.

The exports of blankets were 2,839 cwts., 1,902 cwts., and 1,378 cwts., in August, 1934, July, 1934, and August, 1933, respectively.

BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

DURING the first part of the month employment was still much affected by seasonal slackness; but towards the end of the month there was some recovery, shown chiefly in a reduction in short time working in some districts.

The percentage of insured workpeople recorded as unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 25.1\* at 20th August, 1934, as compared with 22.9\* at 23rd July, 1934, and with 19.0 at 21st August, 1933.

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

Number of Workpeople. Total Wages paid to all Workpeople. England and Wales :— London ... Leicester ...

Returns from firms employing about 52,600 workpeople in the week ended 25th August, 1934, indicated that about 42 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time in that week, losing about 9 1/2 hours each on the average; while over 7 per cent. were on overtime, to the extent of 4 hours each on the average.

Employment in North London declined and was poor during most of the month, but showed an improvement towards the end of the month. At Leicester employment improved, but was still slack; over 60 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the employers' returns for the week ended 25th August were on short time in that week, losing nearly 10 hours each on the average.

At Northampton employment was described as fair in some departments, and was moderate generally, with much short time, though slightly less than in July; over 60 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the employers' returns for the week ended 25th August were on short time in that week, losing 9 1/2 hours each on the average.

Employment in the Stafford district improved slightly but was still slack; short time working was reduced slightly from the very high level of July, but nearly three-quarters of the workpeople covered by the employers' returns were still affected.

Employment in the Bristol district and at Leeds continued slack, but at the end of the month it showed an improvement with some firms.

\* Provisional figures. See footnote \* in first column on page 320.

BUILDING.

Employment in the Lancashire slipper trade declined further during the month, and was much worse than a year ago; over 40 per cent. of the workpeople were on short time in the week ended 25th August.

Employment again improved slightly in Scotland. At Glasgow the improvement reported last month continued, and employment was described as moderate with some workers and good with others; there was also a slight improvement at Maybole, where employment was fair; it continued good at Kilmarnock, and slack at Edinburgh.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of 53 Employment Exchanges in the principal centres of the boot and shoe industry at 20th August, 1934 :—

Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Registers at 20th August, 1934. Department. Wholly Unemployed. Temporarily Stopped. Total.

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 23rd July, 1934 :—

Department. Wholly Unemployed. Temporarily Stopped. Total. Boot and Shoe Manufacture: Preparing Department ...

The exports of boots, shoes and slippers (not rubber) in August, 1934, amounted to 42,033 dozen pairs, as compared with 45,827 dozen pairs in July, 1934, and with 52,782 dozen pairs in August, 1933.

BRICK INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during August showed little change, and remained fair on the whole. In the Peterborough district it was still very good.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 11.9\* at 20th August, 1934, as compared with 11.6\* at 23rd July, 1934, and 14.3 at 21st August, 1933.

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. Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire ...

Returns from employers relative to short-time working, exclusive of time lost on account of bad weather, showed that, of 10,902 workpeople employed by firms furnishing information, about 3 1/2 per cent. were working on an average nearly 12 1/2 hours less than full time in the week ended 25th August, 1934.

\* Provisional figures. See footnote \* in first column on page 320. ↑ Comparison of earnings is affected in some cases by changes in rates of wages.

Employment during August remained moderate, and showed some improvement, on the whole, as compared with the previous month. Compared with a year ago there was an improvement in all divisions, except in Scotland, where there was a slight decline.

As regards individual occupations employment remained good with bricklayers and in some districts an unsatisfied demand for skilled men was again experienced; with plasterers employment remained good; with carpenters it was fair, and with most other branches of the industry it was moderate or slack.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages\* of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts who were recorded as unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, at 20th August, 1934, together with the increase or decrease in the percentages unemployed as compared with the previous month and with August, 1933 :—

Estimated Numbers of Insured Workpeople at July, 1933. Total Numbers Unemployed at 20th Aug., 1934. Numbers included in Previous Column who were Temporarily Stopped. Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage as compared with a Month before. Year before.

Building Plans Approved.

Statistics relating to the value of building plans approved in July and August, 1934, in the areas of Local Authorities from which returns have been received, are given on page 341.

POTTERY INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in North Staffordshire continued slack on the whole; in some cases the August holidays were extended. At Bristol employment continued good; at Worcester it was fairly good; at Derby it remained moderate.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 24.9\* at 20th August, 1934, as compared with 22.6\* at 23rd July, 1934, and 30.2 at 21st August, 1933.

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

Number of Workpeople. Total Wages paid to all Workpeople. BRANCHES. China Manufacture ... Earthenware Manufacture ...

Returns from employers relative to short-time working showed that, of 9,979 workpeople employed by firms making returns, 2,437, or nearly 24 1/2 per cent., were working on an average 11 1/2 hours less than full time in the week ended 25th August, 1934; on the other hand, 654, or about 6 1/2 per cent., were working overtime, to the extent of 6 1/2 hours each on the average.

\* Provisional figures. See footnote \* in first column on page 320.

PAPER MANUFACTURE, PRINTING, AND BOOKBINDING.

EMPLOYMENT in the paper-making industry during August showed little change and continued good on the whole; it was better than in August, 1933.

In the letterpress printing industry employment remained steady and was fair generally. It was described as bad or slack at Birmingham, Leicester, Newcastle-on-Tyne, in London, and at Bradford and Sheffield, but some improvement occurred during the month at the three last-named centres.

Employment in the lithographic printing industry was fair on the whole. It was reported as bad, however, in London and at Manchester and Edinburgh; on the other hand, reports from a number of towns, including Carlisle and Leicester, described employment as good.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, in the paper and paper-board industries was 7.4\* at 20th August, 1934, compared with 7.1\* at 23rd July, 1934 and 8.4 at 21st August, 1933.

The corresponding percentages unemployed in the printing and bookbinding industries were 8.0\*, 8.0\* and 9.3; and in the cardboard box, paper bag and stationery industries, 5.5\*, 5.9\* and 6.6.

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

Table with 7 columns: Trade Union, No. of Members at end of August, 1934, Percentage Unemployed at end of August, 1934, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a, etc.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT during August was still slack generally.

Among insured workpeople in the dock, harbour, river and canal service, 30.1\* per cent. were unemployed at 20th August, 1934, as compared with 29.7\* per cent. at 23rd July, 1934, and with 30.7 per cent. at 21st August, 1933.

The estimated total of 160,260 insured workpeople in this classification in Great Britain at July, 1933, included 23,090 in river, canal, conservancy and lighthouse service, and 137,170 in the dock, wharf and lighterage section.

London.—Employment remained slack. The following Table shows the average daily number of dock labourers employed at docks and wharves in respect of which returns were received; the figures exclude stevedores, lightermen, etc., and do not purport to indicate the total number of dock labourers employed in the port:—

Table with 6 columns: Period, Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London, etc.

\* Provisional figures. See footnote \* in first column on page 320.

Tilbury.—The average number of dock labourers employed daily during August was 775, compared with 704 in July, and with 723 in August, 1933.

East Coast.—Employment was still moderate, on the whole, at the majority of the North-East Coast ports. At Hull continued improvement was reported, except among coal workers, with whom conditions were still bad.

Mersey.—Employment at Liverpool remained moderate. At Garston it continued good, but at Salford it showed a tendency to decline, and was moderate. The average weekly number of dock labourers registered at the clearing houses under the Liverpool Docks Scheme as employed in the five weeks ended 31st August, 1934, was 10,831, compared with 10,767 in July, 1934, and with 10,397 in August, 1933.

Other Ports in England and Wales.—Employment at Swansea improved slightly and was good on the whole. It declined at Cardiff, and no improvement was reported at Penarth and Port Talbot.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—Employment at Glasgow declined and was moderate. At Dundee it was fair. There was little change at Leith and Grangemouth, where conditions were moderate to fair.

SEAMEN.

EMPLOYMENT among seamen during August remained slack on the whole. The demand was generally quiet, and though the number of ratings available continued to decline the supply at the majority of ports was more than adequate for requirements.

Among insured workpeople in the shipping service, the percentage unemployed at 20th August, 1934, was 26.1,\* compared with 26.9\* at 23rd July, 1934, and 30.6\* at 21st August, 1933.

The demand for men on the Thames was slack, apart from periods in the second and last weeks when slightly more activity was noted. On the Tyne there was a poor to moderate demand throughout the month; on the Wear and on the Tees the demand was generally poor; at the Hartlepoons it varied from poor to fair.

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

Table with 6 columns: Principal Ports, Number of Seamen† shipped in, etc.

\* Provisional figures. See footnote \* in first column on page 320. † It will be understood that the numbers given are the numbers of separate engagements, and not of separate individuals.

COMPOSITION OF UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

ON page 328 an explanation is given of the unemployment statistics published in the Press, and in this GAZETTE. The following Table gives an analysis relating to the 20th August, 1934, of the composition of these statistics.

Table with 6 columns: Category, Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total.

NUMBERS ON THE REGISTERS OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.\*

ANALYSIS OF FIGURES FOR 20TH AUGUST, 1934, AND 23RD JULY, 1934.

Table with 5 columns: Persons normally in Regular Employment, Persons normally in Casual Employment, Wholly Unemployed, Temporarily Stopped, Total.

VACANCIES NOTIFIED TO, AND FILLED BY, EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.\*

(GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.)

Table with 6 columns: Vacancies Notified, Vacancies Filled, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with year before, etc.

\* 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.

NUMBERS ON THE REGISTERS IN THE PRINCIPAL TOWNS.

The following Table shows for each of the Employment Exchange administrative areas in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and for the principal towns therein, the number of unemployed persons registered at Employment Exchanges on 20th August, 1934.

Large table with 6 columns: Area, Number of Persons on Register at 20th August, 1934, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in totals as compared with 23rd July, 1934, etc.

[Percentage rates of unemployment for each of 747 towns in Great Britain are given in the monthly "Local Unemployment Index."]



GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1933, PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED AT 20TH AUGUST, 1934, INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH 23RD JULY, 1934, 21ST AUG., 1933, 22ND AUG., 1932, GREAT BRITAIN ONLY. TOTAL PERCENTAGES AT 20TH AUG., 1934.

\* For notes see page 331.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS AT JULY, 1933, PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED AT 20TH AUGUST, 1934, WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals), TEMPORARY STOPPAGES, TOTAL, INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH 23RD JULY, 1934, 21ST AUG., 1933, 22ND AUG., 1932, GREAT BRITAIN ONLY. TOTAL PERCENTAGES AT 20TH AUG., 1934.

\* See last paragraph of text on page 328. The percentage for all industries and services combined for August, 1932, used for these comparisons, is the revised figure based on the estimated numbers insured at that date—see the issue of this GAZETTE for November, 1933, page 400. The percentages given for August, 1933, and July and August, 1934, are based on the numbers insured at July, 1933—see last paragraph of text on page 328.

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

Table with columns: Industry Group, Males, Females, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers recorded as Unemployed at 20th August, 1934, as compared with 23rd July, 1934.

PRINCIPAL VARIATIONS IN NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED.

THE following Table indicates for Great Britain and Northern Ireland the industries in which the numbers of insured persons recorded as unemployed at 20th August, 1934, differed from the figures for 23rd July, 1934, to the extent of 1,000 or more:—

Table with columns: Industry, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers recorded as Unemployed at 20th August, 1934, as compared with 23rd July, 1934.









TRADE DISPUTES IN AUGUST.\*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of disputes involving stoppages of work reported to the Department as beginning in August in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 34, as compared with 39 in the previous month and 25 in August, 1933. In these new disputes about 7,700 workpeople were directly involved and 6,300 workpeople indirectly involved (i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes). In addition, about 1,600 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 12 disputes which began before August and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 46, involving about 15,600 workpeople, and resulting in a loss, during August, estimated at about 65,000 working days.

In the following Table is given an analysis, by industries, of the disputes in progress in August:—

Table showing Number of Disputes in progress in Month, Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in Month, and Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in Month, for various Industry Groups.

Causes.—Of the 34 disputes beginning in August, 6, directly involving 1,100 workpeople, arose out of demands for advances in wages; and 5, directly involving 600 workpeople, on other wage questions; 3, directly involving 300 workpeople, on questions respecting working hours; 12, directly involving 3,900 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; and 8, directly involving 1,800 workpeople, on other questions.

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING AUGUST.

Main table of principal disputes including Occupation and Locality, Approximate Number of Workpeople Involved, Date when dispute began/ended, Cause or Object, and Result.

\* 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.

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

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included ... .. 43%
Food only ... .. 26%

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, 1934, was approximately 48 per cent. When decontrolled rents are also included, the combined average increase, as compared with July, 1914, in controlled and decontrolled working-class rents (including rates) is approximately 56 per cent.

There was a further rise, during August, in the average level of retail prices, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, of the articles of food covered by the statistics compiled by the Department. The items showing the principal increases in price were eggs, bread and flour, bacon, and butter. The only reduction of importance was in the prices of potatoes.

As a net result of all the changes recorded, the average increase over the level of July, 1914, in the retail prices of the articles of food included in these statistics was 26 per cent. at 1st September, 1934, as compared with 23 per cent. at 1st August, 1934, and 22 per cent. at 1st September, 1933.

In the following Table is given a comparison of retail prices in July, 1914, and at 1st August, 1934, and 1st September, 1934:—

Table comparing Average Price per lb. and Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) at 1st Sept., 1934, as compared with July, 1914, and 1st Aug., 1934, for various food articles.

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

Table showing Average Percentage Increase or Decrease (-) at 1st Sept., 1934, as compared with July, 1914, categorized by Article and General Average.

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 between 70 and 75 per cent.), the resultant general average increase for 1st September, 1934, is approximately 43 per cent. over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 42 per cent. at 1st August, 1934, and 41 per cent. at 1st September, 1933.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken now as in 1914) is to show the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families (i.e., the standard actually prevailing in working-class families before the war, irrespective of whether such standard was adequate or not). In view of the variations in the amounts of increase in the prices of different commodities it is probable that economies or readjustments in expenditure have been effected in many families, especially in those cases where incomes have not increased so much as prices. On the other hand, the standard of living has doubtless risen in many cases in which wages have been increased in greater proportion than prices.

SUMMARY TABLE: 1920 to 1934.

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 1934:—

Summary Table showing Average Percentage Increase since July, 1914—All Items (Food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, etc.) for each month from 1920 to 1934.

NOTE.

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

\* If this kind is seldom dealt with in a locality, the returns quote the prices of another kind locally representative.
† The description of cheese for which prices are quoted is in most cases Canadian or New Zealand, but in some districts the returns quote the prices of another kind locally representative.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

N.B.—While the percentages given in the following Summary Tables are derived from the most authoritative sources of statistical information, certain differences in the nature and scope of the data used, in the methods of combining such data and in the periods for which the rise is measured, suggest the need for caution in drawing conclusions from a comparison between the figures for any two countries or cities. In every case the percentage calculation is based on the cost of a fixed list of commodities taken in identical quantities.

I.—FOOD.

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

Table showing percentage increase in retail food prices for various countries from 1930 to 1934, compared with July 1914. Columns include Country, July 1930, July 1931, July 1932, July 1933, and Latest figures available (Rise and Date).

II.—ALL ITEMS.

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

Table showing percentage increase in various items (Food, House-Rent, Clothing, Fuel and Light, etc.) for various countries from 1930 to 1934, compared with July 1914. Columns include Country, Items on which computation is based, July 1930, July 1931, July 1932, July 1933, and Latest figures available (Rise and Date).

\* Exceptions to this are: Egypt, January, 1913, to July, 1914; France (other towns), August, 1914; Italy (all items), Milan and Rome, January to June, 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; Spain, South Africa, France (Paris, all items), 1914; Germany, average, 1913-1914; Amsterdam, 1911-1913; Belgium, April, 1914; Italy (food), United States, Canada, 1913; Australia (all items), November, 1914. The Australian percentages for all items are weighted averages for the six capital cities. The percentages are calculated, in Austria, on prices converted at the rate of 1.44 Schilling equals one pre-war Krone, and, in the other countries, on prices in the ordinary currency. † Fuel and light are also included in these figures. ‡ New series. § Figure for June. ¶ A = Food; B = House-Rent; C = Clothing; D = Fuel and light; E = Other or Miscellaneous Items. ¶ Figure for 3rd Quarter. \*\* Figure for August. †† Decrease. ††† Figure for July to December.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

THE number of workpeople, other than seamen, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, whose deaths from accidents in the course of their employment occurred or were reported in August was 140, as compared with 145 in the previous month, and with 143\* in August, 1933. Fatal accidents to seamen reported in August numbered 29, as compared with 40 in the previous month, and with 25 in August, 1933.

Table detailing fatal industrial accidents by sector: Railway Service (Brakemen, Goods Guards, etc.), Factories and Workshops (Shipbuilding, Metal Trades, etc.), Mines (Underground, Surface), Quarries, and Seamen (Trading Vessels, Motor, etc.).

INDUSTRIAL DISEASES.

THE total number of cases† of poisoning, anthrax, and epitheliomatous and chrome ulceration in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported during August, under the Factory and Workshop Act, or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, was 37; the total number of deaths‡ reported was 1.

Table of industrial diseases: I. Cases (Lead Poisoning, Anthrax, Epitheliomatous Ulceration, Chrome Ulceration); II. Deaths (Epitheliomatous Ulceration, Oil).

\* Revised number. † 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.

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

AUGUST, 1934.

RETURNS have been received from 141\* of the 146 Local Authorities which supply such information to the Department, as to the estimated cost of buildings for which plans were approved during August. The returns received from these 141 Authorities (representing towns with a total population of 17,168,000 in 1931) are summarised in the following Table, in which are also given comparisons with the corresponding month of 1933, in respect of the same 141 Authorities:—

Table showing building plans approved by district for August 1934 and August 1933. Columns include District, Dwelling Houses, Factories and Workshops, Shops, Churches, and Totals.

JULY, 1934.

In last month's issue of this GAZETTE figures were given for 142 Local Authorities in respect of plans approved during July, 1934. Returns for the latter month are now available for all 146 of the Local Authorities covered by the Department's enquiries (representing towns with a total population of 17,570,000 in 1931). The estimated cost of the buildings covered by the returns was £3,842,300, compared with £9,405,700 in June, 1934, and £7,853,100 in July, 1933. Of the total for July, 1934, dwelling houses accounted for £6,263,800; factories and workshops, £794,600; shops, offices, warehouses and other business premises, £568,000; churches, schools and public buildings, £460,700; other buildings, and additions and alterations to existing buildings, £755,200.

PRICES AND WAGES IN THE IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRIES.

THE following Table shows the results of recent ascertainment of selling prices of pig iron and of manufactured iron and steel upon which are based changes in the rates of wages of certain classes of iron and steel and other workers in particular districts:—

Table showing prices and wages in the iron and steel industries by district and product (Pig Iron, Manufactured Iron, Steel) for 1934 and 1933.

\* The outstanding returns were distributed as follows:—Lancashire and Cheshire (one); North and West-Midland Counties (three); and Outer London (one). † Particulars are not available for the London County Council Area. ‡ Stated to the nearest farthing.

In accordance with the provisions of the agreements under which wages are regulated\* the ascertainment for Northamptonshire resulted in an increase in the wages of blastfurnacemen, ironstone miners and quarrymen, and limestone quarrymen in that area.

In the case of blastfurnacemen in Cleveland and Durham, iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England, and iron puddlers and millmen and sheet millmen in the West of Scotland, the change in the ascertained price was insufficient to warrant a change in wages.

Increases warranted by the ascertainment in the wages of blastfurnacemen in West Cumberland and North Lancashire and in North Lincolnshire were not put into operation, as reductions due under previous ascertainment had been waived by the employers; while the wages of blastfurnacemen in North Staffordshire remained unaltered at a level higher than that warranted by the price ascertainment. There was also no change in the wages of blastfurnacemen in Nottinghamshire, where the employers agreed to continue the present rates of wages which have, since 1925, been consistently above the level warranted by the price ascertainment.

As regards blastfurnacemen in the West of Scotland and Siemens steel workers in South-West Wales the reduction in price did not involve any reduction in wages, since the latter had already reached the minimum provided for in the agreement.

For details of the change in wages referred to, see last month's issue of this GAZETTE, pages 293-4.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

Trade Boards Acts, 1909-1918.

BOOT AND SHOE REPAIRING TRADE (GREAT BRITAIN).

An employer was charged with underpaying one male worker and was fined £3, with one guinea costs. Arrears of £6 9s. 2d. were ordered to be paid.—Rex v. Charles Sidney Aldrich. Wealdstone Police Court. 31st July, 1934.

Two partners were charged with underpaying one male worker, and failing to keep adequate records. Fines amounting to £2 10s. were imposed on each defendant. Costs of two guineas were awarded, and arrears of £40 were ordered to be paid.—Rex v. Albert Edward Gaskin and James Gaskin. Barrow-in-Furness Police Court. 10th August, 1934.

DRESSMAKING AND WOMEN'S LIGHT CLOTHING TRADE (ENGLAND AND WALES).

An employer in the wholesale branch of the trade, charged with underpaying five male workers, and failing to keep adequate records, was fined £2 on two charges of underpayment. The remaining three charges of underpayment were dismissed under the Probation of Offenders Act on payment of arrears of wages and Court fees. The charge of failing to keep adequate records was similarly dismissed on payment of Court fees. Arrears of wages in respect of all five charges of underpayment, amounting to £123 9s. 7d., were ordered to be paid.—Rex v. Hugh Bernard Branson. Leeds City Police Court. 29th August, 1934.

RETAIL BESPOKE TAILORING TRADE (ENGLAND AND WALES).

An employer was charged with underpaying one male worker, and failing to keep adequate records. The defendant was bound over under the Probation of Offenders Act on both charges. Costs of 5s. were awarded, and arrears of £33 7s. 11d. were ordered to be paid.—Rex v. James Edward Kirkham Spence. Spilsby (Lincs) Police Court. 13th August, 1934.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACTS, 1925-30.

The Silicosis and Asbestosis (Medical Arrangements) Amendment Scheme, 1934.

THE Home Secretary, on 4th August, 1934, made a further Scheme† under section 47 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1925, as extended by the Workmen's Compensation (Silicosis and Asbestosis) Act, 1930.

This Order, which may be cited as the Silicosis and Asbestosis (Medical Arrangements) Amendment Scheme, 1934, and came into force on 1st September, 1934, amends that part of the Silicosis and Asbestosis (Medical Arrangements) Scheme, 1931,† which relates to the initial and periodic medical examination of workers in certain industries and processes involving exposure to silica or asbestos dust, which are included in the first schedule to the Scheme.

\* See the article on Adjustment of Wages by Sliding-Scale Arrangements (Selling Price Sliding Scales) in the issue of this GAZETTE for April, 1933, page 122.

† The Silicosis and Asbestosis (Medical Arrangements) Amendment Scheme, 1934. Statutory Rules and Orders, 1934; No. 889. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net (1d. post free).

‡ See the issue of this GAZETTE for May, 1931, page 205.





250,000 Leaflets T.472X: Fosh & Cross, Ltd., London, E. 300,000 Leaflets T.468X: Hudson & Kearns, Ltd., London, S.E. 400,000 Leaflets T.470X: Jordison & Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough. Despatch Boxes, Leather Attache Cases, Portfolios and Gussset Cases, Despatch Cases, Pouches, Wallets, etc.: John Peck & Son, London, S.E. 2,245,000 Folders Telephone Rates, Receipt Books, C. Tinning & Co., Ltd., Prescot. Cloth Covered Boxes: A. E. Walker, Ltd., London, N. 2,000 Sets "Dividers for Postal Orders": W. Wood & Son, Ltd., London, W.

#### H.M. OFFICE OF WORKS.

**Building Services:** Brighton, North Road Telephone Exchange—Alterations and Additions: Rice & Son, Ltd., Brighton. British Museum, King Edward Buildings—Steel Shelving: Constructors, Ltd., Birmingham. Burton-on-Trent Employment Exchange—Adaptations for Unemployment Assistance Board Accommodation: C. Hodges & Son, Ltd., Burton-on-Trent. Chelmsford Head Post Office—Extension: A. J. Arnold, Chelmsford. Chelsea Sorting Office—Re-roofing: Galbraith Bros., Ltd., London, S.E. Chertsey (Surrey) Telephone Exchange—Erection and Alterations and Additions to Post Office: J. W. Jones, West Weybridge, Surrey. Darwen Employment Exchange—Erection: W. Knowles, Ltd., Darwen. East Strand Post Office, W.C.—(Public Office) Improvements: W. & M. Negus, Ltd., London, S.E. General Post Office, North—Execution of Marble Work: J. Whitehead & Sons, Ltd., London, S.E. General Post Office, North—Structural Alterations: Marchant Hirst & Co., London, N.W. Harringay Branch Post Office—Improvements: Marchant Hirst & Co., London, N.W. Holborn Telephone Exchange—Alterations and Additions: H. & J. Taylor, London, S.E. Hounslow Inland Revenue Office—Erection: Commercial Structures, Ltd., London, E.C. Keighley Employment Exchange—Erection: O. Atkinson & Sons, Harrogate. Kew Gardens, Jodrell Laboratory—Extension: F. D. Hidden & Co., Ltd., Brentford. Mount Pleasant Post Office—Partitions: Limpus & Son, Ltd., Kingston-on-Thames. Mount Pleasant Post Office, Letter Office—Racking: J. Greenwood & Co., Ltd., London, E.C. Newcastle-on-Tyne Central Telephone Exchange, and Board of Trade Offices—Internal Decorations: C. H. Graham, Sunderland. Plymouth Station Sorting Office Garage—Erection: Wakeham Bros., Plymouth. Post Office Research Station, Dollis Hill, N.W.—Erection of Diningroom Block and Cable Laboratory: Gee, Walker & Slater, Ltd., London, S.W. Rampton State Institution—Erection of Cottages and Extension of Workshop: Bernard Pumphrey, Ltd., Gainsborough. Ruislip (Middlesex)—Alterations and Extensions to Post Office and Erection of Telephone Exchange: W. A. James & Sons, Maidenhead. Selby Employment Exchange—Erection: J. H. Gilbert, Doncaster. St. James's Park—Re-surfacing of Birdcage Walk: J. Mowlem & Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Telephone House, Birmingham—Erection of Superstructure: W. J. Whittall & Son, Ltd., Birmingham. Waterloo Telephone Exchange, London, S.E. Erection: A. Roberts & Co., Ltd., London, W.—**Painting Services:** Adastral House, W.C.—Internal Painting and Cleaning: Oates Bros., Bradford. Admiralty Buildings, S.W.—External and Internal Painting: G. Jones & Son, London, W. Birmingham Head Post Office—External and Internal Painting: J. E. Harper & Son, Ltd., Birmingham. Buckingham Palace—External Painting: Campbell Smith & Co., Ltd., London, W. 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\* June, 1934, contract.  
† July, 1934, contracts.

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