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SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL STATISTICS.

WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT.

The following is a summary of the employment statistics for Great Britain for November, 1947, and for mid-1939, mid-1945, end-1946, and October, 1947:—

	(Thousands)				
	Mid-1939.	Mid-1945.	End-1946.	Oct., 1947.	Nov., 1947.
Numbers in Civil Employment:—					
Manufacture for Export ..	990	410	1,477	1,838	1,911
Other Manufactures:—					
Equipment, etc., for the Forces ..	1,270	3,830	460	350	350
Manufacture for Home Market ..	4,555	2,580	5,069	5,041	5,002
Agriculture, Fishing, Mining, etc., Utilities and Transport ..	3,298	3,288	3,530	3,622	3,628
Building and Civil Engineering ..	1,310	722	1,289	1,366	1,356
Government Services ..	1,465	2,030	2,158	2,161	2,163
Distributive Trades ..	2,887	1,958	2,309	2,352	2,368
Other Services ..	2,225	1,598	1,984	2,131	2,127
Total in Civil Employment	18,000	16,416	18,276	18,861	18,905
Armed Forces and Auxiliary Services ..	480	5,090	1,440	1,198	1,161
Ex-H.M. Forces who have not yet taken up Employment ..	—	40	300	110	113
Insured persons registered as Unemployed ..	1,270	103	398	262	273
Total Working Population (excluding Indoor Private Domestic Service)	19,750	21,649	20,414	20,431	20,452

The total number in civil employment in November, 1947, included 13,225,000 males and 5,680,000 females. Compared with mid-1939, the number of males showed an increase of 62,000 and the number of females an increase of 843,000.

The above figures are analysed in greater detail on pages 18 and 19.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

The numbers of insured persons registered as unemployed in Great Britain at 8th December, 1947, are given below, together with the corresponding figures for November and for mid-1939.

	Mid-1939.	10th Nov., 1947.	8th Dec., 1947.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) at December compared with November.
Men (18 and under 65)	992,000	189,744	199,652	+ 9,908
Boys (14 to 17)	20,000	4,979	4,653	— 326
Women (18 and under 60)	239,000	68,743	69,142	+ 399
Girls (14 to 17)	19,000	4,319	3,798	— 521

The numbers unemployed at 8th December, 1947, represented 2 per cent. of the estimated total number of insured persons, the corresponding percentages for male and female being 2 and 1½ respectively.

Of the total of 277,245 persons unemployed, 270,032 were wholly unemployed and 7,213 were temporarily stopped. Of the former, 72,143 had been out of work for not more than two weeks, 76,097 for more than two but not more than eight weeks, and 121,792 for more than eight weeks.

The figures for December, 1947, are analysed in greater detail on pages 22 to 25, on which statistics are given for each of the Regions and for a number of the larger towns and also for the separate industries.

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in December resulted in an aggregate increase estimated at approximately £79,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 370,000 workpeople. In addition, a number of workpeople had their hourly rates increased so as to give approximately the same weekly wages for a shorter working week.

The principal groups of workpeople affected by increases in wage rates were employed in the baking industry in England and Wales, the electrical contracting industry in England and Wales and Northern Ireland, a section of the heavy chemicals industry, retail meat distribution in England and Wales, the building and civil engineering construction industries in Northern Ireland, paint, varnish and lacquer manufacture, drug and fine chemical manufacture, and the corn trade.

It is estimated that weekly wage rates at the end of December, 1947, were about 73 per cent. higher than in September, 1939, the same as at the end of November, 1947.

The number of workpeople whose hours were reduced in December was about 175,000, the average reduction being about 3 hours a week. The principal reductions affected workpeople employed in rubber manufacture, the electrical contracting industry in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, retail meat distribution in England and Wales, roadstone quarrying, and the cast stone and cast concrete products industry.

Full particulars of the changes in rates of wages and hours of labour in December are given on pages 29–32.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of stoppages of work due to industrial disputes, reported to the Department as beginning in December, was 119. In addition, 16 stoppages which began before December were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The approximate number of workers involved, during December, in these 135 stoppages (including also workers thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred though not themselves parties to the disputes) was nearly 25,000 and the aggregate number of working days lost at the establishments concerned, during December, was about 79,000.

The aggregate number of working days lost on account of all stoppages in progress during 1947 was about 2,430,000, and the total number of workers involved in these stoppages was about 620,000.

Further particulars of stoppages of work due to industrial disputes in December are given on page 32.

RETAIL PRICES.

At 16th December the official index figure, which measures changes in the average level of retail prices compared with the level at the base date, 17th June, 1947 (taken as 100), was 104. The corresponding figure at 18th November was 103.

The rise in the index during the month under review was mainly accounted for by increased prices for potatoes and apples, articles of furniture, various household appliances, and floor coverings.

Further details of changes in retail prices during the month under review are given on page 33.

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT, WAGES, HOURS OF LABOUR, RETAIL PRICES AND TRADE DISPUTES IN 1947.

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

Changes in the total size of the working population, and in its distribution, were small in 1947 compared with those in 1946. In 1946, the total working population was reduced by 730,000* (220,000 men and 510,000 women) largely as a result of the retirement from industry of elderly people, married women and others mobilised for the war effort. By late 1946, this decline had come almost to an end. During the first nine months of 1947, there was a further loss of 51,000 (nearly all women); but the campaign in the summer to bring women back into industry, together with the introduction of the Control of Engagement Order at the beginning of October, 1947, reversed the trend, at least temporarily. During October and November, the working population increased by 89,000 (21,000 men and 68,000 women). Thus by the end of November, 1947, the total working population was 38,000 greater than at the end of 1946, and 700,000 greater than in mid-1939.

A major factor in the net expansion of the working population during 1947 was the introduction, under various official schemes,† of about 84,000 foreign workers (in January-November), comprising 73,000 men and 11,000 women. This increase was partly offset by a decline of 46,000 in the number of British workers during 1947, due to the raising of the school-leaving age as from April, 1947; as a result of this measure, and of the change in age structure, the number of 14-year-olds in employment fell by about 120,000.

The number of British workers, of 15 and over, in the working population rose in January-November, 1947, by about 75,000 (5,000 men and 70,000 women).‡ The increase during October and November alone was rather more than 75,000, balanced by losses (of both men and women) earlier in the year.

The principal factor in the redistribution of man-power, both in 1946 and 1947, was the demobilisation of the Forces. During 1946, 2,557,000 men and 234,000 women were released from the Forces. In January-November, 1947, the numbers released were 544,000 men and 44,000 women.

Allowing for the intake into the Forces (about 300,000 in January-November), the reduction in unemployment, and the fall in the numbers on release leave, the increase in the numbers in civilian employment during January-November, 1947, was 629,000 or 3 per cent. (542,000 men and 87,000 women). The increase in men was governed chiefly by the rate of demobilisation and was relatively steady during the year. Most of the increase in the number of women, however, occurred in October and November. In 1946 the corresponding increase, in men and women together, was over 2 million, or 12½ per cent.

The net effect of these changes in total man-power, and in its distribution between the Forces, civil employment and other categories, is shown in the following Table:—

	Change in 1947.		Strength at end-Nov., 1947.		
	Jan.-Sept. 000s.	Oct.-Nov. 000s.	Number. 000s.	As per cent. of	
				end-Dec., 1946.	Mid-1939.
Total Working Population	+ 51	+ 89	20,452	100	104
of which:					
Men	+ 5	+ 21	14,645	100	100
Women	+ 46	+ 68	5,807	100	114
Forces and Auxiliary Services	+ 208	+ 71	1,161	81	242
Ex-members of Forces not yet in employment	+ 185	+ 2	113	38	—
Insured Unemployed	+ 148	+ 23	273	69	22
Total in Civilian Employment	+ 490	+ 139	18,905	103	105
of which:					
Men	+ 472	+ 70	13,225	104	100
Women	+ 18	+ 69	5,680	102	117

At the end of November, 1947, therefore, total civilian employment (in industry, commerce and services of all kinds) was 3 per cent. greater than at the end of 1946 (4 per cent. greater for men and 2 per cent. greater for women). The total was 5 per cent. greater than at mid-1939, but, whereas the number of men was almost unchanged, the number of women was 17 per cent. greater than before the war. The proportion of women in civilian employment thus increased from 27 per cent. in 1939 to 30 per cent. in November, 1947 (it was 38 per cent. in mid-1945).

The opportunities for substantial redistribution of the labour force in 1947 were limited by (a) the small intake of juveniles (restricted as a result of the raising of the school-leaving age), and (b) the fact that releases from the Forces were only one-fifth as many as in 1946. The changes that occurred are summarised in the next column.

* This figure, and others for 1946 quoted hereafter, represent a revision of the figures given on page 2 of the GAZETTE for January, 1947.

† European Volunteer Workers, Polish Resettlement Corps, Polish civilians, Italian foundry workers, and ex-prisoners of war employed under civilian contracts.

‡ These figures include a very small number of foreign workers employed under other than official schemes.

	Change in 1947.		Strength at end of Nov., 1947.		
	Jan.-Sept. 000s.	Oct.-Nov. 000s.	Number. 000s.	As per cent. of	
				end-Dec., 1946.	Mid-1939.
Manufacturing Industries:					
Metals, engineering and shipbuilding	+ 29	+ 51	3,554	102	126
Chemicals	+ 11	+ 5	367	104	125
Food, drink and tobacco	+ 19	+ 11	629	105	96
Textiles	+ 24	+ 20	811	106	81
Clothing	+ 14	+ 3	628	103	83
Other manufactures	+ 51	+ 19	1,274	106	98
Total manufactures	+ 148	+ 109	7,263	104	107
of which, for export	+ 242	+ 192	1,911	129	193*
Basic Industries:					
Agriculture and fishing	+ 8	+ 2	1,091	101	115
Mining and quarrying	+ 26	+ 1	828	103	95
Transport and shipping	+ 51	+ 4	1,439	104	117
Gas, water and electricity	+ 2	+ 4	90	101	112
Other Industries and Services:					
Building and civil engineering	+ 78	+ 11	1,356	105	103
National Government	+ 46	+ 4	971	96	180
Local Government	+ 46	+ 4	1,102	105	130
N.F.S. and Police	+ 2	+ 1	90	101	112
Distributive trades	+ 24	+ 35	2,368	102	82
Hotels and catering; and entertainments and sport	+ 74	+ 19	836	107	102
Laundries and dry-cleaning	+ 4	+ 2	177	103	84
Other services†	+ 73	+ 9	1,114	108	93
Total in civilian employment	+ 490	+ 139	18,905	103	105

Every category specified above showed an increase during the year, with the exception of National Government, which declined by 46,000. The number of non-industrial civil servants (making up 70 per cent. of the total) fell by 31,000 and of Government industrial staffs and other categories by 15,000. In November, however, the total in National Government Service was 80 per cent. greater than in 1939. The increases during 1947 were less than the average in metals, engineering and shipbuilding; in agriculture and fishing; in gas, water and electricity; in the National Fire Service and Police; and in the distributive trades. On the other hand, employment increased more than the average during 1947 in chemicals; food, drink and tobacco; textiles; other manufactures (building materials, pottery, glass, leather, wood, paper, rubber, etc.); transport and shipping; building and civil engineering; local government; hotels and catering, and entertainment and sport; and other services. In mining and quarrying, in the clothing trades (where employment declined by 6,000 from April to August, and again by 1,000 in November), and in laundries and cleaning the increase was equal to the average.

In several of these industries there was a significant difference between the rate of change, and in some cases the direction of change, before and after September, 1947. Thus, in textiles, among the principal under-manned industries, the rate of expansion was nearly four times as great in October-November as in the previous nine months, but the labour force at the end of November was only 83 per cent. of that in 1939. The increase after September in the rate of expansion was even more marked in metals, engineering and shipbuilding, which are not, as a group, regarded as "under-manned" and where the labour force is 26 per cent. greater than in 1939. The rate of expansion was also accelerated after September in distribution, but the total employed reached only 82 per cent. of the pre-war level.

In transport and shipping, as in Local Government Service, the rate of expansion was considerably slowed down after September; both groups were, however, substantially larger in November than in 1939. In building and civil engineering, and in hotels and catering, entertainment and sport, an expansion during the first nine months of the year was turned into a decline in October and November; in both groups employment in November was still a little above the pre-war level. The trend in mining and quarrying was rather different from that in other industries. From the end of 1946 to end-July the number increased by 30,000; this was followed by a decline of 5,000 during August-October. In November, however, employment increased by 2,000 (and by a further 3,000 in December).

In manufacturing industry as a whole the total number employed rose during January-November by 257,000, or 4 per cent. Analysis of the estimated distribution of the labour force according to the use made of the product shows the following changes during the eleven months:—

Work on equipment and supplies for the Forces	— 110,000 (24 per cent.)
Work for export	+ 434,000 (29 per cent.)
Work for civilian home market	— 67,000 (1 per cent.)

The whole of the decline in the last category occurred after the middle of the year.

* Comparison of the current figures with those for 1939 may be affected by (a) differences in the amount of work indirectly for export that is included, and (b) changes in the average labour content of exports due to changes in the relative amounts of different commodities exported.

† Commerce and finance, professional and personal services.

During 1947 the general trend of unemployment was downwards, apart from an abnormal increase during February and March, arising out of the severe weather and the shortage of fuel, and a slight seasonal increase in the last quarter of the year. At the beginning of the year the total number of insured persons registered as unemployed in Great Britain was approximately 400,000. Towards the end of January very severe weather set in, and as a result of the transport difficulties which ensued, coupled with the inadequacy of stocks, the supplies of fuel at electricity undertakings were so much reduced in some parts of the country that urgent steps had to be taken early in February to curtail the consumption of power in those areas. Industrial activity was very seriously affected, and the numbers of insured persons registered at Employment Exchanges rose to 1,874,000 at 22nd February. The curtailment of activity was considerably greater, however, than this figure indicates, since large numbers of those who were stood off from employment continued to receive payments under guaranteed week and other arrangements and consequently did not register at Employment Exchanges. The number in this category was estimated to have been about 500,000 at 22nd February. Following the increase in the stocks of coal at power stations which the restrictions and other measures brought about, there was a fairly general resumption of industrial activity by the end of February, and by 10th March the number of insured persons registered as unemployed had fallen to 765,000. Thereafter there was a continuous reduction month by month to 240,000 at 15th September, but the seasonal increase in the last quarter of the year brought the total up again to 277,000 at 8th December. This figure was 85,700 lower than the corresponding figure for December, 1946; there was a decrease of 65,300 among males and 20,400 among females. The decrease in the numbers of insured males registered as unemployed included a reduction of 18,000 in the number of unemployed ex-members of the Forces who had had no employment since release or discharge. Among females there was a reduction from 45,000 at December, 1946, to 36,000 at December, 1947, in the number of married women registered as unemployed. The decrease was widely spread industrially; the metals and engineering group of industries had the largest reduction over the year (17,000 males and 7,000 females), followed by the chemicals, explosives, paints, oils, etc., group with decreases of 6,000 among males and 4,000 among females.

The numbers of insured persons registered as unemployed in each month from December, 1946, to December, 1947, are shown in the Table below.

In addition there were some uninsured persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges. These numbered 7,132 in December, 1946, and 11,270 in December, 1947, and included 3,201 boys and girls under 18 who had not yet entered industry in December, 1946, and 1,221 in December, 1947.

Date.	Numbers of Insured Persons on the Registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain.				
	Men 18 years and under 65.	Boys 14 and under 18.	Women 18 years and under 60.	Girls 14 and under 18.	Total.
1946.					
9th December 1947.	261,729	7,931	88,001	5,315	362,976
13th January 1947.	292,157	9,771	92,517	6,804	401,249
22nd February	1,197,984	53,354	557,347	65,376	1,874,061
10th March	571,601	18,041	163,192	12,014	764,848
14th April	309,280	9,063	101,757	6,889	426,989
12th May	239,383	7,041	80,107	5,012	331,543
16th June	196,928	5,292	66,320	3,796	272,336
14th July	185,789	4,536	61,899	3,322	255,546
11th August	181,042	5,162	59,815	3,672	249,691
15th September	171,484	5,327	58,910	4,191	239,912
13th October	184,059	5,277	65,097	4,552	258,985
10th November	189,744	4,979	68,743	4,319	267,785
8th December	199,652	4,653	69,142	3,798	277,245

The numbers of insured unemployed persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in each Administrative Region in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 9th December, 1946, and 8th December, 1947, were as shown below:—

Region.	Males aged 14 and under 65.		Females aged 14 and under 60.		Total number unemployed at 8th Dec., 1947, expressed as percentage of estimated total number of insured persons.
	9th Dec., 1946.	8th Dec., 1947.	9th Dec., 1946.	8th Dec., 1947.	
London and South-Eastern	30,964	29,993	7,442	9,769	1
Eastern	8,244	6,940	2,765	2,975	1½
Southern	5,675	6,805	2,296	2,303	1½
South-Western	8,292	8,080	2,761	2,689	1½
Midland	10,646	7,853	2,127	2,007	1
North-Midland	7,643	5,298	3,110	3,822	1
East and West Ridings	15,978	11,470	4,531	3,348	1
North-Western	52,005	38,552	13,019	10,143	2
Northern	32,498	22,603	16,281	9,089	3
Scotland	59,104	38,264	19,658	14,496	3
Wales	37,385	27,439	15,781	11,642	5½
Special Schemes	1,226	1,008	3,545	657	1
Great Britain	269,660	204,305	93,316	72,940	2
Northern Ireland	29,239	26,178	3,737	3,784	8
United Kingdom	298,899	230,483	97,053	76,724	2

The reduction in unemployment during the year occurred almost entirely in the northern Regions of England and in Scotland

and Wales. The changes in the various Regions were as follows:—

Region.	Males.	Females.
London, Eastern, Southern and South-Western.	— 1,400	+ 2,500
Midland and North-Midland.	— 5,100	+ 600
East and West Ridings.	— 4,500	— 1,200
North-Western.	— 13,500	— 2,900
Northern.	— 9,900	— 7,200
Scotland.	— 20,800	— 5,200
Wales.	— 10,000	— 4,100

The reduction in the Northern Region and in Scotland and Wales is reflected also in the figures for the Development Areas, where the number of insured persons registered as unemployed in December, 1947, was 46,200 lower than in December, 1946.

Northern Ireland continued to have a higher rate of unemployment than any part of Great Britain (8 per cent.), followed by Wales with 5½ per cent., and the Northern Region and Scotland with 3 per cent. In all other Regions the rate of unemployment was 2 per cent. or less.

RATES OF WAGES.

The period of relative stability in wage rates which began in mid-1946 continued till the middle of 1947. In the second half of the year, however, there were increases in the wage rates in some of the major industries.

In the industries for which statistics as to changes in rates of wages are regularly compiled by the Department,* the changes reported up to the end of June resulted in an aggregate net increase in weekly full-time rates of wages of about £300,000. The increase in the second six months of the year was about £1,400,000. In the whole year the aggregate net increase was thus nearly £1½ million in the weekly wage rates of nearly 5 million workpeople. While there have been variations in the amounts of increase granted in different industries, it is estimated that, at the end of 1947, the average level of full-time weekly rates of wages in all the industries for which information is available was nearly 5 per cent. higher than at the end of 1946, and about 73 per cent. higher than at September, 1939. Of the increase of 5 per cent., nearly 4 per cent. was granted in the second half of the year. In many industries the length of the normal week was reduced during the year without any corresponding reduction in weekly rates of wages. This had the effect of increasing hourly rates of wages, and it is estimated that the increase in hourly rates was between 9 and 10 per cent. on average, making a total increase since September, 1939, of about 84 to 85 per cent. These percentage increases in weekly and hourly rates of wages take no account of increases in average earnings which have resulted since the beginning of the war from other factors, such as fuller employment, overtime working, and the extension of systems of payment by results in some industries.†

The next Table shows the approximate numbers of workpeople affected by the changes in rates of wages reported to the Department in 1947, and the net amount of the change in their weekly rates of wages, in each of the principal groups of industries for which detailed statistics are available.* Corresponding figures are also given for 1946.

Industry Group.	Approximate Number of separate Individuals reported as affected by Net Increases in Weekly Rates of Wages.		Estimated Net Weekly Increases in the Rates of Wages of all workpeople affected.	
	1947.‡	1946.	£	£
Agriculture	860,000	850,000	380,700	394,900
Mining and Quarrying	428,000	69,700	237,400	29,400
Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc.	163,000	347,300	45,800	130,200
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	269,000	2,289,000	51,200	648,000
Textile	74,000	582,700	20,600	129,900
Clothing	217,500	511,900	54,400	180,500
Food, Drink and Tobacco	211,000	328,000	77,600	104,700
Woodworking, Furniture, etc.	91,500	195,300	19,300	77,300
Paper, Printing, etc.	48,000	228,800	12,800	143,400
Building, Civil Engineering Construction, etc.	923,000	869,200	371,500	486,700
Gas, Water and Electricity Supply	152,000	185,900	29,000	52,200
Transport§	468,000	372,200	164,800	140,900
Public Administration Services	327,000	343,300	80,800	147,500
Other	710,000	806,700	180,600	235,700
Total	4,942,000	7,980,000	1,726,500	2,901,300

In addition to the numbers shown in the above Table, about 205,000 workpeople received increases and sustained decreases of equal amounts during the year.

* The statistics are exclusive of changes affecting Government employees, domestic servants, shop assistants and clerks. They relate to rates of wages for a full week, and do not take account of variations in actual earnings resulting from other factors, such as changes in the state of employment or in weekly working hours. The changes reported are mainly those arranged by organisations of employers and workers. Changes arranged by individual employers and affecting unorganised groups of workpeople are not, in most cases, reported to the Department.

† Some particulars of the increases in average earnings between October, 1938, and April, 1947, with figures for certain intermediate periods, were given in the issue of this GAZETTE for October, 1947.

‡ The figures given for 1947 are preliminary and subject to revision.

§ Changes affecting workpeople employed in railway engineering workshops are included under "Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding" and not under "Transport."

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN 1947.

Of the total amount of increase of £1½ million, nearly two-thirds was accounted for by increases in agriculture, coal mining, building, public works contracting, etc., and in the railway service.

Agriculture.—The minimum rates of wages fixed under the Agricultural Wages Regulation Acts were increased in August by 10s. a week for men employed in England and Wales, and in October by 10s. to 11s. 6d. a week, according to district or occupation, for men employed in Scotland, making the minimum rate for ordinary workers 90s. a week. The minimum rates for women were increased by 8s. in England and Wales and by 7s. 6d. or 8s. 6d. a week in Scotland. In Northern Ireland the statutory minimum rates for men were raised in November by 10s. a week. In each case there were proportional increases for juvenile workers.

Coal Mining.—When the normal working week was reduced in May, a bonus was granted to workers who had worked five full shifts in any week, amounting (a) to the average rate of the individual day-wage worker for that week or (b) to 16 per cent. of the aggregate earnings (excluding overtime) of the individual pieceworker for that week, with a minimum of £1. In November there were increases of 15s. (100s. to 115s.) in the national weekly minimum wage for adult underground workers and of 10s. (90s. to 100s.) for adult male surface workers, and the shift rates of day-wage men were increased by 2s. 6d. for adult underground workers and 1s. 8d. for adult surface workers. Workers under 21 years and female surface workers whose wages are regulated in relation to male workers had proportional increases.

Building and Contracting.—In November the standard rates of wages of craftsmen in the building industry in Great Britain were increased by 3d. an hour and those of labourers by 2½d. or 2½d., according to district. The increase in wage rates was accompanied by provisions enabling incentive systems of bonus payments to be introduced. The rates of wages of civil engineering construction workers in Great Britain were increased by ½d. an hour in August, when normal hours of work were reduced from 48, averaged over the year, to 44 throughout the year. In November rates were further advanced by 2d. an hour. In Northern Ireland increases of 3d. an hour for craftsmen and 2½d. for labourers were granted in December to workers employed in the building and civil engineering construction industries. In the electrical contracting industry in England and Wales and Northern Ireland there were increases in the basic rates for journeymen electricians of 4d. or 3½d. an hour, according to area, which represented, in conjunction with a reduction in the normal working week from 47 to 44 hours, increases of 5s. 1d. to 6s. 5d. in weekly wages. These increases came into operation on the first pay day in January, 1948, and were in respect of the pay period covered by that day.

Railway Service.—Both traffic and workshop workers employed by the main line railway companies in Great Britain received advances in June of 7s. 6d. a week for male and female adults and 2s. or 3s. 9d. for juniors. Workers employed by the London Passenger Transport Board secured similar advances. In Northern Ireland railway traffic workers received increases in August of 6s. a week plus 2½ per cent. calculated on the existing rates for adults, and of 3s. plus 1½ per cent. for juniors, while semi-skilled and unskilled railway shopmen received an increase of 10s. a week.

Other Industries or Services.—There were increases in wage rates in a large number of other industries or services, some particulars of which are given below.

In the iron and steel industry (manufacture of pig iron and of finished iron and steel) there were slight fluctuations in wage rates during the early part of the year as a result of the operation of sliding-scale arrangements under which rates of wages were adjusted periodically in accordance with movements in the official cost-of-living index figure. When this figure was replaced by the new index of retail prices it was agreed that, until experience had been gained of the new index, the rates subject to sliding-scale fluctuations should be stabilised for periods ranging up to six months at a level which represented in most districts a net increase of about 1d. a shift above the rates in operation at the beginning of the year.

In the retail bespoke tailoring trade in England and Wales new minimum rates were fixed under the Wages Councils Act for a shorter working week, resulting in increases of varying amounts in weekly wages; the rates previously in operation had been fixed separately for 14 districts and for areas within each district, whereas the new rates apply to England and Wales as a whole, and each locality in the country is assigned to one of three grades for wages purposes. The minimum time rates fixed under the Wages Councils Act for laundry workers in Great Britain were raised for men by 5s. a week and for women by 5s. or by varying amounts, according to the work performed, for those employed as substitutes for male workers.

There were increases of 8s. a week for men and 4s. for women in the flour milling industry. The statutory minimum rates of wages in the baking industry in England and Wales were increased in January by 2d. an hour for men and by 1½d. for women; in December there was a further increase of 1d. an hour for both men and women. In Scotland the national agreed rates were increased in September by 5s. to 12s. a week for men, according to occupation and starting time of shift, and by 5s. or 5s. 3d. for women. In biscuit manufacture there were increases of 4s. a week for men and women.

In furniture manufacturing a bonus was granted to adult male and female timeworkers who were not employed under an approved payment-by-results scheme or who had not been offered

such a scheme, amounting to 2d. an hour for men and 1½d. for women, or in either case such less sum as would secure a total hourly remuneration of not less than the appropriate current minimum time rate plus 2d. or 1½d. an hour, respectively. Dayworkers in paper making had increases amounting to 1d. an hour for men and ½d. for women, shiftworkers 1½d. for men, and pieceworkers an increase in prices so as to yield not less than 25 per cent. over the minimum time rate inclusive of consolidated war bonus, instead of the previous 20 per cent. above the time rate before the addition of war bonus.

Shift workers employed in the gas supply industry received a bonus of 9d. a shift to compensate for the continuation of a 48-hour week, while other workers in the industry received the same weekly wages as before for a reduced working week. In the electricity supply industry, the rates of wages which had previously been fixed separately in all districts in the United Kingdom except Greater London were replaced by consolidated uniform rates fixed for two wage zones, resulting in increases of varying amounts for nearly all grades of workers. In the Greater London district there were increases of 1½d. an hour for men in all grades.

The minimum rates of wages agreed upon by the National Joint Industrial Councils for different classes of workpeople employed in the retail distribution of groceries, provisions and other foods, drapery, clothing and footwear, furnishings, etc., and meat were increased by varying amounts, according to area, occupation and age. For example, shop assistants, cashiers and clerks in the retail drapery, outfitting and footwear trades had increases of 10s. a week for men and 9s. for women in London, and 9s. or 7s. for men and 8s. or 5s. for women in other areas. In the wholesale distribution of groceries and provisions in England and Wales there were increases in January of 4s. a week in the minimum rates for adult warehouse workers and 2s. for transport workers; in November, there was a further increase of 6s. a week for both classes of workers. General distributive, clerical, etc., workers employed by wholesale and retail co-operative societies in Great Britain were granted an increase in national war bonus of 4s. a week for men and women. There were increases in basic rates also for employees of retail co-operative societies in the metropolitan district. In the milk distributive trade the statutory minimum time rates of wages were increased in England and Wales by 4s. a week for men and women, and in Scotland by 4s. 3d. or 7s. 6d., according to occupation, for men and by 5s., 5s. 3d., or 7s. 6d. for women.

Among workers engaged in central and local government services, manipulative grades of workers (postmen, telegraphists, telephonists, etc.), employed by the Post Office, had new scales of wages which took effect in October and resulted in increases of varying amounts, according to grade, age and classification of office. In the non-trading services of local authorities in most districts in England and Wales new national standard rates were fixed for men employed as manual workers, establishing a two-zone wage system and resulting in increases in April of amounts varying from 1s. 2d. to 9s. 6d. a week in most cases, and in further increases in October for workers employed by authorities previously in the lowest of these wage zones, amounting generally to 3s. a week; in Scotland there were increases in February of 7s. 6d. a week in war wage for men employed on full time. For roadmen employed by most county councils in England and Wales a new zoning system of wage rates was introduced, representing increases over the rates previously in operation of amounts varying from 2s. to 9s. a week, according to region.

INDUSTRIES IN WHICH THERE WAS NO GENERAL CHANGE IN 1947.

The principal industries in which no general increases in rates of wages were reported in 1947 (including industries which had changes in hourly rates designed solely to give approximately the same weekly wages as before for a shorter normal working week), were pottery manufacture, the building brick and allied trades in most districts, the engineering and allied and other metal industries, shipbuilding and repairing, cotton and woollen manufacture, textile bleaching, dyeing and finishing in Great Britain, boot and shoe manufacture, ready-made and wholesale bespoke tailoring, wholesale mantle and costume manufacture, shirtmaking, dressmaking and women's light clothing manufacture in England and Wales, sugar confectionery, cocoa and chocolate manufacture and food preserving in Great Britain, the general printing and bookbinding industry, road haulage of goods, road passenger transport in Great Britain, and the port transport (dock labour) industry.

In the case of about 205,000 workpeople there were two or more movements in wages during the year which left the general level of wages the same at the end as at the beginning of the year.

METHODS BY WHICH CHANGES IN WAGES WERE ARRANGED.

In the case of those workpeople who received increases at certain dates and sustained reductions at other dates in 1947, the figures in the Table in the second column of page 3 relate to the net amount of the change in the year. The gross total of all the increases granted was £1,785,600, and that of all the decreases was £59,100 a week, the net effect being an increase, as shown, of £1,726,500 a week. Nearly all the workpeople affected by the decreases received increases at other dates in the year. The following Table gives the aggregate amounts of the total increases and total decreases which were effected by various methods during

1947, together with percentages showing to what extent each method contributed to the total.

Method.	Aggregate Weekly Amount of Change in Rates of Wages effected by the Methods shown in first column.			
	Increases.		Decreases.	
	Amount.	Percentage of Total.	Amount.	Percentage of Total.
	£	Per cent.	£	Per cent.
Under Sliding Scales* based on Cost of Living ..	10,800	0.6	9,500	16.1
Arbitration and Mediation ..	227,800	12.8	—	—
By Other Methods—				
Direct Negotiation, etc. ..	329,400	18.4	1,000	1.7
Joint Industrial Councils* ..	279,000	15.6	—	—
Other Standing Joint Councils, Conciliation Boards, etc., established by voluntary agreement*	403,400	22.6	48,600	82.2
Wages Councils and other Statutory Wages Boards*	535,200	30.0	—	—
Total	1,785,600	100.0	59,100	100.0

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES IN THE YEARS 1939-1947.

The following Table shows the approximate numbers of workpeople, in the industries and services for which detailed statistics are available,† whose rates of wages were increased or reduced (so far as reported) in each of the years from 1939 to 1947, and the net amount of increase or decrease in their weekly rates of wages:—

Year.	Approximate number of separate individuals† reported as affected by		Estimated Net Weekly Amount of Change in Rates of Wages.		Estimated Net Weekly Increase in Rates of Wages of the Workpeople affected.
	Net Increases.	Net Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.	
1939 ..	6,150,000	65,800	980,900	8,500	972,400
1940 ..	8,780,000	—	2,633,000	—	2,633,000
1941 ..	8,565,000	—	2,490,000	—	2,490,000
1942 ..	6,707,000	400	1,708,000	50	1,707,950
1943 ..	7,237,000	152,100	1,630,900	2,900	1,628,000
1944 ..	8,587,000	300	1,958,000	500	1,957,500
1945 ..	7,308,000	400	1,806,100	50	1,806,050
1946 ..	7,980,000	—	2,901,300	—	2,901,300
1947 ..	4,942,000	—	1,726,500	—	1,726,500

In view of the limitations to which attention has been drawn above,† and especially of the fact that certain large groups of workpeople are not covered by the statistics, the figures in the Table should not be regarded as affording more than a general indication of the movement in rates of wages in any year in comparison with that in other years, and special significance should not be attached to small differences in the amount of change as between one year and another.

HOURS OF LABOUR.

Since the widespread reduction in hours of labour in the years 1919 and 1920, there had been comparatively little movement in working hours until 1946, when about 2,100,000 workpeople had a reduction in hours of work. During 1947, the reductions continued and it is estimated that, in the industries for which statistics are available,† about 5,200,000 workpeople had their normal weekly hours of labour reduced by about 3½ hours a week on the average.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople, in the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department,† whose hours were reported as changed in each of the years 1939 to 1947, and the aggregate net amount of the change.

Year.	Approximate Number of Workpeople whose Normal Hours of Labour were		Aggregate Net Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in Weekly Hours.
	Increased.	Reduced.	
1939 ..	—	396,000	— 1,412,000
1940 ..	54,000	193,000	— 633,000
1941 ..	16,000	10,000	— 2,500
1942 ..	4,000	10,000	+ 5,000
1943 ..	8,000	141,000	— 256,000
1944 ..	3,000	—	+ 4,400
1945 ..	—	22,000	— 42,000
1946 ..	—	2,128,000	— 5,719,000
1947 ..	—	5,213,000	— 18,396,000

* Changes taking effect under sliding scales arranged by Joint Industrial Councils, other Standing Joint Councils, Conciliation Boards, or Wages Councils, etc., are included under "Sliding Scales."

† See footnote * in the second column on page 3.

‡ In addition to the workpeople for whom figures are given in this Table, there were 8,000 workpeople in 1939, 214,000 in 1942, 33,000 in 1943, 12,500 in 1945, 48,000 in 1946, and 205,000 in 1947, who were affected by increases and also by reductions of equal amount within the same year.

§ The figures for 1947 are preliminary and subject to revision.

The number affected in 1939 consisted mainly of juvenile workers under 16 years of age employed in a large number of industries. Those affected in 1940 were chiefly juveniles in some other industries, and agricultural workers in areas in which there were changes in the number of hours beyond which overtime rates were paid. In 1943 the workpeople affected were mostly agricultural workers.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN 1947.

The principal reductions during 1947 in the normal weekly hours of labour, i.e., the hours beyond which overtime rates become payable, were as follows. In many cases, notably in coal mining, hours in excess of the normal week were widely worked in the later part of the year.

In coal mining the normal working week, which previously varied according to district, was reduced in May for underground workers to five consecutive shifts of 7½ hours plus one winding time, and for surface workers to 42½ hours exclusive of meal times, to be worked in five consecutive shifts of 8½ hours. In the heavy chemical industry the normal working week of dayworkers was reduced from 47 to 44 hours; for shiftworkers in one group of establishments hours were reduced from 48 to 44, and in another group from 48 to 44 for 2-shift workers, from 45½ to an average of 44 for 3-shift workers (non-continuous), and from 48 to an average of 42 for 3-shift workers (continuous).

In the engineering and shipbuilding and ship-repairing industries, the normal working week was reduced from 47 to 44 hours.

In sugar confectionery, cocoa and chocolate manufacture and food preserving in Great Britain, the number of weekly hours beyond which overtime rates become payable under Orders issued under the Wages Councils Act was reduced from 48 to 45. Reductions in normal weekly hours from 47 to 44 were made in sawmills connected with the imported timber trade, the wood box, packing case and wooden container making industry, and the coopering industry. Workpeople employed in the production of national morning, evening and Sunday newspapers had reductions in normal working hours usually from 44 to 40 for dayworkers and from 38½ to 35 for nightworkers. Those employed in the production of provincial morning and evening newspapers in England and Wales and Northern Ireland had reductions from 42 to 40 for dayworkers and from 39½ to 37½ for nightworkers other than certain grades; in Scotland the corresponding reductions were from 44 to 40 for dayworkers and from 41½ to 37½ for nightworkers.

In civil engineering construction the normal working week was reduced from 48 hours, averaged over the year, to 44 throughout the whole year. In electrical contracting normal hours were reduced at the end of December from 47 to 44. Workers other than shiftworkers employed in gas undertakings had their normal working week reduced from 47 to 44 hours. In the electricity supply industry the normal hours of shiftworkers were reduced from 48 to 44 and of dayworkers from 47 to 44.

The normal working week of railway workers in Great Britain and of workers employed in the road haulage of goods in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was reduced from 48 to 44 hours. For workpeople employed in road passenger transport (tramway, trolley-bus and omnibus undertakings) the normal working week was reduced from 48 or 47 to 44 hours.

The normal working week of shop assistants, warehousemen, etc., employed in the retail distribution of groceries, provisions, and other foods, and drapery, clothing and footwear in Great Britain, and of furnishings, etc., and meat in England and Wales, as agreed upon by the National Joint Industrial Councils for these trades, and in the wholesale distribution of groceries and provisions in England and Wales, was reduced from 48 to 46 hours. For workpeople employed in milk distribution in England and Wales the normal weekly hours beyond which overtime rates become payable were reduced from 48 to 45.

Reductions in weekly hours have generally been associated with adjustments in wage rates. For workers paid by the hour the rates have in most cases been enhanced in the proportion by which the weekly hours have been reduced, but in many cases increases in hourly rates have been given which have resulted in a net increase in weekly wages. Workers paid at weekly time rates of wages have either had these rates maintained unchanged or have received increased weekly rates. As regards pieceworkers, piece rates have in a few cases remained unchanged following a reduction in normal hours, while in some cases increases have been granted which were more than equivalent to the reduction in hours. Generally, however, piece rates have been enhanced in proportion to the reduction in hours, or a flat-rate weekly increase has been granted, while in those cases in which piece rates are governed by a requirement that they should yield to an average worker earnings which bear some specified relationship to the time rates the enhancement of the hourly or weekly time rates or of the piecework basis time rates has involved corresponding adjustments in individual piece rates.

COST OF LIVING AND RETAIL PRICES.

I. COST OF LIVING INDEX, JANUARY-JUNE, 1947.

During the first half of 1947 movements in the cost of living in the United Kingdom were measured by the cost of living index calculated on the 1914 base. This index showed relatively little change between January and June. At 1st January, 1947, the figure was 204, taking the level at July, 1914, as 100. At 1st April and during the remainder of the first half of 1947, including 17th June, 1947, the date when this index was computed for the last time, it

was 203. During 1946 the index had ranged between 203 and 205, the average figure for the twelve months of 1946 being about 203½.

The following Table shows, for 1st September, 1939, and for each date in 1947 for which the cost of living index was calculated, the figures for each of the five main groups of items included within the scope of the index:—

Date.	Food.	Rent (including Rates).	Clothing.	Fuel and Light.	Other Items included.	All Items included.
1939						
1st September ..	138	162	208	182	179	155
1947						
1st January ..	168	168	345-350	279	297	204
1st February ..	168	168	340-345	279	297	203
1st March ..	169	168	340	280	299	204
1st April ..	168	168	340-345	283	302	203
1st May ..	162	174	340-345	282	356	203
31st May ..	161	175	345	283	356	203
17th June ..	161	175	345	283	356	203

Although the "all items" index showed little movement during the period covered by the above Table, there were substantial increases in the retail prices of cigarettes and tobacco, following the raising of the duties in April, and there was also a rather marked rise in the level of inclusive rents due to higher local rates for the year 1947-48. These increases were counterbalanced by various reductions in food prices.

At 17th June, 1947, when the index terminated, the figure was 48 points (or about 31 per cent.) above the level of 1st September, 1939. Of these 48 points, over 7 points were attributable to higher commodity taxes, increases in the taxes on sugar, tobacco and cigarettes, and matches accounting for nearly 6½ points and rather more than one-half of a point being due to increases resulting from the purchase tax.

Food.—The principal changes in the first half of 1947 in the retail prices of food included within the scope of the statistics were as follows. During February there were increases in the retail prices of potatoes, averaging about 1d. per 7lb. In March there was a reduction of about 3d. per lb. in the average price of ordinary cheese. During April there were reductions of 2d. per lb. in the average price of butter, 1d. per lb. in the average price of sugar, and ½d. each in the average price of shell eggs. In May there was a reduction of about 4d. per lb. in the average price of most cuts of bacon. This reduction in the price of bacon was, however, partly offset by a further increase of about 1d. per 7lb. in the average price of potatoes.

Rent.—The rents of unfurnished working-class dwellings remained subject to the control of the Rent Restrictions Acts during the first half of 1947. As a result of increases in local rates in a large number of towns, the average level of inclusive rents rose during April and May by about 4 per cent. Taking the level of rents in July, 1914, as 100, the corresponding figure at 17th June, 1947, was 175, compared with 168 at 1st January, 1947. A substantial part of the increase, since 1914, in the average level of inclusive rents is accounted for by increases in rates.

Clothing.—Some reductions in the maximum permitted retail prices of many kinds of clothing and clothing materials came into force at the end of January, 1947, and as a result the average level of prices of the kinds of clothing generally bought by working class families fell slightly between 1st January and 1st March, 1947. From April onwards there were some increases in the retail prices of woollen and cotton underclothing and hosiery, and by 17th June the average level of prices for working-class clothing as a whole was only slightly lower than at 1st January, 1947.

Fuel and Light.—During March, 1947, there were increases in the retail prices of coal in many areas and at 17th June, 1947, the average level of retail prices was about 1 per cent. higher than at 1st January, 1947. During February the maximum permitted price for common wax candles was increased by 2½d. per lb. and as from 9th June there was a further increase of 1½d. per lb. During May, 1947, the average price of lamp oil was increased by nearly 1d. per gallon. There was very little change, between 1st January and 17th June, in the average levels of the prices of gas and matches.

Miscellaneous Other Items.—During February, 1947, there were some increases in the London Passenger Transport Board's road and rail fares and there were increases in tram fares in some other areas between 1st January and 17th June. There were small increases in the retail prices of certain brands of tobacco during January, and a general rise in the prices of tobacco and cigarettes during April in consequence of a substantial increase in tobacco duties. During March and April there were also increases in the prices of domestic pottery. For the remaining articles included in this group, viz., soap, washing soda, domestic ironmongery and brushes, and newspapers, the changes in prices during the first half of 1947 were relatively unimportant.

II. RETAIL PRICES INDEX, JUNE-DECEMBER, 1947.

As stated in previous issues of this GAZETTE, the cost of living index on the 1914 base, which had previously been calculated for the beginning of each month, was discontinued after 17th June, 1947. A new retail prices index was then introduced, to measure future changes in the general level of retail prices, on the basis of prices at 17th June, 1947, taken as =100. A brief description

of the scope and method of calculating the new index was given on page 255 of the issue of this GAZETTE for August, 1947. The new index measures, for the United Kingdom, the average changes, as compared with 17th June, 1947, in the prices of the goods and services which entered into working-class expenditure in 1937-38, as recorded in the family budgets collected from large numbers of households in that period.

The following Table shows, for each of the dates in 1947 for which the new index has been compiled, the figures for each of the eight main groups of items included within the scope of the retail prices index:—

Group.	17th June.	15th July.	12th Aug.	16th Sept.	14th Oct.	18th Nov.	16th Dec.
Food	100	101	99	100	101	103	103
Rent and Rates ..	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Clothing	100	102	102	101	102	102	102
Fuel and Light ..	100	100	100	104	106	107	107
Household Durable Goods	100	102	102	102	103	104	106
Miscellaneous Goods	100	101	101	105	105	109	109
Services	100	100	100	100	102	102	103
Drink and Tobacco	100	100	100	100	100	104	104
All Items	100	101	100	101	101	103	104

In his budget speech in April, 1947, the Chancellor of the Exchequer stated that it was the Government's intention to continue the policy of keeping the old cost of living index stable until it passed out of use, but that, with the introduction of the new retail prices index, a modified policy would have to be devised which would no longer aim at absolute stability but which would continue to exercise a stabilising influence upon the index. From the Table given above, it will be seen that the average level of retail prices, as measured by the new index, has, in fact, risen by about 4 per cent. during the second half of 1947. This upward movement resulted mainly from higher prices for various articles of food, increases in the prices of coal, gas and electricity, increased excise duties on alcoholic drinks and higher rates of purchase tax on various household and miscellaneous articles covered by the index.

Group I. Food.—Between mid-June and mid-December, 1947, the principal changes in food prices were increases in the prices of sugar, milk, potatoes, tea and fish, and decreases in the prices of some kinds of fresh vegetables. The advances in the prices of sugar and milk were due to increases in the maximum permitted prices of 2d. per lb. and ½d. per pint, dating from 9th November and 1st July, respectively. There was a sharp increase in the average price of potatoes between mid-June and mid-July, due to higher prices for the new crop, and although there was a seasonal fall in the following month, there was some upward movement later in the year, and at 16th December the average price was about 25 per cent. higher than at the starting date of the index. The rise in the average price of tea followed an increase of 4d. per lb. in the maximum permitted prices of tea (other than China tea) as from 22nd June. The upward movement of fish prices was also due to the raising of the maximum prices for many varieties, mainly in September. The effect of these price increases and of small increases in the prices of a few other foodstuffs was partly offset by a substantial fall, on balance, in the prices of tomatoes and other fresh vegetables between mid-June and mid-December. As a net result of all these changes, the index of food prices varied between 99 and 101 during July to October, but by 18th November had risen to 103, and remained at that figure on 16th December.

Group II. Rent and Rates.—There was very little change in the average level of rents, including rates, for unfurnished dwellings between 17th June and 16th December, 1947, and the index for this group remained at 100 throughout this period.

Group III. Clothing.—Changes in the retail prices of clothing during the second half of 1947 were of moderate dimensions and were principally due to some variations in the retailers' maximum permitted margins, to rising costs of raw material and, as regards some non-utility clothing, to increases in the rates of purchase tax. The price indices for most of the articles included in this group showed a slight rise over the period under review, but in the case of footwear there was a small decline in the average level of prices resulting from reductions in the margins permitted to retailers, which took effect from 1st September. Taken as a whole the average level of prices for this group showed a rise of between 2 and 3 per cent. between 17th June and 16th December.

Group IV. Fuel and Light.—Between mid-June and mid-December, 1947, the average retail prices of coal rose by about 9 per cent. This was due to a general increase of 4s. per ton in the prices of coal as from 1st September, followed a month later by some further increases attributable to higher rail charges. During the same period the average retail price of coke rose by about 11 per cent., and the price indices for gas and for electricity each showed a rise of about 4 per cent. There was no very marked change in the average level of prices of lamp oil and candles. For the fuel and light group as a whole the average level of prices at 16th December was about 7 per cent. higher than at 17th June.

Group V. Household Durable Goods.—The average price level of the articles of drapery and soft furnishings included within this group rose by about 13 per cent. between mid-June and mid-December, mainly as a result of the discontinuance of the subsidy

on certain kinds of utility household textiles. There were also some increases, averaging about 6 per cent., in the prices of the articles of furniture covered by the index, and the prices of electric lamps, various household appliances and floor coverings were raised in many cases as a result of the higher rates of purchase tax imposed in the autumn budget. For the group of household durable goods, taken as a whole, the average level of prices at 16th December was about 6 per cent. higher than at 17th June.

Group VI. Miscellaneous Goods.—The maximum permitted prices of most kinds of hard soap were raised by 4½d. per lb. on 14th September, leading to a rise of about 60 per cent. in the average level of prices for such soap. The prices of toilet soap were not affected by these increases, but, at a later stage, they rose by about 12 per cent. in consequence of the increase in the rate of purchase tax. Changes in the purchase tax also led to material increases in the prices of proprietary medicines, toilet requisites and writing paper. During the half-year under review there were also increases in the prices of other articles in this group, such as spectacles, washing soda, cleaning powders and polishes. For the group as a whole the average level of prices at 16th December was about 9 per cent. higher than at 17th June.

Group VII. Services.—The main change in the level of prices in this group between 17th June and 16th December resulted from substantial increases in railway fares, which came into operation on 1st October. There were also increases in omnibus and tramway fares in a few areas, an increase of 1d. per gallon in the retail price of petrol, and some increases in the charges for laundry and for boot and shoe repairs. For the group as a whole the average level of prices rose between 2 and 3 per cent. during the second half of 1947.

Group VIII. Drink and Tobacco.—There were general increases in the prices of beer and whisky as a result of increases in the excise duties which came into operation on 13th November. The prices of cigarettes and pipe tobacco showed no movement during the half-year under review. For the group, drink and tobacco, taken as a whole, the index figure at 16th December was about 4 per cent. higher than at 17th June.

The price comparisons utilised in the compilation of the retail prices index relate to a fixed list of items, and steps are taken to ensure that, so far as possible, the index figures reflect real changes in price levels but not changes in the prices quoted which are attributable to variations in quality.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of stoppages of work* in the United Kingdom due to industrial disputes, reported to the Department as having begun in 1947, was 1,717, as compared with 2,205 in the previous year.

The total number of workers involved in all such stoppages in progress in 1947 was about 620,000†, of whom about 130,000 were indirectly involved (i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes). The total number of workers involved in all stoppages in progress in the previous year was about 530,000.

The aggregate number of working days lost on account of stoppages, at the establishments where the disputes occurred, is estimated at about 2,430,000 in 1947, compared with about 2,160,000 in 1946.

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES IN 1947.

The coal mining industry accounted for over one-third of the aggregate number of working days lost in all stoppages of work due to industrial disputes in 1947, and there were several stoppages of considerable size. Nearly 29,000 workers in County Durham were affected by a strike of winding engineers early in May, involving a loss of nearly 70,000 working days; the causes of this dispute were an allegation by the engineers that the introduction of a 5-day working week would adversely affect their earnings and a demand for the recognition of their organisation. During August a stoppage began at a colliery near Barnsley, against a decision to increase the 'stint' in a certain seam; later, workers at a large number of Yorkshire collieries came out in sympathy and altogether over 50,000 workers were involved and over 300,000 working days were lost. Two large stoppages took place at collieries in various districts of Scotland during September and October respecting the wages of oncost workers. In the first of these about 16,000 workers were involved and 50,000 working days were lost, while the second involved nearly 30,000 workers and a loss of nearly 95,000 days.

In the shipbuilding industry there was a series of Saturday stoppages beginning on 11th January, and lasting until 1st March, in support of a demand for a 5-day working week. These affected Clyde-side, the East Coast of Scotland, Belfast and certain English ports, and involved about 45,000 workers and a loss of about

* Stoppages of work due to disputes not connected with terms of employment or conditions of labour are excluded from the statistics. In addition, stoppages involving less than 10 workers, and those which lasted less than one day, are also excluded, unless the aggregate number of working days lost exceeded 100. The figures given for 1947 are preliminary and subject to revision.

† Some workers, chiefly in the coal mining industry, were involved in more than one stoppage in the year, and have therefore been counted more than once in the year's total. The net number of individuals involved in stoppages in progress during the year was approximately 480,000 in 1947, compared with approximately 410,000 in 1946. For coal mining alone the corresponding totals were approximately 200,000 in 1947 and 130,000 in 1946.

220,000 working days. About 4,000 aircraft workers in Belfast and district were involved and over 70,000 working days lost in a stoppage which began in the middle of November and lasted until the second week of December, in protest against the suspension for one day of a number of redundant fitters and electricians.

Early in January large numbers of road haulage workers stopped work owing to dissatisfaction with the recommendations of the Road Haulage Central Wages Board on their claims, including one for a reduction in the standard weekly hours from 48 to 44 without reduction in pay. About a week later dockers, lightermen and watermen at London and Tilbury, and market porters, wholesale provision and cold storage workers in various centres ceased work in support of the road haulage workers. Altogether some 40,000 workers were involved and about 210,000 days were lost in these stoppages. A strike of nearly 3,500 dock workers at Glasgow began in the third week of March against the proposed discharge of 500 men as redundant, and after about a month nearly 11,000 lightermen, dockers, stevedores and storage workers in London and Glasgow ceased work in sympathy; about 170,000 working days were lost in these stoppages. During the second half of June and the first half of July, some 140,000 working days were lost in stoppages in various parts of England and Wales, involving over 16,000 employees of private omnibus companies who were dissatisfied with an award of the National Arbitration Tribunal and demanded parity of conditions for all workers in provincial road passenger transport, both Company and Municipal.

In the following Table, the stoppages of work due to industrial disputes in the United Kingdom in 1947 are classified by industry, and corresponding figures are given for 1946:—

Industry Group.	1947.*			1946.		
	Number of Stoppages beginning in 1947.	Number of Workers involved in all Stoppages in progress in 1947.	Aggregate Number of Working Days lost through all Stoppages in progress.	Number of Stoppages beginning in 1946.	Number of Workers involved in all Stoppages in progress in 1946.	Aggregate Number of Working Days lost through all Stoppages in progress.
Fishing	3	2,600	13,000	5	9,200	70,000
Coal Mining ..	1,049	307,500†	912,000	1,329	216,600†	422,000
Other Mining and Quarrying ..	13	800	3,000	10	700	2,000
Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc.	24	2,200	8,000	30	3,200	21,000
Engineering ..	79	27,500	211,000	175	103,700	566,000
Shipbuilding ..	114	67,300	324,000	103	16,900	194,000
Iron and Steel and Other Metal ..	98	16,000	44,000	171	41,300	323,000
Textile	25	4,400	13,000	36	6,600	43,000
Clothing	22	3,400	15,000	37	15,900	111,000
Food, Drink and Tobacco ..	23	3,900	17,000	22	10,500	66,000
Woodworking, Furniture, etc. ..	18	1,500	7,000	17	1,300	6,000
Paper, Printing, etc.	10	1,600	10,000	8	3,500	4,000
Building, etc. ..	35	5,200	24,000	77	7,000	24,000
Gas, Water and Electricity Supply ..	5	700	1,000	10	4,800	18,000
Transport	119	140,000	627,000	105	59,800	162,000
Public Administration Services ..	12	4,900	61,000	8	3,400	12,000
Distribution, Commerce, etc. ..	22	19,700	73,000	25	10,900	68,000
All Other Industries	46	12,500	69,000	37	14,200	46,000
Total	1,717	621,700†	2,432,000	2,205	529,500†	2,158,000

Summary for 1933 to 1947.—In the following Table comparable figures are given for each of the years 1933 to 1947:—

Year.	Number of Stoppages beginning in Year.	Number of Workers involved in Stoppages beginning in Year.†			Aggregate Number of Working Days lost in all Stoppages in progress during Year.
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.	
1933 ..	357	114,000	22,000	136,000	1,070,000
1934 ..	471	109,000	25,000	134,000	960,000
1935 ..	553	230,000	41,000	271,000	1,960,000
1936 ..	818	241,000	75,000	316,000	1,830,000
1937 ..	1,129	388,000	209,000	597,000	3,410,000
1938 ..	875	211,000	63,000	274,000	1,330,000
1939 ..	940	246,000	91,000	337,000	1,360,000
1940 ..	922	225,000	74,000	299,000	940,000
1941 ..	1,251	297,000	63,000	360,000	1,080,000
1942 ..	1,303	350,000	107,000	457,000	1,530,000
1943 ..	1,785	453,000	104,000	557,000	1,810,000
1944 ..	2,194	716,000	105,000	821,000	3,710,000
1945 ..	2,293	447,000	84,000	531,000	2,840,000
1946 ..	2,205	405,000	121,000	526,000	2,160,000
1947* ..	1,717	488,000	131,000	619,000	2,430,000

The total number of days lost since V.J. Day is about 6½ million. This compares with about 65½ million days lost in the corresponding period after the 1914-18 war.

* The figures given for 1947 are provisional and subject to revision.

† Workpeople involved in more than one stoppage in any year are counted more than once in the year's total; see note † in previous column.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS AND INDUSTRIAL DISEASES IN 1947.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

The total number of workpeople (other than seamen) whose deaths from accidents in the course of their employment were reported in the United Kingdom during 1947 was 1,753.* Of this total, 671 fatal accidents occurred at mines and quarries, 853 at places covered by the Factories Act, and 229 in the railway service. The total number of fatal accidents to seamen serving on vessels registered in the United Kingdom which were reported during the year was 273; this figure excludes 82 fatal accidents directly attributable to causes arising from the war.

The figures of fatal accidents are analysed below.

	Num-ber.		Num-ber.
MINES AND QUARRIES.			
Under Coal Mines Acts:		WORKS AND PLACES UNDER SS. 105, 107, 108, FACTORIES ACT, 1937:	
Underground	578	Docks, Wharves, Quays and Ships	65
Surface	34	Building Operations	216
Metalliferous Mines	11	Works of Engineering Construction	34
Quarries	48	Warehouses	7
Total	671	Total Factories Act	853
FACTORIES.			
Clay, Stone, Cement, Pottery and Glass	38	RAILWAY SERVICE.	
Chemicals, Oils, Soap, etc.	37	Brakemen, Goods Guards	15
Metal Extracting and Refining	16	Engine Drivers, Motormen	9
Metal Conversion and Founding (including Rolling Mills and Tube Making)	102	Firemen	9
Engineering, Locomotive Building, Boilermaking, etc.	74	Guards (Passenger)	15
Railway and Tramway Carriages, Motor and other Vehicles and Aircraft Manufacture	32	Labourers	13
Shipbuilding	64	Mechanics	77
Other Metal Trades	21	Permanent Way Men	11
Cotton	10	Porters	22
Wool, Worsted, Shoddy	8	Shunters	11
Other Textile Manufacture	6	Other Grades	48
Textile Printing, Bleaching and Dyeing	8	Contractors' Servants	7
Tanning, Currying, etc.	6	Total	229
Food and Drink	27	SEAMEN.	
General Woodwork and Furniture Paper, Printing, etc.	13	Trading Vessels	248
Rubber Trades	1	Fishing Vessels	25
Gas Works	17	Total	273†
Electrical Stations	15	Total (including Seamen)	
Other Industries	8	2,026	

INDUSTRIAL DISEASES.

The total number of cases reported in the United Kingdom during 1947 under the Factories Act, 1937, or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, 1926, was 603, of which 22 were fatal.

During the year, 58 cases (including 2 deaths) of lead poisoning were reported; for other types of poisoning, the figures were 20 cases and 3 deaths. Cases of anthrax numbered 25, of which two were fatal. For epitheliomatous ulceration, the figures were 204 cases and 15 deaths; for chrome ulceration 296 cases were reported.

A detailed analysis of these figures is given below.

	Cases.	Deaths.		Cases.	Deaths.
LEAD POISONING.			ANTHRAX.		
Among Operatives engaged in:			Wood Handling	2	—
Smelting of Metals	3	—	Horsehair	2	—
Plumbing and Soldering	—	—	Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins	20	2
Shipbreaking	30	—	Other Industries	1	—
Printing	—	—	Total	25	2
Other Contact with Molten Lead	1	—	EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION (SKIN CANCER).		
White and Red Lead Works	3	—	Pitch	98	2
Pottery	1	—	Tar	76	3
Vitreous Enamelling	1	—	Paraffin	1	—
Electric Accumulator Works	10	1	Oil	29	10
Paint and Colour Works	2	1	Total	204	15
Coach and Car Painting	—	—	CHROME ULCERATION.		
Shipbuilding	—	—	Manufacture of Bichromates	11	—
Paint used in other Industries	1	—	Dyeing and Finishing	1	—
Other Industries	4	—	Chrome Tanning	—	—
Painting of Buildings	3	—	Chromium Plating	59	—
Total	58	2	Other Industries	225	—
OTHER POISONING.			Total	296	—
Mercurial	1	—	GRAND TOTAL		
Arsenical	—	—	Cases	603	22
Aniline	16	—	Deaths	—	—
Chronic Benzene Poisoning	—	—			
Toxic Anaemia	3	3			
Toxic Jaundice	—	—			
Total	20	3			

* All the figures given in this article are provisional.
† Excluding 82 deaths directly attributable to causes arising from the recent war.

RECENT COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

NEW NATIONAL AGREEMENT FOR THE BOOT AND SHOE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY.

A National Conference of the Incorporated Federated Associations of Boot and Shoe Manufacturers of Great Britain and Ireland and the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives was held in the latter part of 1947, under the chairmanship of Sir Charles Doughty, K.C., and drew up a new national agreement, known as the "National Conference (January, 1948) Agreement," which was ratified by the two organisations on 18th December, 1947. The provisions of the new agreement relating to wages came into operation in respect of the wages paid on 8th, 9th and 10th January, 1948, and the agreement is to remain in force until the end of 1949, and thereafter, unless notice has been given, until a subsequent agreement has been ratified.

The agreement follows closely the lines of the previous national agreement of January, 1946, but substantial increases are made in the rates of pay, which formerly fluctuated according to the cost-of-living index figure and are now to be subject to a sliding scale based on the Index of Retail Prices published in the monthly issues of the MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE. A revised scheme of holidays with pay has also been adopted. The new wage rates are to operate while the index figure is not less than 100 and not more than 108, and represent increases over the minimum day wage rates previously paid of 15s. a week (from 85s. to 100s.) for men 21 years and over, and of 10s. (from 62s. to 72s.) for women 20 years and over, with proportional increases for younger workers. Operatives who were in receipt of day wage rates in excess of the minimum rates prescribed in the previous national agreement are to receive increases ranging, according to the amount of the excess, from 15s. to 9s. a week for men and from 10s. to 6s. for women. The additions to basic piecework prices are raised from 32½ per cent. to 42½ per cent. for male operatives and from 37½ per cent. to 52½ per cent. for female operatives. Changes in rates rendered necessary by an alteration in the Index of Retail Prices are to come into effect on the first pay day of the second month succeeding the publication of the index figure in the MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE. Provision is made in the agreement for minimum day wage rates to vary by 4s. a week for men, by 3s. for women and by proportional amounts for younger workers, if the index figure falls below 100 but not below 95, or if it rises above 108 but not above 113. Piecework prices are to vary similarly by a reduction or an increase of 5 per cent. in the additions to basic piecework prices for male and female operatives.

The contributory holiday provision scheme which has hitherto operated in the industry is replaced by a holidays with pay agreement, which took effect as from 1st January, 1948. During the period from 1st May to 30th September in each year every worker covered by the agreement is to be granted an annual holiday of one working week. Payment for the holiday is related to the period of employment prior to the holiday, varying from 1 day with pay after 8 weeks' employment for a 5½-day week or after 9 weeks' employment for a 5-day week to a full week of 5½ or 5 days with pay after 48 weeks' employment. All workers are to be paid at the rate of the appropriate current minimum weekly wage for each day of the holiday. In the case of part-time women workers who are permitted to work 35 hours a week or less, the period of employment is to be calculated as the number of full weeks represented by the total number of hours actually worked. As regards statutory holidays, payment at the minimum weekly wage rates is to be made for six specified days in the year to workers who have worked normal hours during the week preceding each holiday, absence on account of sickness or other accepted reason being regarded as attendance. Part-time workers are to be paid for statutory holidays on the basis of the average daily hours worked.

A clause of the January, 1946, agreement relating to a probationary period for juveniles entering the industry for the first time has been deleted, and a new Probationary (Unskilled Labour) Agreement has been made, with effect from 1st January, 1948, setting out the probationary minimum wage rates for men and women 30 years and over without previous experience in the industry. The period of exemption from the full standard minimum wage is limited to six months.

CONDITIONS IN IRONFOUNDRIES.

APPOINTMENT OF JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE.

The Report of the Joint Advisory Committee on Conditions in Ironfoundries (which was summarised in the issue of this GAZETTE for August, 1947, page 259) recommended, *inter alia*, that a Joint Standing Committee should be established to keep under review conditions and developments in ironfoundries affecting the health, welfare and safety of the workers. In accordance with that recommendation, H.M. Chief Inspector of Factories has now appointed a Joint Standing Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. H. A. Hepburn, Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories, to follow up the recommendations contained in the Report. The terms of reference of the Committee are "to keep under review conditions and developments in the iron founding industry affecting the health, welfare and safety of the workers; to implement and continue the work of the 'Joint Advisory Committee on Conditions in Ironfoundries'; and to act as a consultative body on matters which may be referred to it by H.M. Inspector of Factories."

WAGES COUNCILS ACT.

COMMISSION OF INQUIRY FOR THE BASKET-MAKING INDUSTRY.

The Minister of Labour and National Service has recently appointed a Commission of Inquiry under the Wages Councils Act to inquire into and report on a joint application for the establishment of a Wages Council for the basket-making industry. The Commission consists of three independent members, two representatives of employers and two representatives of workers. The independent members are Mr. G. G. Honeyman (Chairman), Mr. N. F. Hall (Deputy Chairman) and Mrs. Gertrude Williams.

The application was made by the Employers' Federation of Cane and Willow Workers' Associations of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Incorporated, and the National Union of Basket, Cane, Wicker and Fibre Furniture Makers of Great Britain and Ireland. They desired the establishment of a Wages Council in respect of the workers in the basket-making industry (as defined below) and their employers, on the ground that the existing machinery for the settlement of the remuneration and conditions of service for these workers was likely to cease to be adequate for that purpose. The workers concerned are workers (other than office and transport workers) employed in Great Britain in the manufacture or repair of basket-ware (*viz.*, containers constructed on the stake and strand principle) made wholly or mainly from willow, cane, seagrass, straw, raffia or rush.

It is the duty of the Commission to inquire into and report to the Minister on the application, to consider any other question or matter which, in their opinion, is relevant to it, and in particular to consider whether there are any other workers (whom they consider to be engaged in work which is complementary, subsidiary or closely allied to the work performed by the workers specified above) whose position should be dealt with together with that of the workers included in the Commission's terms of reference. In considering whether any machinery is, or is likely to remain, adequate for regulating the remuneration and conditions of employment for any workers, the Commission are required by the Act to consider not only what matters are capable of being dealt with by that machinery, but also to what extent those matters are covered by agreements or awards arrived at or given thereunder, and to what extent the practice is, or is likely to be, in accordance with those agreements or awards.

The Commission have accordingly given notice that they will consider representations with respect to the foregoing matters made to them in writing at the offices of the Commission at 1 Bryanston Square, London, W.1, on or before 1st March, 1948.

REGISTRATION FOR EMPLOYMENT ORDER.

REGISTRATION OF CERTAIN PERSONS AND UNDERTAKINGS.

An article on the Registration for Employment Order, 1947, was published in the issue of this GAZETTE for November, 1947 (page 370), and further information relating to the Order was given in last month's issue (page 403). The Order provides for the registration of certain individuals and of the staffs of certain undertakings, the purpose of registration being to enable the Government to see whether people who are unemployed, or who are engaged in certain occupations which do not contribute to the well-being of the nation in the present time of economic stress, can be brought into useful employment.

Three registrations under the Order have recently been held, the requirement to register being given in each case by public notice. These registrations, which were to take place at Local Offices of the Ministry of Labour and National Service, were as follows:—

(1) Street traders were required to register themselves between 5th January and 10th January, inclusive.

(2) Employers in specified kinds of undertakings were to register themselves, and all persons employed by them, not later than 17th January.

(3) The younger age groups of those not gainfully employed or gainfully occupied were to register themselves between 19th January and 24th January, inclusive.

Details relating to the persons covered by these registrations are given below.

(1) *Street Traders.*—This registration related to persons engaged or assisting in street trading, including selling newspapers or other periodicals, matches, fruit, flowers or other articles, playing, singing or performing for profit, shoe-blacking, taking photographs of passers-by for sale, or other like occupations in any street, road, lane, footway, square, court, alley, passage or on any bridge, whether in any of these cases a thoroughfare or not. The requirement to register applied to all such persons (a) who were born between 1898 and 1929 for men and between 1908 and 1929 for women (both years inclusive in each case), and (b) who had at any time since 8th December, 1947, engaged or assisted in street trading, in England and Wales, in the Administrative County of London or in any borough or urban district with a population of over 20,000 (as shown in the Annual Report of the Registrar-General for 1945), or, in Scotland, in any of the counties of cities or large burghs. Persons outside the scope of the Order and persons registered under the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act, 1944, were not required to register.

Persons carrying on Undertakings.—This registration applied to persons (including companies) carrying on in Great Britain undertakings which are engaged in any of the following activities:—

- the business carried on at premises to which persons are invited to resort for the purpose of gaming or amusement by means of pin tables, automatic machines or similar apparatus, the gaming or amusement so provided being a substantial part of the business;
- the carrying on of competitions for which prizes are offered for the forecasting of the result of future events or of past events, the result of which is not yet ascertained or is not generally known;
- the business of a bookmaker;
- the provision of facilities for betting by means of a totalisator or for pari mutuel or pool betting;
- the business of a club or similar institution, if intoxicating liquor is consumed on its premises and if the period during which such premises are open to its members does not normally commence before 5 o'clock in the afternoon or cease before 1 o'clock in the following morning, but excluding any such business which is carried on by an undertaking engaged in any trade or business for the use of the persons employed in the undertaking.

All such persons or companies were required to register specified particulars about themselves (including, in the case of a company, the directors) and all persons employed by them on 1st January, 1948, in any of the activities set out above.

Persons not Gainfully Employed or Gainfully Occupied.—This registration related to persons who, in the period beginning on 17th November, 1947, and ending on 18th January, 1948 (other than the week beginning 22nd December, 1947), had not been gainfully employed or gainfully occupied for at least 30 hours in each week in that period. For the purpose of registration, "gainfully employed" meant employed for wages, salary or other money payment; and "gainfully occupied" meant occupied in or carrying on some trade, business, profession or occupation for profit. The requirement to register on this occasion applied to all such persons who were born between 1923 and 1929 for men and between 1927 and 1929 for women (both years inclusive in each case).

Certain classes of persons were not required to register. These were as follows:—

- a person outside the scope of the Registration for Employment Order;
- a deaf and dumb person;
- a person registered under the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act, 1944;
- a person who, being a member of a religious community, was a religious brother, a lay brother, a teaching brother, a nursing brother, a religious sister, a postulant or a novice;
- a person in regular full-time daily attendance at a school, college or university;
- an apprentice, whether under a deed or articles or not;
- a person who on 19th January, 1948, was occupied full-time in the care of a relative or friend who by reason of physical or mental infirmity was unable to look after himself, and had been so occupied since 17th November, 1947, or earlier;
- a person who on 19th January, 1948, was registered for employment at any Local Office or Appointments Office of the Ministry of Labour and National Service;
- a person who before 19th January, 1948, had obtained whole-time employment through any office of the Ministry of Labour and National Service and was still in that employment on that date;
- a member of H.M. Forces who at any time on or after 17th November, 1947, was on demobilisation leave;
- a person who, having been sick or on holiday during any part of the period 17th November, 1947, to 18th January, 1948, had thereafter resumed his employment.

ISSUE OF EXPLANATORY LEAFLET.

A leaflet prepared by the Ministry of Labour and National Service gives full information, in the form of questions and answers, about the Registration for Employment Order. Copies of this leaflet (P.L.285) may be obtained from any Local Office of the Ministry.

PILOT CENSUS OF DISTRIBUTION.

The report of the Committee set up to consider the institution of a regular Census of Distribution (*see* the issue of this GAZETTE for April, 1946, page 97) included a recommendation that a "pilot census" should be taken as soon as possible. The Government accepted this recommendation and proposed to take the Pilot Census in 1947. In view of the economic situation, however, it was decided to postpone it until 1948.

Forms for the Pilot Census have recently been sent by the Board of Trade to retail and wholesale traders (including caterers, hairdressers, etc.) in certain selected areas. Altogether, some 70,000 traders, representing about 5 per cent. of the total number of traders in the country, are being covered in this way. The object of the Pilot Census is to test the questions which it is proposed to include in the full census, and these questions may be omitted or amended for the full census in the light of the experience of the traders concerned in completing the Pilot Census forms. Others of the less urgent questions may also be omitted from the first full census in order to keep it as simple as possible. The various difficulties encountered by traders in completing the Pilot Census forms will be taken into account in drafting the forms for the full census.

DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT, AGE AND TURNOVER OF THE UNEMPLOYED.

The regular monthly returns of unemployment which are published in this GAZETTE (see for instance page 22) are supplemented periodically by other returns, one of which analyses the register of wholly unemployed persons according to age and the duration of their last spell of continuous unemployment. It is obtained every six months, and a detailed analysis for 8th December* is given in the following Table :-

Duration of Unemployment in weeks.	Age Groups.					Total.	Total numbers wholly unemployed at 16th June, 1947.
	14 and under 18.	18 and under 21.	21 and under 41.	41 and under 56.	56 and under 60/65†.		
Males.							
4 or less	3,602	3,168	37,285	17,700	10,284	72,039	53,181
Over 4 and up to 6	327	665	7,254	4,905	3,580	16,731	13,403
" 6 " " 8	268	447	5,280	3,875	2,953	12,823	10,764
" 8 " " 13	236	627	8,126	7,348	5,736	22,073	17,332
" 13 " " 26	103	422	6,543	7,311	6,863	21,242	30,244
" 26 " " 39	19	146	2,818	3,831	4,076	10,890	18,579
" 39 " " 52	14	75	2,130	3,175	3,473	8,867	12,410
" 52 " " 104	14	112	3,784	7,074	8,362	19,346	27,143
Over 104	5	27	1,678	4,314	5,228	11,252	6,841
Total, 8th Dec., 1947	4,588	5,689	74,898	59,533	50,555	195,263	189,897
Total, 16th June, 1947	5,160	5,163	71,435	59,653	48,486	189,897	—
Females.							
4 or less	2,854	4,096	16,181	6,841	963	30,935	22,836
Over 4 and up to 6	313	634	3,515	2,064	311	6,837	4,876
" 6 " " 8	166	375	2,570	1,499	247	4,857	4,017
" 8 " " 13	189	581	4,316	2,772	445	8,303	7,262
" 13 " " 26	99	343	4,295	2,773	473	7,983	11,644
" 26 " " 39	24	89	1,929	1,253	214	3,509	6,359
" 39 " " 52	8	49	1,229	1,012	166	2,464	3,974
" 52 " " 104	10	45	1,512	1,604	335	3,506	4,392
Over 104	4	8	304	571	179	1,066	489
Total, 8th Dec., 1947	3,667	6,220	35,851	20,389	3,333	69,460	65,849
Total, 16th June, 1947	3,592	4,809	36,497	18,110	2,841	65,849	—
Total.							
4 or less	6,456	7,264	53,466	24,541	11,247	102,974	76,017
Over 4 and up to 6	640	1,299	10,769	6,969	3,891	23,568	18,279
" 6 " " 8	434	822	7,850	5,374	3,200	17,680	14,781
" 8 " " 13	425	1,208	12,442	10,120	6,181	30,376	24,594
" 13 " " 26	202	765	10,838	10,084	7,336	29,225	41,888
" 26 " " 39	43	235	4,747	5,084	4,290	14,399	24,938
" 39 " " 52	22	124	3,359	4,187	3,639	11,331	16,384
" 52 " " 104	24	157	5,296	8,678	8,697	22,852	31,535
Over 104	9	35	1,982	4,885	5,407	12,318	7,330
Total, 8th Dec., 1947	8,255	11,909	110,749	79,922	53,888	264,723	255,746
Total, 16th June, 1947	8,752	9,972	107,932	77,763	51,327	255,746	—

The total number of wholly unemployed persons at 8th December was 9,000 higher than at 16th June (males 5,400 and females 3,600). Among males there was an increase of 3,400 in the age-group 21-40, and of 2,100 in the age-group 56-64. Among females the largest increases were 2,200 in the age-group 41-55 and 1,400 in the age-group 18-20.

Both among males and among females the numbers who had been unemployed for four weeks or less were considerably higher in December than in June—19,000 for males and 8,000 for females. The numbers who had been unemployed for spells ranging from four to thirteen weeks also showed increases for both sexes. These increases, however, were offset (entirely in the case of males and almost entirely in the case of females) by the fact that the numbers who had been unemployed for periods between thirteen weeks and two years were substantially lower in December than in June. The numbers who had been unemployed for more than two years were 5,000 higher in December than in June (4,400 males and 600 females).

The Table indicates the extent to which long-term unemployment increases with advancing age. The following figures for males show the differences in this respect between the five age-groups :-

Age-group.	Percentage who had been continuously unemployed for—	
	Not more than 8 weeks.	More than 52 weeks.
14-17 years	91	—
18-20 "	75	2
21-40 "	67	7
41-55 "	44	19
56-64 "	33	27
Total :	52	16

* The figures exclude casuals, persons temporarily stopped, persons insured under the Special Schemes for the banking and insurance industries and persons classified as unsuitable for ordinary employment.

† 65 in the case of males, and 60 in the case of females.

In the younger age-groups there is practically no unemployment of more than a few weeks' duration, but with advancing age the proportion who have been unemployed for long periods rapidly increases, and in the age-group 56-64, more than one-quarter of the total number of unemployed men had been continuously unemployed for more than 12 months. The trend was similar also among women, but the proportions who had been unemployed for long periods were much smaller than among men.

TURNOVER AMONG THE UNEMPLOYED.

The "duration of unemployment" analyses for successive quarterly dates can be used to show how many of those who were registered as unemployed at the beginning of a quarter had found work (or otherwise ceased to register) by the end of the period. This is done by comparing the number, e.g., in the 0-13 weeks category at one date with the number in the 13-26 weeks category three months later and so on. An analysis on these lines is given in the following Table :-

Turnover among the Unemployed, September—December, 1947.

Duration of Unemployment at 15th September, 1947 (in weeks).	Number at 15th Sept., 1947.	Number remaining on register at 8th Dec., 1947.	Reduction.		Corresponding percentage reduction in the preceding quarter and the last quarter of 1946.	
			Number.	Per cent. of number at 15th Sept., 1947.	June-Sept., 1947.	Sept.-Dec., 1946.
Males aged 14 to 17.						
Up to 13	5,059	103	4,956	98	97	95
Over 13 and up to 26	126	19	107	85	88	72
" 26 " " 39	33	14	19	58	83	65
Over 39	42	19	23	55	69	43
Total	5,260	155	5,105	97	96	93
Males aged 18 and under 21.						
Up to 13	3,461	422	3,039	88	89	84
Over 13 and up to 26	400	146	254	64	74	63
" 26 " " 39	171	75	96	56	69	58
Over 39	225	139	86	38	66	51
Total	4,257	782	3,475	82	85	78
Males aged 21 and under 65.						
Up to 13	85,988	20,717	65,271	76	78	72
Over 13 and up to 26	18,862	10,725	8,137	43	56	47
" 26 " " 39	12,840	8,778	4,062	32	47	36
Over 39	41,288	30,440	10,848	26	31	31
Total	158,978	70,660	88,318	56	59	58
Total—Males	168,495	71,597	96,898	58	61	60
Females aged 14 to 17.						
Up to 13	3,976	99	3,877	98	97	95
Over 13 and up to 26	81	24	57	70	82	74
" 26 " " 39	32	8	24	75	69	68
Over 39	29	14	15	52	64	75
Total	4,118	145	3,973	96	96	94
Females aged 18 and under 21.						
Up to 13	4,363	343	4,020	92	91	89
Over 13 and up to 26	338	89	249	74	74	71
" 26 " " 39	163	49	114	70	74	74
Over 39	112	53	59	53	73	74
Total	4,976	534	4,442	89	87	86
Females aged 21 and under 60.						
Up to 13	32,860	7,541	25,319	77	79	71
Over 13 and up to 26	6,584	3,396	3,188	48	62	55
" 26 " " 39	4,156	2,407	1,749	42	56	59
Over 39	7,280	4,505	2,775	38	46	53
Total	50,880	17,849	33,031	65	69	65
Total—Females	59,974	18,528	41,446	69	71	69

The Table shows that 58 per cent. of the males and 69 per cent. of the females who were registered as wholly unemployed at 15th September had found work within the next three months. The figure for males is lower, though only very slightly, than the corresponding rates of work-finding in the preceding quarter and in the last quarter of 1946. For females the rate was the same as in the corresponding quarter of 1946, but slightly lower than in the third quarter of 1947. Among both males and females a higher proportion of those who, in September, 1947, had been unemployed for not more than three months had found work by the end of the quarter than was the case among the corresponding classes in September, 1946. Among those who had been unemployed for longer periods, however, the reverse was the case, the experience of the last quarter of 1947 being less satisfactory than that of the last quarter of 1946. Among those who, by September, 1947, had been continuously unemployed for more than 39 weeks, the proportion who found work during the last quarter of the year was 26 per cent. for men aged 21 and over and 38 per cent. for women of those ages, whereas in the last quarter of 1946 the corresponding proportions were 31 per cent. and 53 per cent.

FORMER MEMBERS OF INDIA AND BURMA SERVICES.

RE-EMPLOYMENT FACILITIES.

In reply to a question in the House of Commons on 11th December, the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations made a statement on the re-employment facilities available for members of the Civil Services of India and Burma and for officers of the Indian Army and Royal Indian Navy.

The statement indicated that two special sections of the London Appointments Office of the Ministry of Labour and National Service had been set up to deal with all business appointments, with vacancies in quasi-Government organisations and public corporations, and with temporary appointments in the Government Service (excluding technical appointments). The two sections are the India and Burma Services Section for civil officers, and the Defence Services Section for army and naval officers; both are housed at 1-6, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1 (telephone number, Euston 4383). Technical appointments are dealt with by the Technical and Scientific Register of the Ministry, which is situated at York House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2 (telephone number, Temple Bar 8020).

Applications from civil officers for appointments in the permanent Government Services (including appointments under the Colonial Office and the Foreign Office) are being dealt with by the India and Burma Services Re-employment Branch, Commonwealth Relations Office, King Charles Street, London, S.W.1 (telephone number, Whitehall 8140). Questions relating to the transfer of officers of the Indian Army and Royal Indian Navy to the British Defence Services or to the appointment of such officers to the permanent Government Services are being dealt with by the Military Department, Commonwealth Relations Office, Clarence House, Matthew Parker Street, London, S.W.1 (telephone number, Whitehall 2166).

It was also stated that, in addition to the above official organisations, a high-level unofficial committee (known as the India and Burma Services Employment Liaison Committee) had been set up to endeavour to discover openings in business firms or companies, trade or other associations, etc. A member of the staff of the India and Burma Services Section, London Appointments Office, Ministry of Labour, is acting as Secretary of this Committee. All vacancies made available as a result of the Committee's activities are being filled through the India and Burma Services Section or the Defence Services Section, and officers should not in any circumstances attempt to approach the Committee direct.

EDUCATION FOR INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE.

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL COUNCIL.

In September, 1947, the Minister of Education appointed a Working Party to examine and report on the setting up of a National Council on the lines recommended in 1945 by the Special Committee on Higher Technological Education under the chairmanship of Lord Eustace Percy (see the issue of this GAZETTE for November, 1945, page 198). The Working Party have now presented their Report, which the Minister has decided to publish at once in order that there may be an opportunity for a wider consideration of their recommendations. The Report has accordingly been published by H.M. Stationery Office under the title of "Working Party Report: National Advisory Council on Education for Industry and Commerce" (price 2d. net, 3d. post free).

The Working Party first consider the need for a National Council in the light of recent developments in the field of technical education and the increasing interest shown in allied problems. They are satisfied that the case for setting up a Council has been established, and they recommend that steps should be taken to this end as quickly as possible.

It is proposed that the general function of the Council should be to advise the Minister of Education on the national aspects of regional policy. The recommendations of the Percy Committee were concerned solely with the needs of advanced technology, but the Working Party think that the scope of the new national body should include all questions bearing on education for industry and commerce including training for the professions, management and design in relation to industry and commerce. They recommend that the name of the Council should be "The National Advisory Council on Education for Industry and Commerce."

The Working Party recognise that the Council must consist largely of representatives drawn from the Regional Councils and Regional Academic Boards appointed in accordance with the recommendations of the Percy Committee, but they think that the Minister should also have power to appoint members direct to the Council in order to secure adequate representation of all important branches of technical and commercial education. They suggest that the Council should appoint a Standing Committee and Advisory Committees.

The Working Party's detailed recommendations on the constitution and functions of the Council are set out in a draft instrument attached as an appendix to the Report.

NATIONAL SERVICE ACTS.

1929 CLASS: CALL-UP AND DEFERMENT.

In an article in the July, 1947, issue of this GAZETTE (pages 225-226) some information was given about the position under the National Service Acts of men born in the first half of 1929, with particular reference to the numbers whose call-up for service in the Armed Forces had been deferred. The information was based on returns obtained on 6th June, 1947. Similar information is now available for 5th December, 1947, in respect of men born in the second half of 1929 as well as those born in the first half of that year, and a summary of that information is given below.

Men born in the first quarter of 1929 were registered on 7th December, 1946, and those born in the second, third and fourth quarters were registered on 1st March, 7th June and 6th September, 1947, respectively. Each man was informed by means of a leaflet issued to him when he registered of the conditions which govern the grant of deferment of call-up to apprentices, learners, etc., to enable them to complete their industrial training before call-up, and to full-time students to enable them to take the Higher School Certificate or a similar examination or to complete a university course of training. Arrangements for deferment of call-up on the ground of industrial need were in operation throughout the year in regard to men employed in coal mining, agriculture, building and the production of certain building materials.

The total numbers of men of the 1929 class included in the analysis of 5th December were 148,000 born in the first half of the year, and 138,000 born in the second half. Large numbers of these had already been posted to the Forces, and the remainder had either been medically rejected for service, or were awaiting posting to the Forces or had had their call-up deferred. The numbers in these various classes were as follows :-

	First Half, 1929 Class.	Second Half, 1929 Class.
Posted to H.M. Forces or entered as volunteers..	92,200	44,500
Found unfit for service in H.M. Forces ..	13,000	11,000
Available for H.M. Forces or awaiting medical examination	1,800	36,000
Applications for deferment of call-up under consideration	500	1,700
Call-up deferred:		
Apprentices ..	20,900	21,800
Agricultural workers ..	8,700	8,700
Coal mining workers ..	3,300	3,200
Builders and "building materials" workers ..	100	200
Students granted deferment to 31st July, 1948 (to take Higher School Certificate, etc.)	100	3,600
University students, student teachers, etc.	4,100	2,900
All others (including hardship postponements, "approved school" cases, etc.)	3,300	4,400
Total	148,000	138,000

It should be noted that the men whose call-up for the Forces has been deferred have not yet been given a medical examination, and consequently it is not known how many of them are in fact unfit for service. The figures on the second line of the Table represent the "unfits" among those who have already been medically examined, and they represent approximately 12 per cent. of the total number in that category.

In view of the pressing need for manpower in agriculture and coal mining, it is unlikely that the "deferred" men in those industries will be called up for the Forces so long as they remain in their present employments (men who enter coal mining before an enlistment notice is issued to them have their call-up deferred equally with those who were already in the industry). In the case of the building and building materials industries, each application for deferment is considered on its merits and deferment is granted only for the time that the men are considered to be indispensable in their present employments.

The men included in the table who are shown as having been granted deferment to 31st July, 1948, to take the Higher School Certificate or similar examination, will normally become available for call-up on the termination of their deferment on 31st July.

The figures relating to the deferment of University Students, etc., include men pursuing, or under consideration for, full-time courses at Universities and Teachers' Training Colleges, and also medical, dental, etc., and theological and missionary training. The deferment position of students taking University degrees and medical, dental, etc., or higher technical courses is determined by Joint Recruiting Boards which have been established at all University Centres, and the vast majority (about 6,000) of the men in the above categories were students dealt with by these Boards. Applications for the deferment of students in full-time attendance at technical classes (other than those whose cases are considered by Joint Recruiting Boards) are dealt with by National Service Deferment Boards.

Deferment under the provisions regarding apprenticeship is granted initially for a period of 12 months. Renewal of deferment

will then be conditional on a report of satisfactory progress showing that the apprentice is gaining full experience of his trade. If progress is satisfactory, deferment may be renewed until the date on which the apprenticeship is due to end.

The statistics which were compiled on 5th December included an occupational analysis of the apprentices who had been granted deferment. The analysis shows that about one-half of the total were in engineering and metal-working occupations, and nearly one-third of the total were in building occupations. The following Table shows the numbers in the principal occupations :-

	First Half, 1929 Class.	Second Half, 1929 Class.
Building Occupations :		
Carpenters	2,607	2,896
Plumbers, Gas Fitters, etc.	1,289	1,439
Bricklayers	951	1,025
Painters and Decorators	817	941
Plasterers	173	193
Other Building Craftsmen	326	337
Engineering, Shipbuilding, etc., Occupations :		
Motor Mechanics, Fitters (not electrical), etc.	2,244	2,280
Toolmakers, Precision Fitters, etc.	1,994	2,004
Electrical Engineering Fitters, Erectors, etc.	1,204	1,253
Electricians, Wiremen, etc.	1,134	1,306
Millwrights, Maintenance Fitters (not electrical)	478	431
Turners	407	403
Vehicle Body Builders	318	314
Scientific Instrument Makers and Assemblers	319	303
Sheet Metal Workers, Tinsmiths	298	285
Shipwrights	266	276
Patternmakers	251	240
Platers	224	219
Iron and Steel Founders and Moulders	162	181
Electrical Communications, etc. (Manufacture and Maintenance)	144	251
Welders, Burners, Cutters	125	120
Other Occupations :		
Draughtsmen, etc.	1,160	1,220
Men in training for professions and administrative, etc., posts in industry	1,206	1,139
Printers	401	419

STATEMENT REGARDING PERIOD OF SERVICE.

In answer to a question in the House of Commons on 18th December, the Minister of Labour and National Service made a statement regarding the period of service of men called up to the Forces in 1947 and 1948.

The statement includes a Table setting out in detail the period of service for those called up in each month of 1947 and 1948. This Table, which is reproduced below, supersedes the corresponding particulars given in the White Paper on "Call-Up to the Forces in 1947 and 1948", which was issued before it had been decided that men called up in 1949 should serve for 12 months. (This White Paper was summarised in the issue of this GAZETTE for June, 1946, page 145.)

In his statement, the Minister emphasised that unforeseen developments might lead to a revision of the periods of service; if that should prove necessary, it would be the Government's aim to give as much advance notice as possible of any change. Subject to this proviso, men who were called up in 1947 and 1948 and whose service was continuous would not be retained beyond the dates indicated in the last column in the Table below. The Minister added that it was anticipated that there would be differences in the actual dates of release as between the three Services and as between different branches, categories and trades within each Service, and that the actual dates of release would in some cases be earlier than those indicated.

Period of Service of Men Called up in 1947 and 1948.

Date of Entry.	Period of Service.		Month of Release.
	Years.	Months.	
1947 :			
January	2	—	January, 1949
February	2	—	February, "
March	2	—	March, "
April	2	—	April, "
May	2	—	May, "
June	2	—	June, "
July	1	11	July, "
August	1	11	August, "
September	1	10	September, "
October	1	9	October, "
November	1	9	November, "
December	1	8	December, "
1948 :			
January	1	7	August, 1949
February	1	7	September, "
March	1	6	October, "
April	1	5	November, "
May	1	5	December, "
June	1	4	January, "
July	1	3	February, "
August	1	3	March, "
September	1	2	April, "
October	1	1	May, "
November	1	1	June, "
December	1	—	July, "

REPORTS OF WORKING PARTIES.

The Reports of the Cutlery Working Party, the Rubber Proofed Clothing Working Party and the Domestic Glassware Working Party have recently been published by H.M. Stationery Office. These Working Parties were appointed by the President of the Board of Trade to examine and enquire into the various schemes and suggestions put forward for improvements of organisation, production and distribution methods in their respective industries, and to report on the steps which should be taken in the national interest to strengthen the industries and render them more stable and capable of meeting competition in the home and foreign markets. The Rubber Proofed Clothing Working Party were instructed to take account also of the recommendations contained in the Report of the Heavy Clothing Working Party (see the issue of this GAZETTE for May, 1947, page 150). Some of the leading suggestions and recommendations of the Reports are set out below.

CUTLERY INDUSTRY.

The Report of the Cutlery Working Party states that in earlier years cutlery production was spread widely throughout England, but that gradually Sheffield became pre-eminent. A few firms, however, operate successfully in the Birmingham and other areas. The Working Party point out that there are comparatively few firms which carry out the whole of the various processes from the purchase of the steel to the sale of the finished article. A proportion of the work is still done by independent men, operating either as outworkers or as "little masters" who buy the "blanks" outright and perform one or more processes before reselling.

It is stated that out of over 500 individual firms of manufacturers, only 191 are members of the Sheffield Cutlery Manufacturers' Association, and there is little co-operation in the industry. The Working Party refer to the necessity for reviewing designs and production methods and all the problems of cutlery manufacture, and they consider that a new comprehensive organisation should be set up to test and publicise every modern development which makes for efficiency in the industry.

The Report deals at some length with the disadvantages of the "little master" system, and in this connection includes extracts from the Report of the Cutlery Wages Council on Industrial Conditions in the Cutlery Trade (see the issue of this GAZETTE for November, 1946, page 313). The Working Party, however, would not recommend the closing down of small firms as such, since the test of a firm's right to continued existence is not its size; but it is emphasised that small firms must be subject to the common discipline of the industry.

The Working Party consider it improbable that the production of high class cutlery will ever be completely mechanised, although mechanised processes and mass production methods are applicable to the medium and cheaper grades. They think that every attempt should be made to apply modern technical and scientific methods and artistic developments to the mass production of good quality cutlery and, for this purpose, suggest that a powerful central organisation, encouraging every form of research and having available modern advisory services, is necessary. The question of mechanisation in the cutlery industry is dealt with in more detail in an appendix to the Report, in which the present position is surveyed and suggestions made for future developments, and in which the Working Party express the opinion that, by rearrangement of machines and furnaces and by subjecting the various operations to motion study, output could be increased and costs diminished in every type of production.

Evidence obtained by the Working Party endorses the statements made in the Report of the Cutlery Wages Council with regard to the unsatisfactory condition of a large proportion of premises in the industry. The Working Party consider that minimum standards of accommodation and working conditions should be laid down to which any firm, if it is to continue in business, must conform.

The number of workers in the industry is stated to be about 9,000, compared with about 10,000 immediately before the war. Planned efforts are advocated to encourage a good class of labour to enter the industry, by the provision of organised apprenticeship schemes and the education and training of skilled and semi-skilled workers; by eliminating, through motion study and research, some of the unnecessarily fatiguing operations; and by the introduction of personnel management, welfare and other amenities equal to those existing in the most up-to-date industries. Methods of recruitment and training of staff are examined in greater detail in an appendix to the Report concerned with industrial relations, in which also the desirability of joint consultation between management and employees is emphasised and questions of safety, health and welfare are discussed. It is pointed out that, from the health point of view, one of the major hazards of the industry is lung damage due to the breathing in of dust; methods of dust extraction and ventilation are the subject of a separate appendix.

The Working Party recommend that a central organisation, to be known as the Cutlery Board, should be established, but that the present trade organisations should continue to function in regard to wage rates, mutual assistance, and similar matters.

* Working Party Reports: Cutlery (price 1s. net, 1s. 1d. post free); Rubber Proofed Clothing (1s. net, 1s. 2d. post free); Hand-Blown Domestic Glassware (3s. net, 3s. 3d. post free).

Membership of the trade organisations would remain voluntary, but registration of firms with the Cutlery Board would be compulsory, as would contribution, by levy, towards its expenses. The members of the Board should be appointed by the Board of Trade, and should consist of nominees of the employers' and workers' organisations, together with entirely independent persons from outside the industry. All firms engaged in the production of cutlery should be required to register with the Cutlery Board, specifying, *inter alia*, what premises they use and for what purpose. Those operating at the date when the Board came into existence would be entitled to provisional registration on application, but re-registration after one year should, it is suggested in the Report, depend on the Factory Inspector certifying that their premises were properly fit for use; no new entrants into the industry should be granted registration until able to produce a satisfactory certificate from the Factory Inspector; and there should be severe penalties for making cutlery in unregistered premises.

It is suggested that the Cutlery Board's duties should include, *inter alia*: (i) the collection, tabulation and circulation of statistics; (ii) the instigation, carrying out and encouragement of research; (iii) the preparation and enforcement of a Fair Business Practices Code; and (iv) the provision of help and advice on labour recruitment and training, and on personnel matters (including health and welfare), factory efficiency, motion study, design and costing systems. It is suggested that the proposed Code should cover (a) factory conditions, (b) business practice, and (c) the marking of cutlery, and that failure to comply with the Code in respect of factory conditions should involve denial of registration and automatically stop cutlery production in unsuitable premises and conditions.

RUBBER PROOFED CLOTHING INDUSTRY.

This Report opens with an introductory survey of the rubber proofed clothing industry. It is stated that the industry was originally concentrated in the Manchester area, but that it gradually spread to other districts in Lancashire and further afield; in 1936 it was estimated that there were some 5,000-7,000 persons in the industry in the Manchester and Salford area out of a total of 9,000 or 10,000 in the country as a whole. It is estimated that there are now between 200 and 300 firms, employing about 6,000 workers in the manufacture of rubber proofed clothing. The small firm predominates: out of 115 firms in the Manchester and Salford area, 51 have fewer than 20 workers and only 24 more than 100. Present conditions in the industry are stated to be abnormal; there is in general steady employment than before the war, when, says the Report, the manufacture of rubber proofed clothing was notorious for its instability.

In a section of the Report which is concerned with production problems, the Working Party recommend that the industry should pay greater attention to lay-out and factory organisation and should seek the advice of the Production Efficiency Service of the Board of Trade; the establishment of Joint Production Committees should be encouraged. The Working Party express the opinion that the industry has not yet seriously considered the possibility of mechanisation. They recommend that enquiries should be made into the possibility of improving the existing smearing machines and into the suitability of faster sewing machines for rubber proofed clothing manufacture. Other recommendations in this section of the Report deal with costing, materials and standards of quality.

In a section of the Report devoted to general problems, reference is made to the unsatisfactory state of the industry resulting from seasonal fluctuations in production and employment, and the Working Party consider that a thorough investigation of these fluctuations would be useful. They further recommend that manufacturers and distributors, through their trade organisations, should collaborate so as to eliminate seasonal fluctuations by forward planning and stock-holding.

The general standard of working conditions in the industry, says the Report, is not high, and in the Manchester and Salford area it is often bad. The worst conditions are found in the small firms housed in old and unsuitable buildings, and the Working Party urge the development of trading estates and "flatted" factories where employers with small capital resources can lease premises and share the expenses of common services. It is recommended that the Factory Department of the Ministry of Labour and National Service should undertake an enquiry into conditions in rubber proofed clothing factories, especially in the old established centre of the industry. While recognising that wages, etc., are outside their terms of reference, the Working Party draw attention to the importance of legally enforceable minimum wages as a stabilising influence, and they express satisfaction that steps have been taken by both sides of the industry for the establishment of a Wages Council. The Report emphasises the importance of employer/employee relations as a factor in working conditions, and it is suggested in this connection that many firms in the industry could make good use of the service provided by the Personnel Management Branch of the Ministry of Labour.

As regards recruitment, the Working Party see no reason why the rubber proofed clothing industry should fail to attract enough workers (juveniles or adults), provided it can continue to offer regular employment with minimum wages and conditions which bear comparison with those in other industries, and they recapitulate the suggestions made elsewhere in the Report which

would have the effect of making the industry reasonably attractive. They think that facilities should be available for the full training of every unskilled new entrant, and that these facilities should be provided by the employer rather than by some outside organisation. It is also considered that the industry should pay more attention to the training of supervisors and executives, and should seek the help of local education authorities in making special arrangements.

The Report says that the commonest method by which firms enter the industry is as outworkers, working for one or more principals who supply cloth ready cut for making up and to whom the finished garments are returned. The Working Party do not favour any system of regulating entry to the trade by licensing, but they are satisfied that there is a need for compulsory registration of all firms engaged in the industry whether as outworkers or as principals. They feel strongly that manufacturers should not be allowed to start in unsatisfactory premises and they accordingly recommend that persons should be required to give notice to the Factory Inspectorate of their intention to use a particular building, and that the Inspectorate should be empowered to apply to the Courts for a prohibition on the use of unsuitable premises.

As regards the home trade, the Working Party accept the necessity for the continuance of clothes rationing, and they recommend that the coupon allowance should be gradually raised as supplies increase, until it is possible to abolish rationing altogether. They are anxious that the standards attained under the utility scheme should not only be maintained, but should if possible be improved. Other suggestions are made in regard to price control, the export trade and distribution.

The Report surveys the present position with regard to trade organisations, both on the employers' and employees' sides. The Working Party think that all the organisations dealing with rubber proofed clothing manufacture should consider the advisability of establishing a single employers' association and a single employees' union. There is, however, much work to be done which is beyond the scope or the resources of existing trade organisations, but which could be carried out by a Development Council established under the Industrial Organisation and Development Act. The Working Party do not, however, advocate the establishment of a separate Council for the rubber proofed clothing industry, which, they think, should participate in a Council for the clothing industry as a whole, provision being made for the direct representation on this Council of the interests of rubber proofed clothing manufacture. Some of the suggestions made throughout the Report for the improvement of the industry would come within the scope of the Development Council, which should also have the duty of collecting statistics, establishing a Design and Exhibition Centre, promoting research, and establishing an Inspection Centre.

HAND-BLOWN DOMESTIC GLASSWARE INDUSTRY.

The Working Party for this industry point out that their enquiry has been confined by their terms of reference to hand-blown domestic glassware manufacture, and that they have covered that part of the British glass industry which makes domestic and fancy glassware from lead crystal glass. The number of workers in this section of the industry is comparatively small and most of the factories are in the Stourbridge area. The Working Party recommend that the industry should begin at once to plan for a production of domestic and fancy glassware up to three times the pre-war output. The output per man-year in British glasshouses is stated to be lower than in those of Continental Europe and the United States. The Working Party consider that the increase of production depends largely on the active co-operation of the workers, and they recommend that management and labour in all sections should consult together to this end.

It is pointed out in the Report that the main obstacle to the expansion of production in the hand-blown domestic glassware industry is the shortage of labour, and various methods of securing the necessary additional labour are discussed. The Working Party think that the ideal recruits are young boys who have just left school, and they recommend that active steps should be taken to encourage the recruitment of juveniles from the Stourbridge area. Provision should be made for the training and education of juvenile entrants, and apprenticeship schemes should be adopted by all firms in the industry. Consideration should be given to the training of adults, particularly ex-Servicemen, as glassmakers and decorators to supplement normal recruitment. It is also urged that glassmakers from the Continent should be recruited, under closely controlled conditions. Every effort should be made to extend the training of the worker within the factory, and the Working Party express the opinion that the scheme for Training Within Industry of Supervisors promises to give most useful results in the industry.

The Report states that working conditions in the glasshouse were originally very unsatisfactory, but that much has been done in recent years to improve them. Improvements have also been made in the cutting and other decorating shops. The Working Party recommend that welfare facilities and working conditions should be progressively improved, especially by the provision of satisfactory rooms for the changing of clothes, by the provision of washing facilities, lavatory accommodation and other sanitary and welfare arrangements of good standard, and by the improvement and extension of canteen and sports facilities. They also recommend that investigations into the ventilation of glasshouses should be continued.

The Working Party consider that it would be advantageous if one trade union were formed to cater for both glassworkers and decorators. It is stated that over a long period of years

industrial relations have been excellent and strikes unknown, and that the position has still further improved since the Joint Consultative Council was set up in 1941.

The Working Party are convinced that, if the industry is to be efficient and progressive, management will have to be strengthened. They suggest that intelligent boys entering the industry on the production side should be able to rise to managerial positions, and that men who have graduated from the Department of Glass Technology at Sheffield should be promoted to managerial posts if suitably qualified. It is, however, emphasised that training in technology does not of itself qualify a man for management.

After reviewing the present position with regard to trade organisations in the glass industry, the Report recommends that a trade association should be set up to include all firms in the hand-blown domestic glassware industry, and that the Joint Consultative Council should be reconstituted so as to make it fully representative of the whole industry. The Working Party are not in favour of the establishment of a Development Council as proposed in the Industrial Organisation and Development Act.

Other recommendations made by the Working Party relate to the home market for domestic and fancy glassware and the problem of imports; production methods; finance and future development; marketing; design; and technical research.

ESTABLISHMENT OF DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS.

PROPOSALS FOR COTTON AND OTHER INDUSTRIES.

Most of the Working Parties set up by the Board of Trade for various industries* have recommended, *inter alia*, the establishment of a permanent central organisation in each industry, made up of representatives of employers and workers, together with independent members. The Industrial Organisation and Development Act, 1947, has made provision for the setting up of organisations of this kind, called Development Councils (see the issues of this GAZETTE for February and September, 1947, pages 50 and 294).

The Board of Trade have now issued proposals for the establishment of a development council to be known as the Cotton Board 1948, which will replace the existing war-time Cotton Board, as recommended by the Cotton Working Party (the Report of which was summarised in the issue of this GAZETTE for June, 1946, page 148). A summary of these proposals, together with a draft of the necessary development council Order, has been published by H.M. Stationery Office in a document entitled "Proposals for a Cotton Industry Development Council Order" (price 4d. net, 5d. post free).

Discussions are also taking place between the Board of Trade and the pottery, furniture, wool, hosiery, boot and shoe, jewellery and silverware, and clothing industries concerning the establishment of development councils in these industries.

COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTIVITY.

In reply to a question in the House of Commons on 18th December, the Lord President of the Council made a statement regarding the establishment of a Committee on Industrial Productivity.

The Lord President indicated that, while a major contribution to industrial productivity could not be expected in the short run from current research in the natural sciences, there were considerable possibilities of increased returns, first, from the more widespread application of research already carried out in the natural sciences and technology, and, secondly, from current research in the social science field. He had therefore decided, in consultation with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to supplement the work of the Advisory Council on Scientific Policy by setting up a new Committee on Industrial Productivity.

The terms of reference of the Committee were "to advise the Lord President of the Council and the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the form and scale of research effort in the natural and social sciences which will best assist an early increase in industrial productivity and further to advise on the manner in which the results of such research can best be applied."

The Committee would have as Chairman Sir Henry Tizard, K.C.B., F.R.S. (who was also Chairman of the Advisory Council on Scientific Policy), and their main work would be conducted through a number of panels constituted from time to time to investigate and report on various aspects of the problem. In the first instance, panels were being set up to deal with (a) Technology and Operational Research, (b) Import Substitution, (c) the Human Factors affecting Industrial Productivity, and (d) Technical Information Services.

Further details relating to the Committee were given in a statement circulated in the Official Report. In this statement it was pointed out that the problems remitted to the new Committee were wide and complex. It was considered that the best methods for achieving practical results would have to be evolved according to experience, and it was accordingly desired to allow for considerable elasticity in procedure as well as to avoid hampering the Committee with more precise and detailed terms of reference.

*The Reports of these Working Parties have been summarised in various issues of this GAZETTE. Articles dealing with the Reports for the cutlery, rubber proofed clothing and hand-blown domestic glassware industries will be found on pages 12 and 13 of this issue.

It was also recognised that many of the questions involved were intimately connected with matters which were the daily business of industry in the fields both of technological practice and of industrial relations. The success of the Committee's work would therefore depend on the extent to which they could work in collaboration with those engaged in industry—both management and the trade unions. Finally, it was appreciated that much effort was already being directed not only by special institutions and industrial consultants but also by industrial firms and the trade unions to studying the matters with which the Committee would be concerned. It was the Government's intention to ensure that full advantage was taken of the results of current scientific investigation and of the lessons to be learned from the good work being done in many sectors of British industry so that the outstanding achievements of the best might become the standard practice of all.

EXPENDITURE ON PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES.

In reply to a question in the House of Commons on 19th December, 1947, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury furnished a statement, which is printed in the Official Report, showing the total expenditure (other than expenditure out of loans for capital purposes or out of capital receipts) on specified public social services during the financial year commencing 1st April, 1945 (or the latest available year), and estimates, where available, of the expenditure for the financial year 1946-47. The statement also gives figures, so far as available, of the total numbers of persons in Great Britain who benefited directly from the expenditure for 1945 (or the latest available year) in respect of the several services. The following particulars relating to expenditure on the services specified have been extracted from the statement:—

Service.	Great Britain. Financial Year commencing 1st April,	
	1945 (or latest available year).	1946 (estimated).
	£000	£000
Unemployment Insurance and Unemployment Assistance Acts:		
(i) Unemployment Benefit, etc.—General Scheme	16,758	34,374
(ii) Unemployment Benefit, etc.—Agricultural Scheme	340	477
(iii) Unemployment Allowances	2,570	4,303
(iv) Prevention and Relief of Distress	352	196
National Health Insurance Acts	57,071*	59,670*
Widows', Orphans' and Old Age Contributory Pensions Acts	64,020	88,799
Family Allowances Act	—	33,580
Old Age Pensions Act	58,229	103,552
Old Age and Widows' Pensions Act, 1940 (Supplementary Pensions)	62,461	39,161
War Pensions Acts and the Ministry of Pensions Act (War of 1914-18)	33,949	35,615
Pensions (Navy, Army, Air Force and Mercantile Marine) Act, 1939; Personal Injuries (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1939; Military Training Act, 1939; Reserve and Auxiliary Forces Act, 1939 (War of 1939-45)	48,743	51,429
Education Acts	191,136	220,502
Physical Training and Recreation Act	3	33
Acts relating to Approved Schools	2,637	2,956
Public Health Acts so far as they relate to:—		
(i) Hospitals and Treatment of Disease	25,561	
(ii) Maternity and Child Welfare Work	8,175	
Midwives Acts	55,198	Not Available.
Housing Acts	41,658	
Acts relating to the Relief of the Poor	10,789	
Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts		
Mental Deficiency Acts		
Total	679,650	—

NATIONAL INSURANCE ACTS.

DRAFT REGULATIONS SUBMITTED TO NATIONAL INSURANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

The Minister of National Insurance has recently submitted to the National Insurance Advisory Committee, for consideration and report, the preliminary drafts of various Regulations which it is proposed to make under the National Insurance Act, 1946.

Brief particulars of the proposed Regulations are given below. Full details are contained in the preliminary drafts which have been published by H.M. Stationery Office. Copies may be purchased direct from that Office at any of the addresses shown on the front cover of this GAZETTE or through any bookseller.

The National Insurance (Claims and Payments) Regulations, 1948 (price 3d. net, 4d. post free).—These draft Regulations prescribe the manner in which all claims for benefit under the National Insurance Act (other than death grant) and the payment of such benefit should be made.

The National Insurance (Maternity Benefit) Regulations, 1948 (price 1d. net, 2d. post free).—These draft Regulations relate to maternity grants, attendance allowances, and maternity allowances.

The National Insurance (Local Advisory Committees) Regulations,

*The figures given relate to the calendar years 1946 and 1947 respectively.

1948 (price 1d. net, 2d. post free), provide for the setting up of Local Advisory Committees under the National Insurance Act, and for the reference to them, for consideration and advice, of questions bearing on the administration of the Act.

The National Insurance and Industrial Injuries (Collection of Contributions) Regulations, 1948 (price 3d. net, 4d. post free).—These draft Regulations will apply to all who will be insured under the new scheme, *viz.*, the employed, the self-employed and the non-employed. They set out how and when contributions will be paid, how contribution cards will be issued, who will be responsible for their custody, and how the cards must be disposed of. The Regulations also deal with such matters as recovery of the employee's contribution by the employer; the person to be treated as the employer, where there is more than one employer, or where there is both a main employer and an intermediate employer; and agency arrangements for payment of contributions by employers. (These draft Regulations have also been referred to the Industrial Injuries Advisory Council.)

The National Insurance (Contributions during Holidays) Regulations, 1948 (price 1d. net, 2d. post free), provide that certain payments made by an employer for periods (except periods of sick leave) during which no services are rendered by an employed person shall be deemed to be remuneration paid in respect of holidays.

The National Insurance (Extension of Unemployment Benefit) Regulations, 1948 (price 1d. net, 2d. post free), authorise the Minister of National Insurance, during the five years from the beginning of the National Insurance Scheme, to continue the payment of unemployment benefit, on the recommendation of a local tribunal, to persons who have exhausted their rights under the National Insurance Act.

The National Insurance (Unemployment and Sickness Benefit) Regulations, 1948 (price 2d. net, 3d. post free).—Under these draft Regulations, contributions paid for benefits other than unemployment or sickness benefit may count towards determining the rate of unemployment or sickness benefit payable. The Regulations deal also with increase of benefit in respect of adult dependants; disqualifications for sickness benefit; payment of unemployment and sickness benefit at reduced rates, where there is a deficient contributions record; and certain other matters relating to unemployment and sickness benefit.

NATIONAL HEALTH AND PENSIONS INSURANCE.

ISSUE OF CONTRIBUTION CARDS.

The issue of Health and Pensions contribution cards by Post Offices will be discontinued as from 31st January, 1948. After that date application for a current card should be made to a local office of the Ministry of Labour and National Service or to a district office of the Ministry of National Insurance. The address of the nearest local or district office may be obtained from the local Post Office or from the local telephone directory. Insured persons applying for a card are asked to take their membership record card or their medical card with them so that their membership number can be put on the new card before it is issued to them.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION.

PROPOSED ACTION ON CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED AT 29th SESSION OF CONFERENCE.

The Minister of Labour and National Service has recently presented to Parliament a Command Paper entitled "International Labour Conference: Proposed Action by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland regarding certain Conventions and Recommendations adopted at the 29th Session, 1946." This Paper has been published by H.M. Stationery Office (Cmd. 7296; price 1d. net, 2d. post free). The Conventions and Recommendations concerned are Conventions Nos. 77, 78 and 79 and Recommendations Nos. 79 and 80, the texts of which were given in the Report of the United Kingdom delegates to the Conference (Cmd. 7185—see the issue of this GAZETTE for September, 1947, page 295).

Conventions Nos. 77 and 78 and Recommendation No. 79 deal with the medical examination of children and young persons for fitness for employment. The White Paper states that, pending the further development of medical services in the United Kingdom, it is not possible to implement the Conventions, and H.M. Government do not therefore propose to ratify them at the present time. It is intended, however, to introduce, in successive stages, legislation to extend and strengthen the existing law, with a view to the ultimate ratification of the Conventions. In framing such legislation H.M. Government will take into full account the provisions of Recommendation No. 79.

Convention No. 79 and Recommendation No. 80 concern the restriction of night work of children and young persons in non-industrial occupations. H.M. Government propose to defer a decision on them pending the receipt of the report of a Committee of Enquiry which, under the Chairmanship of Sir Ernest Gowers, are at present considering the conditions of work in non-industrial occupations and the hours of employment of young persons (see the issue of this GAZETTE for October, 1946, page 277).

103rd SESSION OF GOVERNING BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE.

The 103rd Session of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office was held at Geneva from 12th-15th December, 1947. It was preceded by meetings of various Governing Body Committees, beginning on 6th December. At the opening sitting, Mr. Luis Alvarado, Representative of the Government of Peru on the Governing Body, was elected Chairman.

The Director-General communicated to the Governing Body a letter from the Secretary-General of the World Federation of Trade Unions announcing the decision of the Executive Bureau to approve in principle the establishment of official relations between the Federation and the International Labour Organisation. The Governing Body for their part approved in principle the establishment of consultative relationships with the Federation, and requested the Standing Orders Committee of the Governing Body to submit proposals regarding the application of the principle of consultation in relation both to the Federation and to international non-governmental organisations generally.

Decisions were taken regarding a number of future meetings of the International Labour Organisation. The second session of the Permanent Migration Committee will meet in Geneva on 23rd February, 1948. Of the Industrial Committees, the first session of the Chemical Industries Committee will meet in France in April or May; the second session of the Textiles Committee will meet in Cairo at some time during the last three months of 1948; the second session of the Building, Civil Engineering and Public Works Committee will meet in the United States at some time during the second half of 1948; and the second session of the Petroleum Committee will meet in Geneva in September, 1948. The Governing Body also reaffirmed their decision taken at the previous session to hold the next session of the International Labour Conference—the 31st Session—in San Francisco; the Conference will begin on 17th June, 1948.

It was announced to the Governing Body that Pakistan and Syria had formally accepted the obligations of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation and had thereupon become members of the Organisation.

PREPARATORY ASIAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE.

The Preparatory Asian Regional Conference of the International Labour Organisation was held in New Delhi from 27th October to 8th November, inclusive, under the presidency of the Hon. Jagjivan Ram, Minister of Labour of the Government of India. The Conference was opened by Sir Guildhaume Myrddin-Evans, K.C.M.G., C.B., Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and National Service, in his capacity as Chairman of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, and an address of welcome to the delegates was given by the Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

Delegations from Afghanistan, Australia, Burma, Cambodia, Ceylon, China, Cochinchina, France, French Establishments in India and New Caledonia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, India, Indo-China, Laos, the Malayan Union, the Netherlands Union, New Zealand, Pakistan, Siam and Singapore, as well as observer delegations from the United States of America and Nepal, participated in the proceedings of the Conference. A tripartite delegation from the Governing Body of the International Labour Office also attended the Conference. It was announced during the Conference that Pakistan, having communicated to the Director-General of the International Labour Office its formal acceptance of the obligations of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation, had become a Member of the Organisation on 31st October, 1947.

The delegates appointed to represent His Majesty's Government were Sir Guildhaume Myrddin-Evans and Mr. J. S. Nicholson, C.B., C.B.E., former Principal Assistant Secretary, Ministry of National Insurance, together with Mr. E. W. Barltrop, C.B.E., D.S.O., Labour Adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, as substitute delegate and adviser. Mr. R. Gavin, Secretary of the West India Committee and member of the Executive Committee of the Colonial Employers' Federation, was appointed to represent the United Kingdom employers, and Mr. A. Roberts, O.B.E., J.P., member of the General Council of the Trades Union Congress and General Secretary of the Amalgamated Association of Card, Blowing and Ring Room Operatives, to represent the United Kingdom workers. In addition, four advisers were appointed to the Government delegates, two advisers to the employers' delegate and three advisers to the workers' delegate.

The items on the Agenda of the Conference were: (1) problems of social security; (2) labour policy in general, including the enforcement of labour measures; (3) programme of action over a number of years for the enforcement of social standards embodied

EMPLOYMENT IN GREAT BRITAIN IN NOVEMBER.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

The increase in working population which was a striking feature of the employment returns for October (the first month of operation of the Control of Engagement Order) continued during November at a much reduced rate. The number of men in the working population rose during November by 4,000; during October the increase was 16,000, but in the previous nine months of the year the number of men had been almost stationary. The number of women increased by 17,000 in November. During October the increase was 51,000; the rise in the number of women had already begun in September, following an appreciable decline in the earlier part of the year.

Although the rate of gross intake into the working population was smaller in November than in October, it remained at a rather higher rate than it had been earlier in the year (apart from intake of juveniles affected by the rise in the school-leaving age). The apparent rate of wastage in November, as in October, was low compared with earlier months. Moreover the number of women in part-time employment continued to increase (by 19,000 in November); and the number of foreign workers placed in employment increased by 8,000 bringing the total number of foreign workers entering employment under the various post-war schemes up to 87,000 at the end of November.

The size of the Forces was reduced in November by 37,000, bringing the total at the end of the month to 1,161,000.

The number of insured persons registered as unemployed rose from 267,800 at 10th November to 277,200 at 8th December. Unemployment at 8th December represented about 2 per cent. of the insured population. Of the increase, 5,400 was accounted for by building and civil engineering. The estimated number of ex-Service men and women who had not yet taken up employment rose by 3,000 during November to 113,000 at the end of the month; this increase is associated with the increase in the number of releases from the Forces during the previous three months.

The increase in civilian employment (industry, commerce and services of all kinds) was 44,000 during November (25,000 men and 19,000 women) compared with 94,000 in October. The rate of increase in November fell slightly below the average increase during the first 9 months of the year (55,000 a month).

The distribution between industries of the increase in employment during November showed, however, a greater degree of concentration on the industries most in need of additional labour. In spite of the smaller rate of increase in total employment, the number in the textile industries rose by 8,000 (against 12,000 in October and 2,700 a month in January-September); this included a rise of 3,800 in the cotton industry (about the same increase as in October). An increase during November of 17,000 in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding industries included an additional 900 in general ironfounding (not including engineers' ironfoundries). Employment in mining and quarrying rose by 2,000 in November (compared with a fall of 1,000 in October).

On the other hand, there were reductions in employment during November in clothing (1,000); building and civil engineering (10,000); hotels and catering and entertainment and sport (9,000). Employment in the distributive trades, however, increased by 16,000 (compared with a rise of 19,000 in October) including 5,000 additional part-time women workers (10,000 individuals each counted as a half-unit).

The increase in manufacturing industry as a whole was 34,000 during November (75,000 in October). The estimated number on manufacture for export rose in November by 73,000, while the number on work for the civilian home market fell by 39,000.

The number of persons placed in employment by the Employment Exchanges during the 4 weeks ending 26th November was 343,000, compared with 321,000 in the 4 weeks ending 29th October and an average of 203,000 in the three previous 4-weekly periods. Of the placings during November, 42,600, or 12 per cent. were in vacancies accorded "First Preference" under the Control of Engagement Order (the same proportion as in October). The net increase in employment in the manufacturing industries accorded "First Preference" was 0.9 per cent. in November, compared with 0.4 per cent in other manufacturing industries.

Some of the developments summarised above are analysed in more detail in the following paragraphs.

1. GENERAL MAN-POWER POSITION.

The broad changes in the man-power position between mid-1939 and November, 1947, are shown in the first Table in the next column. The figures relate to males aged 14 and under 65 and females aged 14 and under 60 years.

	(Thousands)				
	Mid-1939.	Mid-1945.	End-1946.	Oct., 1947.	Nov., 1947.
1. Total Working Population (excluding indoor private domestic service)					
Men	14,656	14,881	14,629	14,641	14,645
Women	5,094	6,768	5,785	5,790	5,807
Total	19,750	21,649	20,414	20,431	20,452
2. Ex-H.M. Forces who have not yet taken up employment	—	40	300	110	113
3. Insured Persons registered as unemployed	1,270	103	398	262	273*
4. Total number in H.M. Forces, and in Civil Employment:†					
Men	13,643	14,786	14,044	14,345	14,335
Women	4,837	6,720	5,672	5,714	5,731
Total	18,480	21,506	19,716	20,059	20,066

2. TOTAL WORKING POPULATION.

There was an increase of 21,000 in the total working population during November, 1947. The number of men increased by 4,000 and the number of women increased by 17,000. Since June, 1945, however, the total is estimated to have fallen by 1,197,000 (men 236,000 and women 961,000). The total working population at the end of November, 1947, was greater than at mid-1939 by 702,000 (men 11,000 less and women 713,000 greater).

3. H.M. FORCES AND AUXILIARY SERVICES, AND CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT.†

The total numbers in the Forces, Auxiliary Services, and civilian employment increased during November by 7,000 (men —10,000 women + 17,000). At the end of November, the total was 1,440,000 less than at the end of June, 1945 (men 451,000 and women 989,000), but 1,586,000 greater than at mid-1939 (men 692,000 and women 894,000).

4. FORCES AND AUXILIARY SERVICES.

The numbers in the Forces and Auxiliary Services included in item 4 of the Table in paragraph 1 are as follows:—

	(Thousands)				
	Mid-1939.	Mid-1945.	End-1946.	Oct., 1947.	Nov., 1947.
Men	480	4,653	1,361	1,145	1,110
Women	—	437	79	53	51
Total	480	5,090	1,440	1,198	1,161

In the period from mid-1945 to the end of November, 1947, there has been a decrease of 3,929,000 (men 3,543,000 and women 386,000).

5. CIVIL EMPLOYMENT.†

The numbers in civil employment included in item 4 of the Table in paragraph 1 are as follows:—

	(Thousands)				
	Mid-1939.	Mid-1945.	End-1946.	Oct., 1947.	Nov., 1947.
Men	13,163	10,133	12,683	13,200	13,225
Women	4,837	6,283	5,593	5,661	5,680
Total	18,000	16,416	18,276	18,861	18,905

Between mid-1939 and mid-1945, recruitment for the Forces, partly offset by substantial new intake from the non-industrial sections of the population, reduced the numbers in civil employment by nearly 1,600,000. Owing to the retirement of large numbers of men and women added during the war, the reduction continued up to the end of 1945, but since then the intake from demobilisation has greatly exceeded net losses from other causes. Between mid-1945 and the end of November, 1947, there was a net increase of 2,489,000 (men increased by 3,092,000, women decreased by 603,000). During November, 1947, there was an increase of 44,000. The number in civil employment at the end of November, 1947, was 905,000 greater than at mid-1939 (men increased by 62,000 and women increased by 843,000).

* Estimate for 30th November.
† Including N.F.S., Police and Civil Defence.
‡ Home civilian industries and services and manufactures for export.

6. MANUFACTURE OF EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FOR THE FORCES.

By November, 1947, the number employed on the manufacture of equipment and supplies for the Forces had been reduced to about 350,000.

7. HOME CIVILIAN INDUSTRIES AND SERVICES AND MANUFACTURE FOR EXPORT.

The numbers employed in this sector at mid-1945 were 4,144,000 less than at mid-1939. Between mid-1945 and the end of November, 1947, there was an increase of 5,969,000 and at the latter date the number so employed was thus 1,825,000 greater than the number at mid-1939.

8. MANUFACTURE FOR HOME MARKET AND EXPORT.

The figures for this sector are shown in the following Table:—

	(Thousands)				
	Mid-1939.	Mid-1945.	End-1946.	Oct., 1947.	Nov., 1947.
Home Market:—	4,555	2,580	5,069	5,041	5,002
Export:—					
Metals and Chemicals*	450	200	942	1,169	1,218
Other Manufactures†	540	210	535	669	693
Total, Export	990	410	1,477	1,838	1,911
Total, Home Market and Export	5,545	2,990	6,546	6,879	6,913

At mid-1945 the numbers employed on manufacture for home market and export were 2,555,000 lower than at mid-1939. Between mid-1945 and the end of November, 1947, there was an increase of 3,923,000, and the total at the latter date was thus 1,368,000 above the number at mid-1939.

The number estimated to be employed on manufacture for export increased in the period from mid-1945 to the end of November, 1947, by 1,501,000, and at the end of November exceeded the mid-1939 figure by 921,000.

Employment on manufacture for the home market increased by 2,422,000 between mid-1945 and the end of November, 1947; at the end of November the total was 447,000 greater than at mid-1939.

9. ANALYSIS OF MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY.

The total numbers engaged in the principal groups of manufacturing industries are shown in the following Table:—

	(Thousands)				
	Mid-1939.	Mid-1945.	End-1946.	Oct., 1947.	Nov., 1947.
Metals, Engineering and Shipbuilding	2,812	3,899	3,474	3,537	3,554
Chemicals	294	447	351	365	367
Food, Drink and Tobacco	654	518	599	628	629
Textiles	1,002	634	767	803	811
Clothing	752	481	611	629	628
Other Manufactures	1,301	841	1,204	1,267	1,274
Total Manufactures	6,815	6,820	7,006	7,229	7,263

10. BASIC INDUSTRIES.

The figures for this sector are as follows:—

	(Thousands)				
	Mid-1939.	Mid-1945.	End-1946.	Oct., 1947.	Nov., 1947.
Agriculture and Fishing	950	1,041	1,081	1,090	1,091
Mining and Quarrying	873	799	801	826	828
Transport and Shipping	1,233	1,252	1,384	1,438	1,439
Gas, Water and Electricity	242	196	264	268	270
Total	3,298	3,288	3,530	3,622	3,628

The total number in this group of industries was almost the same at mid-1945 as at mid-1939; since mid-1945 the number has increased by 340,000.

* Metal manufacture, shipbuilding and ship-repairing, engineering, aircraft, motors and other vehicles, metal goods, chemicals and explosives.

† Food, drink and tobacco, textiles, clothing, footwear, leather and leather goods, wood, paper, building materials, pottery, glass and other manufactures.

11. OTHER INDUSTRIES AND SERVICES.

The figures for other non-manufacturing industries and services are as follows:—

	(Thousands)				
	Mid-1939.	Mid-1945.	End-1946.	Oct., 1947.	Nov., 1947.
Building and Civil Engineering	1,310	722	1,289	1,366	1,356
National and Local Government	1,385	1,903	2,069	2,071	2,073
N.F.S., Police and Civil Defence	80	127	89	90	90
Distributive Trades	2,887	1,958	2,309	2,352	2,368
Hotels and Catering, Entertainment and Sport	817	618	781	845	836
Other Services*	1,408	980	1,203	1,286	1,291
Total	7,887	6,308	7,740	8,010	8,014

12. COMPARISON—NOVEMBER, 1947, WITH MID-1939.

The numbers employed at the end of November, 1947, in certain important sectors of industry, expressed as percentages of the numbers so employed at mid-1939, are as follows:—

Manufacture for Home Market	110 per cent.
Equipment and Supplies for the Forces	28 " "
Manufacture for Export	193 " "
National and Local Government (including N.F.S. and Police)	148 " "
Basic Industries†	110 " "
Building and Civil Engineering	104 " "
Distributive Trades	82 " "
Hotels and Catering, Entertainment and Sport	102 " "
Other Services	92 " "

13. SUMMARY.

The following Table shows the totals in the main categories at mid-1939, mid-1945, end-1946, October and November, 1947:—

	(Thousands)				
	Mid-1939.	Mid-1945.	End-1946.	Oct., 1947.	Nov., 1947.
Manufacture of Equipment and Supplies for the Forces	1,270	3,830	460	350	350
Manufacture for Home Market	4,555	2,580	5,069	5,041	5,002
Manufacture for Export	990	410	1,477	1,838	1,911
Total Manuf. Industries	6,815	6,820	7,006	7,229	7,263
Basic Industries†	3,298	3,288	3,530	3,622	3,628
Building and Civil Engineering	1,310	722	1,289	1,366	1,356
Government Service‡	1,465	2,030	2,158	2,161	2,163
Distributive Trades	2,887	1,958	2,309	2,352	2,368
Hotels and Catering, Entertainment and Sport	817	618	781	845	836
Other Services	1,408	980	1,203	1,286	1,291
Total in Civil Employment	18,000	16,416	18,276	18,861	18,905
Armed Forces and Aux. Services	480	5,090	1,440	1,198	1,161
Total of above	18,480	21,506	19,716	20,059	20,066
Ex-H.M. Forces who have not yet taken up employment	—	40	300	110	113
Insured persons registered as unemployed	1,270	103	398	262	273
Total Working Population§	19,750	21,649	20,414	20,431	20,452

The Table below shows the changes in the main categories—increases (+) or decreases (—).

	(Thousands)			
	Mid-1939 to Mid-1945.	Mid-1945 to End-1946.	End-1946 to Oct., 1947.	Oct., 1947 to Nov., 1947.
Manufacture of Equipment and Supplies for the Forces	+ 2,560	— 3,480	— 91	—
Manufacture for Home Market	— 1,975	+ 2,422	+ 94	+ 39
Manufacture for Export	— 580	+ 1,501	+ 366	+ 73
Total Manuf. Industries	+ 5	+ 443	+ 6	+ 34
Basic Industries†	— 10	+ 340	+ 10	+ 6
Building and Civil Engineering	— 588	+ 634	+ 88	+ 10
Government Service‡	+ 565	+ 133	+ 7	+ 2
Distributive Trades	— 929	+ 410	+ 21	+ 16
Hotels and Catering, Entertainment and Sport	— 199	+ 218	+ 35	+ 9
Other Services	— 428	+ 311	+ 32	+ 5
Total in Civil Employment	— 1,584	+ 2,489	+ 15	+ 44
Armed Forces and Aux. Services	+ 4,610	— 3,929	— 77	— 37
Total of above	+ 3,026	— 1,440	— 7	+ 7
Ex-H.M. Forces who have not yet taken up employment	+ 40	+ 743	+ 183	+ 3
Insured Persons registered as unemployed	— 1,167	+ 170	+ 161	+ 11
Total Working Population§	+ 1,899	— 1,197	— 6	+ 21

* Commerce and finance, professional services, personal services, laundries and cleaning.

† As defined in paragraph 10.

‡ National and Local Government Service, including N.F.S., Police and Civil Defence.

§ Excluding indoor private domestic service.

14. The Control of Engagement Order (details of which were given on pages 319 and 320 of the October issue of this GAZETTE) came into operation on 6th October. In connection with the Order, the Ministry of Labour and National Service have introduced a system of priorities, under which "First Preference" is given to vacancies for workpeople which, in the national interest,

should take precedence over others. The numbers of vacancies filled in October and November in the principal "First Preference" industries are shown in a Table on page 26. Figures are given in the Table below to show the net change in employment in the principal First Preference industries and certain other industries in October and November compared with July-September.

Industries.	Males.				Females.				Total.				
	Net change in employment.			Total employment at end of Nov.	Net change in employment.			Total employment at end of Nov.	Net change in employment.			Total employment at end of Nov.	
	Monthly average July-Sept.	Oct.	Nov.		Monthly average July-Sept.	Oct.	Nov.		Monthly average July-Sept.	Oct.	Nov.		
Manufacturing Industries.													
First Preference Industries:—													
Cotton spinning	100	500	600	52,100	400	1,900	1,800	95,900	300	2,400	2,400	148,000	
Cotton manufacturing	300	400	400	37,000	300	900	1,000	77,600	300	1,300	1,400	114,600	
Wool textiles	400	1,100	1,100	79,200	500	2,000	1,500	95,400	800	3,100	2,600	174,600	
Rayon yarn	500	500	100	24,000	100	400	—	10,400	—	—	—	39,600	
Silk and rayon weaving	100	200	200	10,400	100	400	—	15,600	600	900	200	28,700	
Jute	100	—	—	6,500	—	—	100	18,300	—	1,000	200	28,700	
Lace	—	—	—	3,600	—	100	100	11,600	—	100	400	18,100	
Textile finishing	300	300	300	47,500	200	200	100	21,600	500	500	200	8,800	
Miscellaneous textiles	—	500	100	22,300	100	400	400	37,700	100	900	300	60,000	
Fig iron	100	100	100	16,100	—	—	—	400	—	—	100	16,500	
Ironfounding	100	1,400	1,800	60,400	100	200	100	11,500	200	1,600	900	71,900	
Steel melting, rolling, etc.	700	1,100	1,100	166,600	200	—	—	15,200	900	1,100	1,200	181,800	
Tinplates	100	100	200	12,300	—	—	—	2,700	—	100	200	15,000	
Iron and steel tubes	—	200	200	28,000	—	100	100	5,400	—	300	300	34,400	
Wire, wire netting	100	100	200	21,200	—	200	100	8,100	—	300	300	29,300	
Pottery	200	400	400	28,600	400	600	600	38,600	600	1,000	1,000	67,200	
Printing, publishing and bookbinding	400	—	300	166,900	400	1,100	100	97,100	800	1,100	200	264,000	
Total First Preference Industries	2,200	6,800	6,100	782,700	1,700	8,900	5,900	558,900	3,900	15,700	12,000	1,341,600	
Other Manufacturing Industries	10,800	34,200	16,800	3,792,500	2,300	25,100	3,700	1,803,000	13,100	59,300	20,500	5,595,500	
Total Manufacturing Industries	13,000	41,000	22,900	4,575,200	4,000	34,000	9,600	2,361,900	17,000	75,000	32,500	6,937,100	
Non-Manufacturing Industries and Services.													
First Preference Industries and Services:—													
Coal mining	1,200	1,200	2,200	715,600	—	—	—	—	1,200	1,200	2,200	715,600	
Laundries and cleaning	—	—	—	36,900	600	2,000	300	129,000	600	2,000	300	165,900	
Other Industries and Services:—													
Building and civil engineering	7,700	1,000	10,000	1,131,700	—	—	—	23,700	1,000	10,000	10,000	1,155,400	
Road transport	600	700	200	410,500	200	200	100	54,600	1,100	500	300	465,100	
Public utilities	200	1,400	1,700	215,500	—	—	—	20,500	200	1,600	1,900	236,000	
Distribution	1,600	2,700	2,700	921,200	1,400	16,400	13,600	926,800	3,000	19,100	16,300	1,848,000	
Entertainment and sport	1,500	2,500	200	77,100	2,000	2,500	1,900	101,900	500	5,000	2,100	179,000	
Hotels and catering	1,000	1,400	2,700	140,700	2,100	3,600	4,600	332,600	3,100	5,000	7,300	473,300	
Commerce and finance	400	100	100	142,800	—	300	200	127,800	400	200	300	270,600	

Note. The Table excludes the following industries which are accorded First Preference treatment but for which separate statistics on this basis are not available: agriculture and horticulture, open cast coal production, coke ovens, iron ore mining and quarrying, engineers' iron and steel foundry, iron and steel scrap merchants and shipbreakers, ball and roller bearing manufacture, china clay and chalk, gypsum mining and quarrying, shale oil mining, limestone quarrying, and domestic service in hostels and canteens in essential industries. "Other industries and services" also exclude the following, for which monthly statistics of insured employees are not available: national and local government service, railway service, fishing, shipping service, dock and harbour service, professional and personal services. On the other hand, the Table includes the natural silk industry (not separately distinguishable from rayon weaving) and publishing and newspaper printing (not separately distinguishable from printing and bookbinding) to which First Preference treatment is not accorded.

NUMBERS EMPLOYED : INDUSTRIAL ANALYSIS.
MID-1939, MID-1945, MID-1947 AND NOVEMBER, 1947.

The Table below shows, in respect of those industries for which comparable figures are available, the changes in the level of employment between mid-1939, mid-1945, mid-1947 and November, 1947. The figures include only persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, together with women in part-time employment, two of the latter being counted as one unit. They are thus different in scope from those given above, which include estimates of the numbers of uninsured full-time employees, and of employers and workers on own account. Satisfactory estimates of the changes in the numbers within these uninsured classes in each industry cannot, at present, be made at monthly intervals.

The figures given below for mid-1939, mid-1945 and mid-1947 are based on the count of insured persons in each industry at those dates, coupled with information as to the employment of

part-time women workers at mid-1945 and mid-1947 derived from the returns rendered by employers under the Undertakings (Records and Information and Inspection of Premises) Order, 1943. The information as to changes, since mid-1947, in the level of employment in each industry, except coal mining, building and civil engineering, is also derived from these returns. Certain industries and services, which are not covered by the returns (or are only partially covered), or in which uninsured persons form a large proportion of the labour force, are omitted from the figures. These are agriculture, mining and quarrying (other than coal mining), National and Local Government service, railways, shipping, fishing, dock and harbour service, and professional services. Insured persons registered as unemployed and demobilised men and women taking paid leave are not included.

Industry.	Males (14 and under 65).				Females (14 and under 60).				Total.				
	Mid-1939.	Mid-1945.	Mid-1947.	Nov., 1947.	Mid-1939.	Mid-1945.	Mid-1947.	Nov., 1947.	Mid-1939.	Mid-1945.	Mid-1947.	Nov., 1947.	
	GROUP I (METAL AND CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES) :—												
Metal Manufacture :													
Steel Melting, etc.	15.5	15.0	15.8	16.1	0.0	0.9	0.4	0.4	15.5	15.9	16.2	16.5	
Brass, Copper, Zinc, Tin, etc.	156.4	147.0	162.3	166.6	3.6	27.8	14.6	15.2	160.0	174.8	176.9	181.8	
Tin Plates	22.7	9.7	12.3	12.3	4.7	21.0	14.5	14.3	55.9	84.0	87.6	89.2	
Iron and Steel Tubes	29.1	25.9	27.7	28.0	2.6	8.8	2.7	2.4	25.1	12.4	15.0	15.0	
Wire, Wire Netting, etc.	22.4	19.2	21.1	21.2	4.4	10.7	7.9	8.1	26.8	29.9	29.0	29.3	
Total, Metal Manufacture	297.3	279.8	312.3	319.1	17.7	71.9	46.2	47.1	315.0	351.7	358.5	366.2	
Chemical Engineering :													
General Engineering	637.4	777.9	778.7	806.8	67.3	361.9	169.4	174.4	704.7	1,139.8	948.1	981.2	
Electrical Engineering	105.9	106.1	105.3	108.0	28.0	69.7	49.0	50.6	133.9	175.8	154.3	158.6	
Marine Engineering	51.1	70.1	64.6	64.1	2.1	10.4	3.5	3.5	52.2	80.5	68.1	67.6	
Constructional Engineering	47.1	35.7	59.0	58.1	1.9	6.2	7.2	6.7	49.0	41.9	66.2	64.8	
Total, Chemical Engineering	841.5	989.8	1,007.6	1,037.0	98.3	448.2	229.1	235.2	939.9	1,458.0	1,236.7	1,272.2	
Construction and Repair of Vehicles :													
Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft	428.1	597.2	478.0	473.6	45.2	279.0	82.6	80.6	473.3	876.2	560.6	554.2	
Carriages, Carts, etc.	10.7	10.9	22.0	23.0	1.9	3.5	4.2	4.6	12.6	14.4	26.2	27.6	
Railway Carriages and Wagons	51.6	41.1	57.3	59.2	1.4	5.7	3.0	3.0	53.0	46.8	60.3	62.2	
Total, Vehicles	490.4	649.2	557.3	555.8	48.5	288.2	89.8	88.2	538.9	937.4	647.1	644.0	
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing	141.8	230.4	206.1	206.2	2.9	21.9	8.6	8.6	144.7	252.3	214.7	214.8	

NUMBERS EMPLOYED : INDUSTRIAL ANALYSIS—continued.
(Thousands)

Industry.	Males (14 and under 65).				Females (14 and under 60).				Total.				
	Mid-1939.	Mid-1945.	Mid-1947.	Nov., 1947.	Mid-1939.	Mid-1945.	Mid-1947.	Nov., 1947.	Mid-1939.	Mid-1945.	Mid-1947.	Nov., 1947.	
	Other Metal Industries :												
Stove, Grate, Pipe, etc., and General Ironfounding	84.9	39.4	58.6	60.4	9.8	12.9	11.4	11.5	94.7	52.3	70.0	71.9	
Electrical Wiring and Contracting	38.9	32.0	52.2	53.8	2.8	5.5	5.7	5.9	41.7	37.5	57.9	59.7	
Electric Apparatus, Cables, etc.	116.4	112.2	143.0	148.9	79.5	167.7	133.2	138.7	195.9	279.9	276.2	287.6	
Scientific and Photographic Instruments, etc.	34.0	38.1	41.8	42.7	14.3	38.7	25.6	26.3	48.3	76.8	67.4	69.0	
Watches, Clocks, etc.	20.8	7.3	18.7	19.9	17.9	6.9	12.9	13.9	38.7	14.2	31.6	33.8	
Hand Tools, Cutlery, etc.	21.9	20.6	26.0	26.8	11.6	16.6	18.4	18.7	33.5	37.2	44.4	45.5	
Bolts, Nuts, etc.	16.8	16.1	17.9	17.8	13.0	18.8	16.0	15.9	29.8	34.9	33.9	33.7	
Brass and Allied Metal Wares	17.4	9.2	12.6	12.8	11.1	8.8	9.1	9.1	28.5	18.0	21.7	21.9	
Heating and Ventilating Apparatus	21.2	15.7	29.0	30.5	1.4	4.2	4.0	4.0	22.6	19.9	33.0	34.5	
Other Metal Industries	185.2	170.0	225.2	230.1	101.1	145.6	132.2	134.1	286.3	315.6	357.4	364.2	
Total, Other Metals	557.5	460.6	625.0	643.7	262.5	425.7	368.5	378.1	820.0	886.3	993.5	1,021.8	
Chemicals, Paints, Oils, etc. :													
Coke Ovens and By-Product Works	12.3	12.2	13.5	13.9	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.2	12.4	12.7	13.7	14.1	
Chemicals	88.6	91.6	123.9	128.4	36.2	65.9	64.0	66.1	124.8	157.5	187.9	194.5	
Explosives	20.4	78.3	21.6	21.7	7.9	90.4	13.0	12.7	28.3	168.7	34.6	34.4	
Paint, Varnish, etc.	20.4	14.2	21.0	21.7	6.5	9.2	9.0	9.0	26.9	23.4	30.0	30.8	
Oil, Glue, Soap, Ink, etc.	60.0	44.1	54.5	56.5	23.2	31.7	27.1	27.9	83.2	75.8	81.6	84.4	
Total, Chemicals, etc.	210.5	240.4	234.5	242.2	73.9	197.7	113.3	116.0	284.4	438.1	347.8	358.2	
Total, Group I Industries	2,539.0	2,850.2	2,942.8	3,004.0	503.8	1,453.6	855.5	873.2	3,042.8	4,303.8	3,798.3	3,877.2	
GROUP II (BASIC INDUSTRIES)* :—													
Coal Mining	757.5	707.8	728.3	727.9	3.7	9.8	9.4	9.4	761.2	717.6	737.7	737.3	
Gas, Water and Electricity Supply	203.2	138.2	211.9	215.5	11.6	28.4	20.1	20.5	214.8	166.6	232.0	236.0	
Tramway and Omnibus Service	193.0	129.3	211.4	215.3	12.0	82.0	39.6	41.7	205.0	211.3	251.0	257.0	
Other Road Passenger Transport	34.1	1.3	25.7	24.2	3.0	2.0	2.9	2.6	37.1	1.5	28.6	26.8	
Goods Transport by Road	141.7	129.8	172.3	171.0	4.9	13.4	10.5	10.3	146.6	143.2	182.8	181.3	
Miscellaneous Transport, etc., Services ..													

UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG INSURED PERSONS AT 8th DECEMBER, 1947.

SUMMARY FOR GREAT BRITAIN.

The numbers of insured persons registered as unemployed* in Great Britain at 10th November and 8th December, 1947, were as follows:—

	Men 18 and under 65 years.	Boys 14-17 years.	Women 18 and under 60 years.	Girls 14-17 years.	Total.
10th November ..	189,744	4,979	68,743	4,319	267,785
8th December ..	199,652	4,653	69,142	3,798	277,245

In addition there were on the registers at 8th December 11,270† uninsured persons, including 1,221 boys and girls under 18 who had not yet entered industry.

The figures for 8th December are analysed below:—

	Wholly Unemployed (including Casuals).					Temporarily Stopped.	Total.
	Unemployed for not more than 2 weeks.	Unemployed for more than 2 weeks but not more than 8 weeks.	Unemployed for more than 8 weeks.	Total.	Total.		
Men, 18-64 ..	47,948	53,035	94,077	195,060	4,592	199,652	
Boys, 14-17 ..	2,870	1,329	393	4,592	61	4,653	
Women, 18-59 ..	19,070	20,636	26,988	66,694	2,448	69,142	
Girls, 14-17 ..	2,255	1,097	334	3,686	112	3,798	
Total ..	72,143	76,097	121,792	270,032	7,213	277,245	

The total of 277,245 includes 36,329 married women, and ex-Service personnel numbering 7,702 who had had no employment since leaving the Forces.

The changes between 10th November and 8th December, 1947, in each administrative Region were as follows:—

Region.		Wholly Unemployed (including Casuals).					Temporarily Stopped.	Total.
		Unemployed for not more than 2 weeks.	Unemployed for more than 2 weeks but not more than 8 weeks.	Unemployed for more than 8 weeks.	Total.	Total.		
London & South-Eastern	10th Nov.	18,440	11,057	9,434	38,931	540	39,471	
	8th Dec.	17,233	12,215	9,518	38,966	796	39,762	
Eastern	Inc. or Dec.	+ 1,207	+ 1,158	+ 84	+ 35	+ 256	+ 291	
	10th Nov.	2,965	2,414	2,246	7,625	115	7,740	
Southern	8th Dec.	3,888	3,265	2,653	9,806	109	9,915	
	Inc. or Dec.	+ 923	+ 851	+ 407	+ 2,181	+ 6	+ 2,175	
South-Western	10th Nov.	2,938	2,772	2,322	8,032	27	8,059	
	8th Dec.	3,025	3,427	2,582	9,034	74	9,108	
Midland	Inc. or Dec.	+ 87	+ 655	+ 260	+ 1,002	+ 47	+ 1,049	
	10th Nov.	3,131	3,551	3,774	10,456	35	10,491	
North-Midland	8th Dec.	3,082	3,472	4,158	10,712	57	10,769	
	Inc. or Dec.	- 49	- 79	+ 384	+ 256	+ 22	+ 278	
East and West Ridings	10th Nov.	3,865	2,228	3,777	9,870	197	10,067	
	8th Dec.	3,637	2,423	3,513	9,573	287	9,860	
Northern	Inc. or Dec.	- 228	+ 195	- 264	- 297	+ 90	- 207	
	10th Nov.	2,375	1,644	2,314	6,333	304	6,637	
North-Western	8th Dec.	2,886	3,139	2,591	8,616	504	9,120	
	Inc. or Dec.	+ 511	+ 1,495	+ 277	+ 2,283	+ 200	+ 2,483	
Northern Ireland	10th Nov.	3,809	3,443	6,043	13,295	678	13,973	
	8th Dec.	4,102	3,686	6,042	13,830	988	14,818	
United Kingdom	Inc. or Dec.	+ 293	+ 243	- 1	+ 535	+ 310	+ 845	
	10th Nov.	11,949	12,901	22,573	47,423	777	48,200	
Scotland	8th Dec.	10,977	13,565	23,015	47,557	1,138	48,695	
	Inc. or Dec.	- 972	+ 664	+ 442	+ 134	+ 361	+ 495	
Wales	10th Nov.	6,445	8,491	15,282	30,218	708	30,926	
	8th Dec.	6,390	8,505	15,709	30,604	1,088	31,692	
Great Britain (including Special Schemes)	Inc. or Dec.	+ 55	+ 14	+ 427	+ 386	+ 380	+ 766	
	10th Nov.	10,249	12,906	27,313	50,468	620	51,088	
Northern Ireland	8th Dec.	11,906	13,437	26,461	51,804	956	52,760	
	Inc. or Dec.	+ 1,657	+ 531	- 852	+ 1,336	+ 336	+ 1,672	
Great Britain (including Special Schemes)	10th Nov.	5,317	8,525	23,839	37,681	1,730	39,411	
	8th Dec.	4,879	8,690	24,296	37,865	1,216	39,081	
United Kingdom	Inc. or Dec.	- 438	+ 165	+ 457	+ 184	- 514	- 330	
	10th Nov.	71,587	70,301	120,166	262,054	5,731	267,785	
Northern Ireland	8th Dec.	72,143	76,097	121,792	270,032	7,213	277,245	
	Inc. or Dec.	+ 556	+ 5,796	+ 1,626	+ 7,978	+ 1,482	+ 9,460	

* See footnote * in the next column.

† See footnote † in the next column.

The following Table gives the numbers unemployed and the approximate percentage rates of unemployment at 8th December among insured males and females in each Region:—

Region.	Number of insured persons registered as unemployed at 8th December, 1947.			Number registered as unemployed expressed as percentage of the estimated total number of insured persons.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
London and South-Eastern ..	29,993	9,769	39,762	1½	1	1½
Eastern ..	6,940	2,975	9,915	1	1½	1½
Southern ..	6,805	2,303	9,108	1½	1	1½
South-Western ..	8,080	2,689	10,769	1½	1½	1½
Midland ..	7,853	2,007	9,860	1½	1	1½
North-Midland ..	5,298	3,348	9,120	1	1	1
E. and W. Ridings ..	11,470	3,348	14,818	1	1	1
Northern ..	38,552	10,143	48,695	2½	1½	2
North-Western ..	22,603	9,089	31,692	3	3½	3
Scotland ..	38,264	14,496	52,760	3½	3	3
Wales ..	27,439	11,642	39,081	5	7	5½
Great Britain (excluding Special Schemes)	203,297	72,283	275,580	2	1½	2

NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM:

REGIONAL ANALYSIS.

The total number of insured persons registered as unemployed* in the United Kingdom at 8th December, 1947, was 307,207, including 230,483 men and boys and 76,724 women and girls. In addition, there were on the registers in the United Kingdom at 8th December, 11,690† uninsured persons, including 1,358 boys and girls under 18 who had not yet entered industry.

The numbers of insured unemployed persons on the registers in each Region are shown below.

Region.	Men 18 and under 65 years.	Boys 14-17 years.	Women 18 and under 60 years.	Girls 14-17 years.	Total.
London and South-Eastern ..	28,508	1,083	8,715	660	38,966
Eastern ..	6,760	140	2,781	125	9,806
Southern ..	6,572	188	2,114	160	9,034
South-Western ..	7,878	169	2,504	161	10,712
Midland ..	7,517	152	1,800	104	9,573
North-Midland ..	4,941	122	3,392	161	8,616
E. and W. Ridings ..	10,821	194	2,659	156	13,830
Northern ..	36,981	762	9,506	308	47,557
North-Western ..	21,327	469	8,301	507	30,604
Northern ..	36,712	918	13,421	753	51,804
Scotland ..	26,038	392	10,846	589	37,865
Wales ..	26,008	3	655	2	27,668
Special Schemes ..	1,005				
Great Britain ..	195,060	4,592	66,694	3,686	270,032
Northern Ireland ..	25,341	596	3,304	138	29,379
United Kingdom	220,401	5,188	69,998	3,824	299,411
Temporarily Stopped.					
London and South-Eastern ..	400	2	379	15	796
Eastern ..	34	6	66	3	109
Southern ..	45	-	26	3	74
South-Western ..	33	-	24	-	57
Midland ..	180	4	103	9	296
North-Midland ..	234	1	260	27	522
E. and W. Ridings ..	445	10	506	2	963
North-Western ..	806	15	327	2	1,150
Northern ..	792	18	290	32	1,122
Scotland ..	616	2	195	12	825
Wales ..	1,007				
Great Britain ..	4,592	61	2,448	112	7,213
Northern Ireland ..	235	6	333	9	583
United Kingdom	4,827	67	2,781	121	7,796
Total Registered as Unemployed.					
London and South-Eastern ..	28,908	1,085	9,094	675	39,762
Eastern ..	6,794	146	2,847	128	9,915
Southern ..	6,617	188	2,140	163	9,108
South-Western ..	7,911	169	2,528	161	10,769
Midland ..	7,697	156	1,903	104	9,860
North-Midland ..	5,175	123	3,652	170	9,120
E. and W. Ridings ..	11,266	204	3,165	183	14,818
North-Western ..	37,787	765	9,833	310	48,695
Northern ..	22,119	484	8,573	516	31,692
Scotland ..	37,328	936	13,711	785	52,760
Wales ..	27,045	394	11,041	601	39,081
Special Schemes ..	1,005	3	655	2	1,665
Great Britain ..	199,652	4,653	69,142	3,798	277,245
Northern Ireland ..	25,576	602	3,637	147	29,962
United Kingdom	225,228	5,255	72,779	3,945	307,207

* The figures exclude 17,552 insured men and 579 insured women on the registers in Great Britain who had been classified as unsuitable for ordinary employment.

† This figure excludes 919 uninsured persons on the registers in Great Britain who had been classified as unsuitable for ordinary employment.

NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED IN THE PRINCIPAL TOWNS.

The Table below shows the total numbers of unemployed* insured persons on the registers of all Employment Exchanges and Juvenile Employment Bureaux in each Administrative Region at 8th December, 1947, and the numbers of insured persons on the registers of the Exchanges and Bureaux situated in some of the principal towns in each Region, together with the increase or decrease compared with 10th November, 1947.

Regions (in italics) and Principal Towns.	Numbers of Insured Persons* on Registers at 8th December, 1947.				Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Totals as compared with 10th Novem-ber, 1947.
	Men 18 and under 65 years.	Women 18 and under 60 years.	Juveniles under 18 years.	Total.	
London and South-Eastern ..	28,908	9,094	1,760	39,762	+ 291
London (Administrative County) ..	12,491	2,808	466	15,765	+ 984
Acton ..	99	23	8	130	+ 47
Brentford and Chiswick ..	154	28	8	190	+ 9
Brighton and Hove ..	1,137	487	41	1,665	+ 53
Chatham ..	680	602	61	1,343	+ 260
Croydon ..	740	167	41	948	+ 17
Dagenham ..	334	113	48	495	+ 31
East Ham ..	373	68	15	456	+ 54
Enfield ..	188	59	20	267	+ 30
Harrow and Wembley ..	409	126	21	556	+ 32
Hayes and Harlington ..	119	43	22	184	+ 24
Hendon ..	360	52	21	433	+ 36
Leyton and Walthamstow ..	769	120	50	939	+ 79
Tottenham ..	547	104	28	679	+ 91
West Ham ..	722	164	52	938	+ 6
Willesden ..	287	79	12	378	+ 43
Eastern ..	6,794	2,847	274	9,915	+ 2,175
Bedford ..	150	24	5	179	+ 12
Cambridge ..	51	30	8	89	+ 4
Ipswich ..	178	28	15	221	+ 6
Luton ..	181	13	13	207	+ 22
Norwich ..	752	96	6	854	+ 140
Watford ..	67	69	7	143	+ 1
Southern ..	6,617	2,140	351	9,108	+ 1,049
Oxford ..	277	59	27	363	+ 96
Portsmouth (inc. Gosport) ..	1,242	549	80	1,871	+ 128
Reading ..	548	74	25	647	+ 221
Slough ..	205	17	10	232	+ 108
Southampton ..	871	296	46	1,213	+ 215
South-Western ..	7,911	2,528	330	10,769	+ 278
Bristol (inc. Kingswood) ..	1,953	367	80	2,400	+ 2
Exeter ..	302	105	12	419	+ 34
Gloucester ..	84	57	6	147	+ 14
Plymouth ..	775	689	53	1,517	+ 23
Swindon ..	122	29	4	155	+ 29

NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED : INDUSTRIAL ANALYSIS.

The statistics given below show, industry by industry, the numbers of persons aged 14 and over, insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, who were registered as unemployed at 8th December, 1947, distinguishing those wholly unemployed (i.e., out of a situation) from those temporarily stopped (i.e., suspended from work on the understanding that they were shortly to return to their former employment). The numbers include unemployed insured persons on the registers of Local Offices of the Ministry of Labour and National Service and of Juvenile Employment Bureaux, and claimants for benefit under the Special Schemes for banking and insurance.

The Unemployment Insurance Acts provide, subject to certain exceptions, for the compulsory insurance against unemployment of substantially all employed males under 65 years of age and females under 60 years of age. The principal classes of excepted employments are indoor private domestic service, employment otherwise than by way of manual labour at a rate of remuneration exceeding in value £420 a year, employment as female professional nurse, and, subject to certain qualifications, employment in the teaching profession and in the police forces; employment under public or local authorities, railway and public utility companies may, in certain circumstances, also be excepted. The Unemployment Insurance Acts do not apply to persons serving in an established capacity in the permanent

service of the Crown. Some persons employed in agricultural occupations are also outside the scope of the agricultural scheme, including sons, daughters, and other near relatives of the employer, persons not working under a contract of service, and persons engaged in such casual harvesting work as hop-picking, or gathering flowers, fruit, peas or potatoes (unless they normally undertake other insurable work). Persons not domiciled in the United Kingdom (e.g., migratory labourers from Éire) are not insurable in respect of employment in agriculture, and are accordingly not included in the figures. Part-time workers employed for not more than 30 hours a week, who entered employment during the war, are in most cases not insurable against unemployment, and are not, therefore, included. Insured persons on the registers in Great Britain who have been classified as unsuitable for ordinary employment are also excluded.

An unemployment book, on which is recorded the industry in which he is employed, is issued to every insured person, and this book must be lodged at an Employment Exchange whenever the insured person makes a claim for unemployment benefit or for an unemployment allowance, or registers as unemployed without claiming benefit or an allowance. The files of 'lodged' books at the Employment Exchanges thus furnish for each industrial group a record of the unemployment of insured persons.

Industry.	Great Britain.						United Kingdom.					
	Wholly Unemployed (including Casuals).			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.			Wholly Unemployed, Temporarily Stopped and Casuals.		
	Males aged 14 and under 65.	Females aged 14 and under 60.	Total.	Males aged 14 and under 65.	Females aged 14 and under 60.	Total.	Males aged 14 and under 65.	Females aged 14 and under 60.	Total.	Males aged 14 and under 65.	Females aged 14 and under 60.	Total.
Agriculture* —												
Farming, Forestry, etc.	4,014	5,681	9,695	64	854	918	4,078	6,535	10,613	8,622	6,651	15,273
Market Gardening, Horticulture, etc.	594	524	1,118	16	101	117	1,035	4,688	7,160	9,319	7,281	16,600
Total, Agriculture	4,608	6,205	10,813	80	955	1,035	4,688	7,160	11,848	9,319	7,281	16,600
Fishing	1,769	11	1,780	78	—	78	1,847	11	1,858	1,897	11	1,908
Mining —												
Coal Mining†	1,675	157	1,832	22	—	22	1,697	157	1,854	1,742	157	1,899
Iron Ore and Ironstone Mining, etc.	31	2	33	—	—	—	33	2	35	37	—	37
Lead, Tin and Copper Mining	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stone Quarrying and Mining	392	8	400	15	—	15	407	8	415	989	10	999
Slate Quarrying and Mining	122	—	122	8	—	8	130	—	130	—	—	—
Other Mining and Quarrying	58	32	90	1	—	1	59	32	91	73	32	105
Clay, Sand, Gravel and Chalk Pits	112	4	116	1	—	1	113	4	117	248	4	252
Total, Mining†	2,427	203	2,630	49	—	49	2,476	203	2,679	3,254	205	3,459
Non-Metalliferous Mining Products —												
Coke Ovens and By-Product Works	177	6	183	—	—	—	177	6	183	179	6	185
Cast Stone and Cast Concrete Products, Patent Fuel, Stone Grinding, etc.	574	72	646	4	2	6	578	74	652	619	74	693
Cement, Limekilns and Whiting	119	21	140	—	—	—	119	21	140	102	22	124
Total, N.-M. Mining Products	870	99	969	4	2	6	874	101	975	990	102	1,092
Brick, Tile, Pipe, etc., Making	725	143	868	22	2	24	747	145	892	811	145	956
Pottery, Earthenware, etc.	269	64	333	2	—	2	271	64	335	285	66	351
Glass —												
Glass Manufacture (exc. Bottles and Lenses, Prisms, etc.)	298	246	544	2	2	4	300	248	548	311	250	561
Glass Bottles, Jars, etc.	239	262	501	6	1	7	245	263	508	247	263	510
Total, Glass	537	508	1,045	8	3	11	545	511	1,056	558	513	1,071
Chemicals, Paints, Oils, etc. —												
Chemicals	1,306	808	2,114	3	16	19	1,309	824	2,133	1,372	829	2,201
Explosives	3,250	2,139	5,389	9	7	16	3,259	2,146	5,405	3,273	2,148	5,421
Paint, Varnish, Red Lead, etc.	288	106	394	—	—	—	288	106	394	300	106	406
Oil, Glue, Soap, Ink, Matches, etc.	712	361	1,073	4	14	18	716	375	1,091	738	371	1,115
Total, Chemicals, Paints, Oils, etc.	5,556	3,414	8,970	16	37	53	5,572	3,451	9,023	5,683	3,460	9,143
Metal Manufacture —												
Pig Iron (Blast Furnaces)	120	24	144	11	—	11	131	24	155	133	26	159
Steel Melting and Iron Puddling, Iron and Steel Rolling, etc.	1,566	590	2,156	879	13	892	2,445	603	3,048	2,475	603	3,078
Brass, Copper, Zinc, Tin, Lead, etc.	1,050	858	1,908	4	78	82	1,054	936	1,990	1,131	937	2,068
Tin Plates	237	137	374	107	24	131	344	161	505	345	161	506
Iron and Steel Tubes	405	110	515	21	—	21	426	110	536	432	111	543
Wire, Wire Netting, Wire Ropes, etc.	256	147	403	144	1	145	400	148	548	400	148	548
Total, Metal Manufacture	3,634	1,866	5,500	1,166	116	1,282	4,800	1,982	6,782	4,916	1,986	6,902
Engineering, etc. —												
General Engineering: Engineers	10,334	2,967	13,301	39	23	62	10,373	2,990	13,363	10,937	3,045	13,982
Iron and Steel Founding	1,140	549	1,689	1	1	2	1,141	550	1,691	1,212	556	1,768
Electrical Engineering	1,039	251	1,290	6	—	6	1,045	251	1,296	1,361	251	1,612
Marine Engineering, etc.	1,203	247	1,450	1	1	2	1,204	248	1,452	1,251	248	1,499
Constructional Engineering	1,203	247	1,450	1	1	2	1,204	248	1,452	1,251	248	1,499
Total, Engineering, etc.	13,716	4,014	17,730	47	25	72	13,763	4,039	17,802	14,761	4,100	18,861
Construction and Repair of Vehicles —												
Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft Carriages, Carts, etc.	8,869	1,324	10,193	43	11	54	8,912	1,335	10,247	10,016	1,413	11,429
Brass and Allied Metal Wares	247	61	308	—	—	—	247	61	308	270	70	340
Railway Carriages and Wagons, etc.	230	21	251	—	—	—	230	21	251	235	21	256
Total, Vehicles	9,346	1,406	10,752	43	12	55	9,389	1,418	10,807	10,521	1,504	12,025
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing	6,593	562	7,155	574	27	601	7,167	589	7,756	8,608	592	9,200
Other Metal Industries —												
Stove, Grate, Pipe, etc., and General Iron Founding	466	140	606	2	1	3	468	141	609	534	141	675
Electrical Wiring and Contracting	663	48	711	—	—	—	663	48	711	750	52	802
Electric Apparatus, Cable, Lamps, etc.	1,564	1,220	2,784	4	6	10	1,568	1,226	2,794	1,612	1,238	2,850
Hand Tools, Cutlery, Saws, Files	172	94	266	7	—	7	179	94	273	185	94	279
Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Rivets, Nails, etc.	175	220	395	1	1	2	176	221	397	180	221	401
Heating and Ventilating Apparatus	143	64	207	—	—	—	143	64	207	145	65	210
Watches, Clocks, Plate, Jewellery, etc.	309	30	339	1	—	1	310	30	340	336	32	368
Metal Industries not separately specified	3,166	1,455	4,621	58	14	72	3,224	1,469	4,693	3,392	1,510	4,902
Total, Other Metals	6,873	3,355	10,228	75	23	98	6,948	3,378	10,326	7,353	3,442	10,795

* Excluding private gardeners, grooms, gamekeepers, park gardeners, sports ground keepers, etc., who are insured under the Agricultural Scheme but including workers in certain other employments, e.g., clerks, lorry drivers, etc., who are insured under the General Scheme.

† The figures for coal mining exclude all the unemployed at 8th December who, although their unemployment books bear the coal mining classification, have been found to be medically unfit for employment in that industry. These men are, however, included in the "grand total" on the next page. The total includes 532 men registered for underground work.

NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED : INDUSTRIAL ANALYSIS—continued.

Industry.	Great Britain.									United Kingdom.		
	Wholly Unemployed (including Casuals).			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.			Wholly Unemployed, Temporarily Stopped and Casuals.		
	Males aged 14 and under 65.	Females aged 14 and under 60.	Total.	Males aged 14 and under 65.	Females aged 14 and under 60.	Total.	Males aged 14 and under 65.	Females aged 14 and under 60.	Total.	Males aged 14 and under 65.	Females aged 14 and under 60.	Total.
Textiles —												
Cotton Preparing, Spinning, etc.	527	443	970	1	7	8	528	450	978	528	452	980
Cotton Manufacturing (Weaving, etc.)	266	259	525	5	21	26	271	280	551	271	280	551
Total, Cotton	793	702	1,495	6	28	34	799	730	1,529	799	732	1,531
Woolen and Worsted	490	289	779	11	23	34	501	312	813	507	326	833
Silk Spinning and Manufacture and Rayon, Nylon, etc., Weaving, etc.	62	78	140	1	3	4	63	81	144	70	85	155
Rayon, Nylon, etc., Yarn Manufacture	135	99	234	1	—	1	136	99	235	139	100	239
Linen	71	88	159	—	3	3	71	91	162	126	136	262
Jute	155	113	268	—	—	—	155	113	268	155	113	268
Hemp, Rope, Cord, Twine, etc.	141	256	397	1	2	3	142	258	400	142	258	400
Hosiery	83	232	315	7	104	111	90	239	329	97	249	346
Lace	24	12	36	—	—	—	24	12	36	24	12	36
Carpets	62	87	149	11	—	11	73	87	160	82	65	147
Other Textiles	282	284	566	1	6	7	283	290	573	316	399	715
Textiles Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc.	387	112	499	77	6	83	464	118	582	464	118	582
Total, Textiles	2,685	2,322	5,007	207	78	285	2,892	2,400	5,292	4,431	3,162	7,593
Leather, Leather Goods and Fur —												
Tanning, Currying and Dressing, etc.	308	85	393	4	3	7	312	88	400	340	94	434
Leather Goods	127	91	218	4	3	7	131	94	225	138	99	237
Total, Leather	435	176	611	8	6	14	443	182	625	478	193	671
Clothing —												
Tailoring	1,723	1,137	2,860	278	307	585	2,001	1,444	3,445	2,050	1,514	3,564
Dress Making and Millinery	198	459	657	26	122	148	224	581	805	228	611	839
Hats and Caps (including Straw Plait)	68	67	135	—	—	—	68	67	135	—	—	—
Shirts, Collars, Underclothing, etc.	83	256	339	307	159	466	375	226	601	384	240	624
Other Dress Industries	40	101	141	1	17	18	41	87	128	42	668	796
Boots, Shoes, Slippers and Clogs	590	168	758	23	4	27	613	172	785	679	174	853
Total, Clothing	2,702	2,188	4,890	639	610	1,249	3,341	2,798	6,139	3,511	3,379	6,830
Food, Drink and Tobacco —												
Bread, Biscuits, Cakes, etc.	1,375	855	2,230	12	4	16	1,387	859	2,246	1,571	900	2,471
Grain Milling	244	129	373	1	1	2	245	130	375	298	133	431
Cocoa												

PLACING WORK OF THE EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.

VACANCIES FILLED AND UNFILLED IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Statistics are compiled at four-weekly intervals showing the numbers of vacancies filled by Employment Exchanges and other Local Offices of the Ministry of Labour and National Service, together with the numbers remaining unfilled at the end of the period. The figures for the two four-weekly periods ended 26th November and 24th December, 1947, are given in the Table below. * Figures for earlier periods were given in previous issues of this GAZETTE.

	Four weeks ended 26th November, 1947.		Four weeks ended 24th December, 1947.		Total Number of Placings 26th Dec., 1946, to 24th Dec., 1947 (52 weeks).
	Placings.	Vacancies Unfilled.	Placings.	Vacancies Unfilled.	
Men aged 18 and over	220,736	230,982	196,335	199,062	1,876,834
Boys under 18 ..	13,899	56,561	10,935	54,446	222,089
Women aged 18 and over	96,108	190,110	74,679	185,918	732,229
Girls under 18 ..	11,938	79,028	8,382	77,481	177,000
Total ..	342,681	556,681	290,331	516,907	3,008,152

The number of placings by Employment Exchanges during the four weeks ended 24th December was 52,350 less than the total for the preceding period of four weeks, but it was 66,000 higher than the figure for the four weeks immediately before the Control of Engagement Order came into operation. The number of vacancies remaining unfilled has fallen from 580,000 at 29th October to 557,000 at 26th November and 517,000 at 24th December.

Of the total of 342,681 placings during the four weeks ended 26th November, the number to which "First Preference" had been accorded under the Control of Engagement Order was 42,574, compared with 39,036 during the period ended 29th October. Both figures represented 12 per cent. of the total numbers of placings in the respective periods. During the four weeks ended 26th November, 77 directions were issued, 58 to coal mining, 15 to agriculture and 4 to other industries.

The following Table shows in detail the total number of placings up to 26th November in vacancies to which First Preference had been accorded:—

Industry.	Four weeks ended 29th October, 1947.		Four weeks ended 26th November, 1947.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Industries generally undermanned:—				
Agriculture and Horticulture ..	3,405	1,101	3,342	849
Coal (deep mining) ..	4,595	42	5,145	63
Coal (open cast) ..	838	4	786	9
Cotton Preparing, Spinning, etc. ..	1,118	2,310	1,424	2,319
Cotton Manufacturing, Weaving, etc. ..	586	846	587	834
Woolen and Worsted ..	1,886	2,034	2,440	1,784
Rayon Yarn Manufacture ..	524	569	525	405
Rayon Weaving ..	208	196	246	209
Jute ..	228	157	264	235
Lace ..	41	111	49	89
Miscellaneous Textile Industries ..	310	558	434	595
Textile Bleaching, Printing, etc. ..	733	324	860	393
Iron Ore Mining and Quarrying ..	87	71	1	1
Fig Iron ..	3,665	490	4,393	445
Steel Melting, Rolling, etc. ..	185	1	229	3
Tin Plates ..	2,176	277	2,269	292
Iron and Steel Tubes ..	170	76	234	70
Wire, Wire Rope, Wire Netting ..	506	97	460	89
Iron and Steel Scrap Merchants' ..	329	236	482	213
Ball and Roller Bearings ..	714	39	746	36
China Clay and Chalk ..	247	162	314	132
Pottery ..	30	—	58	1
Gypsum Mining ..	563	570	742	620
Shale Oil Mining ..	96	—	67	—
Printing and Bookbinding ..	11	—	73	1
Domestic Service in Hostels, etc. ..	279	699	395	753
Coke Ovens (iron and steel works) ..	141	707	173	717
Limestone Quarrying ..	77	3	65	—
Undermanned branches of other industries:—				
Electrical Generating Plant for Electricity Undertakings ..	430	71	279	59
Coal Mining Machinery ..	336	30	194	13
Plant for Gas Undertakings ..	103	11	122	2
Coal-Oil Conversion Equipment ..	35	—	16	1
Railway Freight Locomotives and Wagons ..	381	6	340	7
Atomic Energy Development ..	22	2	50	1
Refractories ..	208	46	172	36
Bricks and Tiles (certain undertakings only) ..	332	6	468	21
Power Stations Construction ..	274	—	146	—
Scottish Hydro-Electric Schemes ..	203	—	815	1
Other essential vacancies (not determined on an industry basis) ..	931	252	1,544	200
Total First Preference Vacancies ..	27,003	12,033	31,074	11,500

In considering the figures in the Table above it should be borne in mind that (a) the Ministry of Labour and National Service are not responsible for all placings in employment: a substantial proportion of placings (of persons outside the scope of the Control of Engagement Order) which are effected do not go through the Employment Exchanges; and (b) the number placed must not be regarded as equivalent to a net increase in employment.

WORK OF APPOINTMENTS DEPARTMENT.

MONTHLY STATISTICS.

The particulars given below, which relate to the work of the Appointments Department of the Ministry of Labour and National Service, are in continuation of those published in previous issues of this GAZETTE. Separate figures are given for the Technical and Scientific Register and for the Appointments Register.

TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC REGISTER.

The Technical and Scientific Register, which is situated at York House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, operates on a national basis. It is assisted in its work by six Advisory Committees for architecture and public utilities, chemistry, civil engineering, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, and scientific research. The Register provides a placing and advisory service for persons holding the necessary qualifications, these being, in general, possession of a University degree, or membership of the appropriate recognised professional institution.

A register of vacancies, notified by employers, is maintained, from which persons enrolled on the Register are supplied with full particulars of posts for which, by their qualifications and experience, they appear to be suitable. A wide range of overseas vacancies is also available. The services of the Register are available to physicists, mathematicians, chemists (other than pharmacists), metallurgists, agriculturists, biologists and all other scientists, professional engineers, architects, surveyors, town planners, estate agents and valuers.

The total number of persons enrolled on the Available Section of the Technical and Scientific Register at 8th December, 1947, was 4,633*; this figure included 3,582 registrants who were already in work but desired a change of employment and 1,051 who were unemployed. Among the unemployed were 384 ex-Service men and women.

The number of vacancies notified and filled between 11th November and 8th December (4 weeks) is shown below:—

Vacancies outstanding at 11th November ..	4,611
„ notified during the period ..	552
„ filled during the period ..	225†
„ cancelled or withdrawn ..	518
„ outstanding at 8th December ..	4,420

APPOINTMENTS REGISTER.

The Appointments Register is concerned with the placing of persons having professional, administrative, managerial or executive experience or qualifications, and those having technical qualifications not appropriate to the Technical and Scientific Register. The registers are maintained at the London Appointments Office and at the Regional Appointments Offices in the towns shown in the Table below.

The total number of persons on the registers of the Appointments Offices at 8th December, 1947, was 32,002,† consisting of 28,744 men and 3,258 women. Of these, 16,932 men and 554 women were ex-Service personnel. The numbers on the registers included 16,894 men and 1,741 women who were in employment, while 11,850 men and 1,517 women had registered as unemployed at some date in the preceding two months and were not known to be in employment at 8th December. Of those in employment, 9,684 men and 259 women were ex-Service personnel. The numbers of ex-Service personnel included in the numbers unemployed were 7,248 men and 295 women.

The following Table shows the total figures of registrations at each of the Offices:—

Appointments Office.	In Employment.		Unemployed.	
	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.
London ..	4,604	531	5,051	577
Cambridge ..	666	44	484	41
Reading ..	559	63	324	66
Winchester ..	603	19	480	30
Bristol ..	1,043	79	616	94
Birmingham ..	1,745	170	924	96
Nottingham ..	681	49	292	41
Leeds ..	933	125	455	86
Liverpool ..	1,073	101	537	42
Manchester ..	1,595	128	668	78
Newcastle-on-Tyne ..	717	84	358	77
Edinburgh ..	1,084	142	669	134
Glasgow ..	1,165	168	664	99
Cardiff ..	426	38	328	56
Total‡ ..	16,894	1,741	11,850	1,517

During the period 11th November to 8th December there were new registrations by 3,586 men and 692 women, and during the same period the registrations of 4,896 men and 957 women lapsed or were passed to Local Offices of the Ministry. The first Table in the next column shows the number of vacancies (other than those for nurses and midwives) notified, filled, etc., between 11th November and 8th December.

* This figure included 380 registrants who were also registered with Appointments Offices.

† Including 76 vacancies filled by ex-Service men.

‡ Excluding 602 persons registered for overseas employment only. Registrations of nurses and midwives are also excluded.

Analysis of Vacancies, 11th November—8th December.

	Men.*	Women.
Vacancies outstanding at 10th November ..	4,243	1,011
Notified during the period ..	1,777	503
Cancelled or withdrawn during the period ..	943	240
Vacancies filled during the period†	776	227
Vacancies unfilled at 8th December ..	4,301	1,047

DISABLED PERSONS (EMPLOYMENT) ACT.

STATISTICS FOR DECEMBER, 1947.

The number of disabled persons on the register who were unemployed at 15th December was 74,343, of whom 70,943 were males and 3,400 were females. The total included 40,098 persons who had seen service in H.M. Forces, and 34,245 who had had no such service. An analysis of these figures is given in the Table below. The total number of persons registered under the Act at 20th October, 1947 (the last date on which a count was taken), was 828,666.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Suitable for ordinary employment:—			
Ex-Service ..	35,058	250	35,308
Non-Ex-Service ..	25,736	2,511	28,247
Total	60,794	2,761	63,555
Requiring employment under special conditions:—			
Ex-Service ..	4,760	30	4,790
Non-Ex-Service ..	5,389	609	5,998
Total	10,149	639	10,788
Grand Total	70,943	3,400	74,343

COAL MINING INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER.

The statistics given below in respect of employment, etc., in the coal mining industry in November, 1947, have been compiled by the Ministry of Fuel and Power.

The average weekly number of wage-earners on the colliery books in Great Britain during the four weeks ended 29th November, 1947, was 714,500, compared with 713,600 during the four weeks ended 1st November, 1947, and 691,500 during the four weeks ended 23rd November, 1946. The total numbers who were effectively employed were 674,000 in November, 1947, 667,800 in October, 1947, and 640,600 in November, 1946; these figures exclude wage-earners who were absent for any reason (including holidays) for the whole of any week. The Table below shows the numbers of wage-earners on the colliery books in the various Districts in November, 1947, together with the increase or decrease in each case compared with October, 1947, and November, 1946.

Average Numbers of Wage-earners on Colliery Books—Analysis by Districts.

District.	Average numbers of wage-earners on colliery books during 4 weeks ended 29th November, 1947.	Increase (+) or decrease (—)‡ compared with the average for	
		4 weeks ended 1st November, 1947.	4 weeks ended 23rd November, 1946.
Northumberland ..	41,900	+ 100	+ 1,800
Cumberland ..	5,700	—	—
Durham ..	110,200	+ 100	+ 5,300
South Yorkshire ..	98,100	+ 300	+ 2,400
West Yorkshire ..	41,100	+ 100	+ 1,500
North and South Derbyshire ..	44,500	— 100	+ 1,700
Notts. and Leicestershire ..	51,800	+ 200	+ 3,700
Lancashire and Cheshire ..	51,100	+ 200	+ 2,000
North Wales ..	9,000	—	+ 200
North Staffordshire ..	20,800	—	+ 600
Cannock Chase ..	17,400	— 100	+ 200
South Staffs., Worcs., and Salop ..	5,600	—	— 300
Warwickshire ..	15,000	—	+ 400
South Wales and Mon. ..	107,400	— 200	+ 600
Forest of Dean, Bristol, and Somerset ..	7,200	— 100	+ 100
Kent ..	6,300	—	+ 200
England and Wales ..	633,100	+ 500	+ 20,400
Fife and Clackmannan ..	20,700	+ 100	+ 1,000
The Lothians ..	11,900	—	+ 600
Lanarkshire, etc. ..	35,700	+ 200	+ 600
Ayrshire, etc. ..	13,100	+ 100	+ 400
Scotland	81,400	+ 400	+ 2,600
Great Britain	714,500	+ 900	+ 23,000

* This column includes vacancies for which employers were willing to accept either men or women.

† The number of vacancies filled included 519 filled by ex-Service men and 50 filled by ex-Service women.

‡ "No change" is indicated by three dots.

It is provisionally estimated that during November about 7,130 persons were recruited to the industry, while the total number of persons who left the industry was about 4,930; the number on the colliery books thus showed a net increase of 2,200. During October there was a net decrease of 500.

The average number of shifts* worked per week by coal-face workers who were effectively employed was 5.03 in November, 1947, 4.80 in October, 1947, and 5.15 in November, 1946. The corresponding figures for all workers who were effectively employed were 5.32, 5.12 and 5.52, respectively.†

With regard to absenteeism in the coal mining industry, separate figures are compiled in respect of (a) voluntary absenteeism (absences for which no satisfactory reason is given), and (b) involuntary absenteeism (absences due mainly to sickness). The figures for November, 1946, and October and November, 1947, which are given in the next Table, represent the numbers of shifts lost through absenteeism, expressed as percentages of the total numbers of shifts that could have been worked.‡

Percentages of Shifts lost through Absenteeism.

	November, 1946.	October, 1947.	November, 1947.
Coal-face workers:—			
Voluntary ..	10.35	6.07	6.95
Involuntary ..	7.90	6.31	5.82
All workers:—			
Voluntary ..	8.01	4.70	5.35
Involuntary ..	6.81	5.26	4.97

For face-workers the output per man-shift worked was 2.96 tons in November, 1947, compared with 2.93 tons in October, 1947, and 2.82 tons in November, 1946. The output per man-shift calculated on the basis of all workers was 1.12 tons in November, 1947; for October, 1947, and November, 1946, the figures were 1.10 tons and 1.06 tons, respectively.

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

AUSTRALIA.

According to information received by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, the number of persons employed in factories in August, 1947, was 0.6 per cent. higher than in July, 1947, and 4.6 per cent. higher than in August, 1946. The figure for July, 1947, was 1.0 per cent. above that for June.

CANADA.

Returns received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from nearly 18,200 employers in industries other than agriculture and private domestic service indicate that the total number of workpeople in employment at 1st October, 1947, in the establishments covered by the returns was 0.7 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1947, and 9.0 per cent. higher than at 1st October, 1946. The number of persons employed in manufacturing industries at 1st October, 1947, was 0.1 per cent. lower than at the beginning of the previous month, but 7.8 per cent. higher than at 1st October, 1946.

Returns rendered by trade unions with a total membership of nearly 463,500 showed that the percentage rate of unemployment among their members at the end of September, 1947, was 0.7, compared with 0.8 at the end of June, 1947, and 1.0 at the end of September, 1946.

NEW ZEALAND.

Statistics compiled by the New Zealand National Employment Service show that the total number of male workers who were disengaged and registered for employment at 31st October, 1947, was 84 or 0.2 per thousand of the estimated total labour force, compared with 96 or 0.2 per thousand at 30th September; the corresponding figure for 31st October, 1946, was 201 or 0.4 per thousand of the estimated total labour force. Of the total number of male workers registered at 31st October, 27 were fully employable, compared with 41 at the end of September, 1947, and 95 at the end of October, 1946. The number of female workers disengaged and registered for employment was very small at each of the dates concerned.

ÉIRE.

The number of unemployed persons on the live register of Employment Exchanges at 27th December, 1947, was 66,499, compared with 65,108, at 29th November, 1947, and 69,135 at 28th December, 1946.

BELGIUM.

The average daily number of persons recorded as unemployed in Belgium during September, 1947, was 45,476, compared with 48,737 during August, 1947, and 36,705 during September, 1946. Approximately 1,087,000 working days were lost in September, 1947, as a result of unemployment, compared with about 1,469,000 days in the previous month, and over 1,100,000 days in September, 1946.

* These figures are obtained by dividing the total number of man-shifts worked by the number of persons effectively employed.

† In comparing these figures, it should be borne in mind (a) that a five-day week was introduced in the coal mining industry on 5th May, 1947, and (b) that an agreement to work extra shifts came into operation on 1st November, 1947.

DENMARK.

At the end of November, 1947, returns received by the Danish Statistical Department from approved unemployment funds showed that 20,390 or 3.5 per cent. of a total membership of over 580,000 had been unemployed for seven days or more, compared with 2.1 per cent. (revised figure) at the end of the previous month and 3.2 per cent. at the end of November, 1946. In addition, 18,538 members had been unemployed for less than seven days at the end of November, 1947, and 5,074 were considered as ineligible for employment on account of age or other reasons.

SWEDEN.

Preliminary information received by the Swedish Social Board from trade unions with a total membership of approximately 854,000 showed that 1.6 per cent. of their members were unemployed at 31st August, 1947, compared with 1.7 per cent. at 31st July, 1947, and 2.1 per cent. at 31st August, 1946.

SWITZERLAND.

At the end of October, 1947, applications for employment were registered at Employment Exchanges by 1,628 persons, as compared with 1,317 at the end of September, 1947, and 2,034 at the end of October, 1946; these figures include employed persons who were seeking other employment. Offers of situations at the same dates numbered 5,010, 5,690 and 7,186, respectively. The number of registered applicants for employment at the end of October, 1947, who were wholly unemployed was 978 or 0.7 per thousand of the employed population (exclusive of apprentices) according to the census of 1941, compared with 860 or 0.6 per thousand at the end of September; for October, 1946, the number wholly unemployed was 1,122.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The number of civilians in employment in industries other than agriculture and domestic service in October, 1947, is estimated by the United States Department of Labor to have been approximately 43,257,000. This was 0.5 per cent. higher than the figure for September, 1947, and 2.8 per cent. higher than that for October, 1946. The number of wage-earners employed in manufacturing industries in October, 1947, is estimated to have been 0.1 per cent. higher than in September, 1947, and 4.8 per cent. higher than in October, 1946.

The United States Bureau of the Census estimate that the total number of unemployed persons in the United States of America at the middle of October, 1947, was approximately 1,687,000, compared with 1,912,000 at the middle of September, 1947, and 1,960,000 at the middle of October, 1946.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.*

(NOTE.—The prices are net; those in brackets include postage.)

CLOTHING INDUSTRY.—*Working Party Reports: Rubber Proofed Clothing.* Board of Trade. Price 1s. (1s. 2d.).—See page 13.

COTTON INDUSTRY.—*Proposals for a Cotton Industry Development Council Order.* Board of Trade. Price 4d. (5d.).—See page 14.

CUTLERY INDUSTRY.—*Working Party Reports: Cutlery.* Board of Trade. Price 1s. (1s. 1d.).—See page 12.

GLASS INDUSTRY.—*Working Party Reports: Hand-Blown Domestic Glassware.* Board of Trade. Price 3s. (3s. 3d.).—See page 13.

INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION.—*Working Party Report: National Advisory Council on Education for Industry and Commerce.* Ministry of Education. Price 2d. (3d.).—See page 11.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE.—*Proposed Action by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland regarding certain Conventions and Recommendations adopted at the 29th Session, 1946.* Cmd. 7296. Price 1d. (2d.).—See page 15.

MINISTRY OF WORKS.—*Summary Report for the period 9th May, 1945, to 31st December, 1946.* Cmd. 7279. Ministry of Works. Price 1s. (1s. 2d.).

NURSES' SALARIES.—*Nurses' Salaries Committee: Revised Recommendations regarding certain grades of Nurses.* Nurses S. C. Notes No. 16. Ministry of Health. Price 3d. (4d.).

REINSTATEMENT IN CIVIL EMPLOYMENT.—*Decisions given by the Umpire in respect of Applications under the Reinstatement in Civil Employment Act, 1944.* R. E. Code 1. (i) Pamphlet No. 68. Price 1d. (2d.). (ii) Index to Pamphlets Nos. 1-60. Price 2d. (3d.). Ministry of Labour and National Service.

TEACHERS (NORTHERN IRELAND).—*Report of the Committee on the Recruitment and Training of Teachers, Northern Ireland.* Cmd. 254 (N.I.). Ministry of Education, Northern Ireland. Price 2s. 6d. (2s. 7d.).

TRINIDAD.—*Trade Union Organisation and Industrial Relations in Trinidad.* Report by F. W. Dalley. Colonial No. 215. Colonial Office. Price 1s. (1s. 1d.).—See page 16.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.—*Analytical Guide to Decisions by the Umpire respecting Claims for Benefit.* (U. I. Code 7). Part V. Amendment No. 1. Ministry of National Insurance. Price 1d. (2d.).

* See footnote * in second column on page 38.

STATUTORY RULES AND ORDERS.

Since last month's issue of this GAZETTE was prepared, the undermentioned Orders* relating to matters with which the Ministry of Labour and National Service (or the Ministry of Labour and National Insurance for Northern Ireland) are concerned, either directly or indirectly, have been published in the series of *Statutory Rules and Orders*. The price of each Order, unless otherwise indicated, is 1d. net (2d. post free).

The Baking Wages Council (England and Wales) Wages Regulation (No. 3) Order, 1947 (S.R. & O. 1947, No. 2545), dated 1st December, 1947; *The Ostrich and Fancy Feather and Artificial Flower Wages Council (Great Britain) Wages Regulation Order, 1947* (S.R. & O. 1947, No. 2565; price 2d. net, 3d. post free), dated 4th December, 1947; *The Retail Bespoke Tailoring Wages Council (Scotland) Wages Regulation Order, 1947* (S.R. & O. 1947, No. 2582/S.95; price 3d. net, 4d. post free), dated 4th December, 1947; and *The Tobacco Wages Council (Great Britain) Wages Regulation (No. 2) Order, 1947* (S.R. & O. 1947, No. 2690; price 2d. net, 3d. post free), dated 18th December, 1947.—These Orders were made by the Minister of Labour and National Service under the Wages Councils Act, 1945.—See page 38.

The Wages Regulation (Licensed Non-Residential Establishment) Order, 1947 (S.R. & O. 1947, No. 2718; price 2d. net, 3d. post free), and *The Wages Regulation (Licensed Non-Residential Establishment) (Holidays) Order, 1947* (S.R. & O. 1947, No. 2719; price 2d. net, 3d. post free), both dated 22nd December, 1947, and made by the Minister of Labour and National Service under the Catering Wages Act, 1943.—See page 38.

The Sugar Confectionery and Food Preserving Wages Council (Northern Ireland) Wages Regulation Order, 1947 (S.R. & O. of Northern Ireland 1947, No. 190; price 3d. net, 4d. post free), dated 2nd December, 1947, and made by the Ministry of Labour and National Insurance for Northern Ireland under the Wages Councils Act (Northern Ireland), 1945.—See page 38.

FACTORY ACTS.

FACTORY FORMS.

The undermentioned Factory Forms have been issued or re-printed since the previous list was published in the October, 1947, issue of this GAZETTE (page 358) and may be purchased at the prices shown.* The prices in brackets include postage.

No.	Title and Price.
279	Safety Hints on the use of Woodworking Machinery June, 1947. Price 3d. (4d.).
280	Machinery Attendant's Leaflet. August, 1947 Price 2d. (3d.).
293	Safety of Machine Tools and Other Plant. No. 3. Drop Hammers—Props and Catches. (Reprinted. 1948). Revised price 4d. (5d.).
317	Factories Act, 1937. Cotton Cloth Factories Regulations, 1929. Form prescribed for Record of Humidity. September, 1938. (Reprinted 1947). Revised price, 25 forms 1s. 3½d. (1s. 5½d.).
385	Cyanide Poisoning. May, 1947. Price 2d. (3d.).
530	Safety of Printing Machinery. No. 1. Fencing of Hand-Fed Platen Machines. Price 3d. (4d.).
929	Electrical Accidents and Their Causes, 1946. Price 9d. (10.).
950	Factories Act, 1937. Regulations for the Castings of Brass. July, 1938. (Reprinted 1947). Revised price 3d. (4d.).
994	Factories Act, 1937. Vehicle Painting Regulations, 1926. (Reprinted 1948). Revised price 4d. (5d.).
1704	Safety Measures required in the Use of Acetylene Gas and in Oxy-Acetylene Processes in Factories. August, 1946. (Reprinted 1948.) Price 3d. (4d.).
1917	Factories Act, 1937. Shipbuilding Regulations, 1931. Certificate of Test and Examination of Lifting Gear, namely:—Chains, Rings, Hooks, Shackles and Swivels. (Reprinted 1947). Revised price 1½d. (2½d.).
1951	Docks Regulations, 1934. Certificate of Exemption. No. 2. Manner of Test of Lifting Gear before being taken into use. June, 1934. (Reprinted 1947). Revised price 1d. (2d.).
2216	Pottery Regulations, 1913. Notice to be sent to H.M. Inspector of Factories forthwith, when an Oven, to which the Exception Regulation 10(d)(ii) applies, is being drawn at a Temperature exceeding 125°F. (Reprinted 1947). Revised price 1½d. (2½d.).

* See footnote * in second column on page 38.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN DECEMBER.

RATES OF WAGES.

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics,* the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in the United Kingdom during December resulted in an aggregate increase estimated at approximately £79,000 in the weekly full time wages of about 370,000 workpeople. In addition, a number of workpeople had their hourly rates increased so as to give approximately the same weekly wages as before for a shorter working week.

The principal groups of workpeople affected by increases in rates of wages reported in December were workers in the baking industry in England and Wales, the electrical contracting industry in England and Wales and Northern Ireland, a section of the heavy chemicals industry, retail meat distribution in England and Wales, the building and civil engineering construction industries in Northern Ireland, paint, varnish and lacquer manufacture, drug and fine chemical manufacture, and the corn trade. Among other groups of workpeople receiving increased rates of wages were workpeople employed in cast stone and cast concrete products manufacture, in the glass processing industry, in roadstone quarrying, in chalk quarrying, and in iron ore mining in Cumberland.

In the baking industry in England and Wales the general minimum time rates of wages fixed under the Wages Councils Act were increased by 1d. an hour for men and women. In the electrical contracting industry in England and Wales and Northern Ireland, new basic hourly rates were adopted for a 44-hour week, resulting in increases of 6s. 5d., 5s. 4d. or 5s. 1d., according to area, in the normal weekly rates of journeymen and of men and women in receipt of journeymen's rates. In a section of the heavy chemicals industry there was an increase of 1½d. an hour for men and women. For workpeople employed in retail meat distribution in England and Wales, there were increases of 6s., 7s. or 8s. a week for managers and manageresses, according to weekly trade, of 2s. to 8s., according to age, for other male workers in general butchers' shops, and 1s. to 9s. for other female workers, of 6s., 7s. or 8s. for first machinemen in pork butchers' shops,

of 2s. to 8s. for male assistants employed as cutters, salesmen or makers-up, of 2s. to 10s. for those engaged solely in salesmanship, and of 1s. to 9s. for female workers. Craftsmen employed in the building and civil engineering industries in Northern Ireland had an increase of 3d. an hour and labourers 2½d. an hour. In paint varnish and lacquer manufacture there were increases of 6s. a week for men, of 4s. 6d. or 5s. for women wholly employed in place of men, and of 4s. for other women. In the drug and fine chemical manufacturing industry the minimum rates for men were increased by 6s. a week and for women by 5s. In the corn trade there were increases of 8s. a week for men and of 4s. for women.

Of the total increase of £79,000, about £60,000 resulted from arrangements made by Joint Industrial Councils or other joint standing bodies established by voluntary agreement; about £11,000 was the result of Orders made under the Wages Councils Act; and the remainder resulted from direct negotiations between employers and workpeople or their representatives.

HOURS OF LABOUR.

The changes in hours of labour reported to have come into operation in December resulted in an average reduction of about 3 hours a week for about 175,000 workpeople. The principal groups of workpeople affected were those employed in rubber manufacture, in which normal weekly working hours were reduced from 48 to 45; the electrical contracting industry in England and Wales and Northern Ireland, in which the normal working week was reduced from 47 to 44 hours (4½ for night shift workers); retail meat distribution in England and Wales, in which the normal weekly working hours were reduced from 48 to 46; roadstone quarrying, with a reduction from 48 or 47 to 44 hours; the cast stone and cast concrete products industry, with a reduction from 48 or 47 to 44 hours; and the brewing industry in London, from 48 to 44 hours.

CHANGES IN WAGES AND HOURS IN 1947.

A special article dealing with these changes is published on pages 3 to 5 of this issue of the GAZETTE.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING DECEMBER.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Iron Ore Mining.	Cumberland	1 Dec.	Men, youths and boys	Increases of 1s. 3d. a shift for underground workers 18 years and over, of 7½d. for those under 18, of 9d. for surface workers 18 years and over, of 4½d. for those under 18, and of 1½d. for craftsmen. Minimum rates after change per shift, inclusive of cost-of-living addition of 2s. 5d.: underground—shiftmen (1st class or leading) 18s. 5d., leading labourers 17s. 6d., other underground men 17s. 3d.; surface—labourers 16s. 6d., joiners and blacksmiths 18s. 7d.†
Roadstone Quarrying.	Great Britain	First complete pay week following 15 Dec.	do.	Increases of 2½d. an hour in the basic time rates for men 21 years and over, of corresponding amounts for pieceworkers, and of amounts varying from ¼d. an hour at 14 and under 15 years to 2½d. at 20 and under 21, following a reduction in the normal weekly working hours from 48 or 47 to 44. Basic rate after change for unskilled men 2s. 0½d. an hour, plus a good timekeeping bonus of 4s. a week.‡
Chalk Quarrying	Various districts in England.	First full pay week beginning after 1 Dec.	Able-bodied men, youths and boys employed in chalk quarrying (other than for the manufacture of cement) and the production of lime and whitening from chalk.	Increases of 2½d. an hour in the minimum basic rates for men, of 1½d. for youths 18 and under 21 years, and of ¼d. for boys under 18. Minimum basic hourly rates after change for men: London 2s. 2½d., Class I areas 2s. 1d., II 2s. 0½d., III and IV 2s. 0d.‡
Cast Stone and Cast Concrete Products Manufacture.	England and Wales	First full pay week beginning on or after 22 Dec.	Men, women, youths and boys	War bonus previously paid increased by 2½d. an hour (9½d. to 1s.) for men 21 years and over, and by varying amounts for women, youths and boys. Minimum rates after change for labourers, inclusive of war bonus: London (within 15 miles of Charing Cross) 2s. 3d. an hour, North-Eastern 2s. 2d., North-Western—Zone A 2s. 2½d., Zone B 2s. 1½d., East-Midlands 2s. 2d., other areas in England and Wales—Zone A 2s. 2d., Zone B 2s. 1½d.‡
Chemical, etc., Manufacture.	Great Britain (certain firms).†	First pay week commencing in week beginning 1 Dec.	Workpeople employed in the manufacture of heavy chemicals and in the chemical manufacturing side of the plastics industry.	Increases of 1½d. an hour in minimum wage rates for men 21 years or over, for boys 14 and under 19, and for women and girls, and of 2½d. for youths 19 and under 21. Rates after change include: men 21 years and over—day labourers, London (within a 15-mile radius from Charing Cross) 2s. 3d. an hour, other districts 2s. 2d., shift workers, 3-shift system 2s. 5½d., 2s. 4½d., 2-shift system 2s. 4½d., 2s. 3½d., night workers 2s. 6½d., 2s. 5½d.; women 21 years and over—on women's work 1s. 6½d., 1s. 6d., on 2-shift work 1s. 7½d., 1s. 7½d., on men's work (1st month) 1s. 6½d., 1s. 6d., thereafter 1s. 8½d., 1s. 8½d.‡
Drug and Fine Chemical Manufacture.	Great Britain	Pay day in week commencing 28 Dec.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls.	Increases of 1½d. an hour in minimum wage rates for men 21 years or over, for boys 14 and under 19, and for women and girls, and of 2½d. for youths 19 and under 21. Rates after change for day workers: men 21 years and over—London (within a 15-mile radius from Charing Cross), Grade A firms 2s. 3d. an hour, other districts Grade A 2s. 2d., Grade B 2s. 1½d., Grade C 2s. 0½d.; women 21 and over on women's work 1s. 6½d., 1s. 6d., 1s. 5½d., 1s. 5d.‡

* The particulars of numbers affected by changes in rates of wages and working hours, and of the amount of change in weekly wages and hours of labour, exclude changes affecting Government employees, shop assistants and clerks, for which classes the information available is not sufficient to form a basis for statistics. Where information is available, however, details of changes in the wages and hours of these classes are shown in the list of principal changes recorded. The estimates of the effects of the changes on weekly wages are based on normal conditions of employment and do not take into account the effect either of short time or of overtime.

† This increase did not apply to the miners' bargain price or to the miners' minimum wage.

‡ This change applied to workers employed by firms affiliated to the National Joint Industrial Council for the Roadstone Quarrying Industry. It did not apply to certain limestone quarry workers in West Cumberland, South and West Durham, Portland and certain other districts, whose wages are governed by local agreements. See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour."

§ In the case of pieceworkers it will not be obligatory on any employer to increase rates beyond the figure of 25 per cent. above the new basic hourly rates. It was agreed that where present piecework rates enable a worker to earn more than 25 per cent. over the current hourly rates, such piecework rates need only carry an increase to the extent required to enable 25 per cent. above the new rates to be earned. See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour."

¶ These changes were agreed by the Chemical and Allied Industries Joint Industrial Council; they do not apply to workpeople employed by constituent firms of Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING DECEMBER—continued.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Glass Processing.	Great Britain	Beginning of first full pay week following 8 Dec.	Men 20 years and over and apprentices.	Increases of 3d. an hour in standard rates for operatives 20 years and over, and of proportional amounts for apprentices. Rates after change: brilliant cutters, writers, stainers, gilders, embossers and sandblasters, London area (within a 25-mile radius from Charing Cross) 3s. 2d. an hour, Provincial area 3s., bevellers, silverers, siders, plate cutters, loaded light makers, specialist fixers, foil and glue paper cutters, silk screen operatives first grade (complete process), and colour sprayers 2s. 11d., 2s. 9d., silk screen operatives second grade (operating screen and roller process) 2s. 9d., 2s. 7d., embossers' assistants and sandblasters' assistants 2s. 8d., 2s. 6d., silverers' assistants other than cleaners-up 2s. 7d., 2s. 5d., loaded light cementers and packers 2s. 6d., 2s. 4d., general labourers, loaders, sand-washers and cleaners-up 2s. 5d., 2s. 3d.*
Paint, Varnish and Lacquer Manufacture.	Great Britain	Pay day in week beginning 22 Dec.	Men, youths and boys	Increases of 6s. a week in minimum wage rates for men 21 years and over, and of 1s. 9d. to 5s. 3d., according to age, for youths and boys. Minimum rates after change for men: London district 101s. a week, other districts 96s.
	do.	do.	Women 21 years and over wholly employed in place of men.	Increases of 4s. 6d. a week in minimum wage rates during 1st 6 months' service, and of 5s. thereafter. Minimum rates after change: London district 72s. a week during 1st 6 months' service, 80s. 9d. thereafter, other districts 68s. 6d., 76s. 9d.
	do.	do.	Other women and girls	Increases of 4s. a week in minimum wage rates for women 21 years and over, and of 1s. 9d. to 3s. 9d., according to age, for younger workers. Minimum rates after change for women: London district 64s. 9d. a week, other districts 61s. 6d.
Electrical Cable Manufacture.	Great Britain	Third pay day in Dec.	Workpeople employed in the electrical cable making industry, except plumber joiners, etc.	Current basic rates, cost-of-living bonus and war advances for timeworkers and pieceworkers consolidated, and pieceworkers' "operative base rates" adopted, varying according to occupation and district. Consolidated rates after change for timeworkers include: men 21 years and over, District I 88s. 7½d. to 102s. 4½d., according to occupation, District II 85s. 7d. to 99s. 7½d.; women 18 years and over 62s. 1½d., 64s. 0½d. and 65s. 10½d., according to occupation.†
Retail Bespoke Tailoring.	Scotland	22 Dec.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls.	New minimum rates fixed for a 44-hour week. Rates after change include: workers with at least 5 years' experience in the trade (3 years in the case of a late entrant)—general minimum time rates, journeymen Areas 1, 2 and 3, 2s. 1d. an hour; Area 4, 1s. 10½d.; Area 5, 1s. 8½d.; female workers Areas 1 and 2, 1s. 4½d.; Area 3, 1s. 4½d.; Areas 4 and 5, 1s. 3½d.; piecework basis time rates, journeymen Areas 1, 2 and 3, 2s. 3½d.; Area 4, 2s. 0d.; Area 5, 1s. 10½d.; female workers 1s. 6½d., 1s. 5½d. and 1s. 5½d.; learners and improvers, males Area 1, 20s. 0d. a week during 1st year, rising to 60s. 0d. during 5th year; Area 2, 20s. to 58s.; Area 3, 19s. to 56s. 6d.; Area 4, 18s. 6d. to 55s.; Area 5, 18s. 6d. to 53s.; females 20s. to 45s., 20s. to 44s., 19s. to 41s. 6d., 18s. 6d. to 40s. and 18s. 6d. to 38s. 6d.; time rates per hour for workers to whom general minimum piece rates apply, male workers Areas 1 to 5, 2s. 6d., 2s. 4½d., 2s. 2½d., 2s. 0d., 1s. 11½d., female workers 2s. 1½d., 2s. 0d., 1s. 10½d., 1s. 8d., 1s. 7½d.†
Baking	England and Wales	15 Dec.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls.	Increases of 1d. an hour in general minimum time rates for men and women 21 years or over, of ½d. for youths and girls 18 and under 21, and of ¼d. for boys and girls under 18. Rates after change include: men—foremen 2s. 2d. to 2s. 3½d. an hour (according to area), tablehands 1s. 1½d. to 2s. 0½d.; women—forewomen 1s. 6½d. to 1s. 8d., confectioners 1s. 4½d. to 1s. 6½d.‡
	Liverpool and district (including Birkenhead, Bootle, Crosby and Huyton).	First full pay period ending after 17 Nov.‡	Men, youths and boys employed in other than factory bakeries.	Increases of 5s. a week in basic rates for men 21 years or over, of 3s. 6d. for youths 18 and under 21, and of 2s. 6d. or 2s. 3½d., according to age, for boys under 18. Basic rates after change include: foreman confectioner 121s., foreman baker 119s., first hand and single hand 115s., second hand, dough-maker, ovenman and confectionery mixer 113s., dividerman 111s., confectioner or tablehand 107s., charge hand (packing and despatch dept.) 105s., stoker 101s., other male workers 21 and over 99s., youths and boys 34s. 10d. at 15 years, rising to 76s. 6d. at 20 and under 21 on day work, and to 79s. on night work. Night work bonus 15s. for adults and 7s. 6d. for youths.‡
do.	do.	do.	Women and girls	Increases of 4s. a week in basic rates for women 21 years or over, of 3s. for girls 18 and under 21, and of 2s. or 1s. 10d., according to age, for girls under 18. Basic rates after change include: forewoman 79s., charge hand 76s., charge hand (packing and despatch dept.) 70s., single hand 74s., confectioner 21 or over 72s., 20 and under 21 59s., 19 and under 20 55s., other female workers 21 or over 66s., younger workers 32s. 1d. at 15, rising to 36s. at 20 and under 21.‡
Corn Trade	Great Britain	First pay day on or after 29 Dec.	Manual workers, other than transport workers, employed in mills, warehouses or stores.	Increases of 8s. a week in minimum wage rates for men 21 years and over, of 4s. for women 18 years and over, and of proportional amounts for younger workers. Minimum rates after change include: general labourers 21 years or over 88s. to 102s., according to location of mill.†
Sugar Confectionery and Food Preserving.	Northern Ireland	6 Dec.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls.	New general minimum time rates and piecework basic time rates fixed for a 45-hour week, resulting in increases in general minimum time rates of 2d. an hour for men 21 years or over, of ½d. to 1½d., according to age, for youths and boys, of ½d. for women 18 years or over, of ¼d. or ½d., according to age, for girls, and increases in piecework basis time rates of 2d. an hour for male workers, and of 1d. for female workers. General minimum time rates after change include: males 21 years or over 1s. 10d. an hour, females 18 years or over 1s. 2d.; piecework basis time rates, males 2s. an hour, females 1s. 3d.**
Electrical Contracting.	London area	Second pay day in Dec.	Men and women 21 years and over, youths and boys.	Area between a radius of 12 miles and a radius of 15 miles from Charing Cross added to London area for wages purposes, resulting in increases in basic rates for workpeople employed in that area of 3d. an hour for journeymen electricians and for men and women in receipt of journeymen's rates, and of proportional amounts for younger workers.
	England and Wales and Northern Ireland.	First pay day in Jan., 1948, for preceding pay week.	Men and women 21 years and over, youths and boys, other than indentured apprentices.	New basic rates adopted for a 44-hour week, resulting in increases in basic rates of 4d. an hour for journeymen electricians and for men and women in receipt of journeymen's rates employed in the Grade A area, of 3½d. for those employed in the Mersey district and Grade B areas, and of proportional amounts for younger workers; and in increases in normal weekly rates of 6s. 5d. for adults in Grade A area, of 5s. 1d. in the Mersey district, and of 5s. 4d. in Grade B areas. Rates after change include: Grade A (London) area 2s. 4d. an hour, Mersey district 2s. 1½d., Grade B areas (other districts in England and Wales and Northern Ireland) 2s. 0½d.; plus a temporary hourly addition of 9d. in each case.††
Building and Civil Engineering.	Northern Ireland	17 Dec.	Craftsmen and labourers employed in the building industry and similar classes employed by civil engineering contractors.	Increases of 3d. an hour for craftsmen, of 2½d. for labourers, and of proportional amounts for apprentices. Rates after change: craftsmen 2s. 7½d. to 2s. 10d. an hour, according to locality, labourers 1s. 11½d. to 2s. 2d.

* These rates are to remain in operation for not less than 12 months.

† In the calculation of piecework prices 30 per cent. for males or 33½ per cent. for females of the "operative base rate" is added to the pieceworkers' consolidated rate, and piecework prices or times are to be altered only where they do not permit a worker of average ability to attain this total figure: the "fall back" or guaranteed rate for pieceworkers is the appropriate minimum rate for timeworkers. District I comprises London, Middlesex, Kent, Surrey, Essex, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Sussex, and District II the remaining counties of Great Britain.

‡ This change took effect under an Order issued under the Wages Councils Act. See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour," and page 38 of this GAZETTE.

§ These increases took effect under an Order issued under the Wages Councils Act. See page 38 of this GAZETTE.

¶ These increases were agreed on 15th December, 1947, and had retrospective effect to the date shown. For rates of wages applicable to factory bakeries see page 425 of the December, 1947, issue of this GAZETTE.

** See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour."

†† These increases took effect under an Order issued under the Wages Councils Act (Northern Ireland). See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour," and page 38 of this GAZETTE.

‡‡ The new rates are to remain in operation until the first pay day in September, 1948. See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour."

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING DECEMBER—continued.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Building	England and Wales	Beginning of pay week following 7 Dec.	Women employed under special war-time agreement.	Increases of 2d. an hour for women engaged on craft processes, and of 1½d. for other women. Rates after change: on craft processes 1s. 1½d. an hour (after a probationary period of 3 months), on other work 1s. 7d.
Retail Meat Distribution.	England and Wales	5 Dec.	Managers and manageresses	Increases of 6s., 7s. or 8s. a week, according to weekly trade. Minimum weekly rates after change for a 46-hour week: managers—London 104s. 6d. to 140s., according to weekly trade, Provincial "A" 100s. 6d. to 136s., Provincial "B" 96s. 6d. to 132s.; managers who supervise making-up in pork butchers' shops to receive 10s. above these rates; manageresses to receive 10s. a week less than managers' rates.*
			Men, youths, boys, women and girls employed in general butchers' shops.	Increases of 2s. to 8s. a week, according to age, for male shop assistants and cashiers, and of amounts varying, according to age, between 1s. and 9s. for females. Minimum weekly rates after change for a 46-hour week: male shop assistants and cashiers—London 40s. at 16, rising to 102s. at 24, Provincial "A" 26s. to 98s., Provincial "B" 33s. to 94s.; female shop assistants and cashiers—London 34s. at 16, rising to 70s. at 24 (previously the terminal rate was at 23 years), "A" 29s. 6d. to 66s., "B" 26s. to 60s.; females mainly engaged in cutting and acting as general butchers' assistants—London 36s. at 16 to 76s. at 24 (previously the terminal rate was at 23 years), "A" 31s. 6d. to 72s., "B" 29s. to 66s.*
			Men, youths, boys, women and girls employed in pork butchers' shops.	Increases of 6s., 7s. or 8s. a week for first machinemen, of 2s. to 8s., according to age, for male assistants engaged as cutters, salesmen or makers-up, of 2s. to 10s., according to age, for male workers engaged solely in salesmanship, and of 1s. to 9s., according to age, for female workers. Minimum weekly rates after change for a 46-hour week: first machineman engaged mainly in making-up—London 113s., Provincial "A" 109s., Provincial "B" 105s.; first machineman with 3 or more assistants—London 123s., "A" 119s., "B" 115s.; male assistants engaged as cutters, salesman, etc.—London 40s. at 16, rising to 102s. at 24, "A" 36s. to 98s., "B" 33s. to 94s.; workers engaged solely in salesmanship, males—London 39s. at 16, rising to 96s. at 23, Provincial "A" 34s. 6d. to 92s., Provincial "B" 31s. to 87s., females—London 34s. at 16, rising to 70s. at 24, "A" 29s. 6d. to 66s., "B" 26s. to 60s.*
Rubber Manufacture.	Great Britain	Beginning of first full pay period following 7 Dec.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls.	Increases of 1½d. an hour in minimum basic time rates for men 21 years and over, of ¾d., 1d. or 1½d., according to age, for youths and boys, of ¼d. for women 21 years and over, and of ½d. or 1d., according to age, for girls, following reduction of weekly working hours from 48 to 45. Minimum rates after change: men, youths and boys—tyre division 8½d. an hour at under 16, rising to 1s. 8½d. at 21 and over, general rubber goods division—7½d. to 1s. 7½d.; women and girls 6½d. to 1s. 1d.; plus in each case flat war bonus ranging from 2½d. an hour at under 16 to 4d. at 21 and over; operational group rates—men, grade A (unskilled), tyre division 1s. 8½d. an hour, general rubber goods division 1s. 7½d., B (semi-skilled) 1s. 10d., 1s. 8½d., C (skilled) 1s. 11½d., 1s. 19½d., D (working charge hands) 2s. 1d., 1s. 10½d.; women 1s. 1d., 1s. 1½d., 1s. 2d. and 1s. 2½d., plus flat war bonus of 4d. an hour in each case.†
Fence Erection	Great Britain	First full pay week after 1 Dec.	Men 21 years and over	Minimum rates adopted for a 44-hour week as follows: skilled fencer 2s. 9d. an hour, fence fixer 2s. 7½d., fencer's labourer 2s. 2½d. Piece rates to yield not less than 25 per cent. above the normal basic rate.‡

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED DURING DECEMBER.

Roadstone Quarrying.	Great Britain	First complete pay week following 15 Dec.	Men, youths and boys	Normal working hours reduced from 48 (i.e., an average of 48 over the year) in England and Wales and 47 in Scotland to 44.§
Cast Stone and Cast Concrete Products Manufacture.	England and Wales	First full pay week beginning on or after 22 Dec.	Men, women, youths and boys	Normal working week reduced from 47 hours (in London, North-Eastern and South-Western Areas) and 48 (in other areas) to 44 (to be worked over 5 or 5½ days).‡
Gypsum Mining.	Great Britain (various districts).	Beginning of the pay period ending 6 Sept.†	Workpeople employed at gypsum mines and quarries and at plaster and plaster board mills.	Normal working week reduced from 48 or 47 to 44 hours.†
Surgical Instrument Manufacture.	England and Wales (excluding Sheffield)	First pay day after 1 Dec.	Men, youths and boys	Normal weekly working hours reduced from 45 to 44.**
Retail Bespoke Tailoring.	Scotland	22 Dec.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls.	Normal weekly hours beyond which overtime rates become payable reduced from 48 to 44.††
Corn Trade	Great Britain	1 Dec.	Shift workers	Normal working hours reduced for 2-shift working from 48 a week to 46 and 40 in alternate weeks, and for 3-shift working from two weeks of 48 and one of 40 to one of 46 and two of 40.§
Sugar Confectionery and Food Preserving.	Northern Ireland	6 Dec.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls.	Normal weekly hours beyond which overtime rates become payable reduced from 48 to 45.‡‡
Brewing.	London (certain firms).	First pay day in Dec.	Men and women (other than those whose wages are regulated by other trade agreements).	Normal working week reduced from 48 to 44 hours.
Electrical Contracting.	England and Wales and Northern Ireland.	First pay day in Jan., 1948, for preceding pay week.	Adults and juveniles	Normal working week reduced from 47 to 44 hours (43½ for night shift workers) to be worked over 5 or 5½ days.§
Retail Meat Distribution.	England and Wales	5 Dec.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls.	Normal weekly working hours reduced from 48 to 46.§
Rubber Manufacture.	Great Britain	Beginning of first full pay period following 7 Dec.	Dayworkers and shift workers	Normal weekly working hours reduced from (generally) 48 to 45 (or an average of 45 over a cycle of two or three weeks in the case of double day or three-shift workers).§

* Provincial "A" rates apply to places with 10,000 or more inhabitants (except the City of London and the Metropolitan Police District) and to certain other towns listed in an appendix to the wages agreement; Provincial "B" rates apply to all other places. See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour."

† These increases were the result of a decision of the National Joint Industrial Council for the Rubber Manufacturing Industry. See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour."

‡ These rates were agreed upon by the National Joint Industrial Council for the Fencing Industry. The rates of pay of men fixing metal railings only are to be those agreed from time to time between the Engineering and Allied Employers' National Federation and the Constructional Engineering Union.

§ See also under "Changes in Rates of Wages."

¶ It was recommended by the National Joint Industrial Council that the existing hours of work should be continued, if necessary, subject to payment of overtime rates for hours worked in excess of 44 weekly. See also under "Changes in Rates of Wages."

†† This reduction was the result of an award of the National Arbitration Tribunal, dated 9th December, 1947, and made retrospective to the date shown; the award provided that the present working week should be reduced without loss of pay.

** Weekly time rates of remuneration remain unchanged. Piecework prices are to be such that a man of average ability shall earn at least 3s. 2½d. an hour instead of 3s. as formerly.

‡‡ This reduction took effect under an Order issued under the Wages Councils Act. See also under "Changes in Rates of Wages."

§ This reduction took effect under an Order issued under the Wages Councils Act (Northern Ireland). See also under "Changes in Rates of Wages."

PERCENTAGE INCREASES IN RATES OF WAGES SINCE SEPTEMBER, 1939.

An estimate is made at the end of each month of the percentage increase in the weekly rates of wages of workpeople in the principal industries and services, including agriculture. These estimates relate to full-time rates of wages in industries, occupations and localities in which changes in the general levels of wage rates are regulated by collective agreements between organisations of employers and workpeople, arbitration awards or statutory orders. They are based on the recognised rates of wages contained in such agreements, orders, etc., and do not take account of changes in the rates of wages actually paid by employers to their workpeople, as to which comprehensive information is not available. They do not include the effects on the general level of wages of the changes which have occurred since 1939 in the proportion of workpeople employed in different industries, in the proportions of men, boys, women and girls employed, or in the proportions of workers employed on time-work and piece-work respectively. Moreover, they relate only to the recognised rates for a full week, and do not reflect changes in the hours actually worked at different dates, or changes in piece-work earnings due to such factors as the introduction of new machinery, extra exertion on the part of the workers, etc. The percentage increases since

September, 1939, have varied considerably in different industries and in combining these percentages into the general averages shown in the following Table account has been taken of the approximate total pre-war wages bill in the various industries.

Date (end of month).	Estimated Percentage Increase in Weekly Wage Rates since September, 1939.	Date (end of month).	Estimated Percentage Increase in Weekly Wage Rates since September, 1939.
1946 January	57	1947 January	65
February	57-58	February	65-66
March	58	March	65-66
April	59-60	April	66
May	60-61	May	66-67
June	61	June	66-67
July	63-64	July	67-68
August	63-64	August	69
September	64	September	69
October	64	October	70
November	65	November	73
December	65	December	73

TRADE DISPUTES IN DECEMBER.

Number and Magnitude.—The number of stoppages of work* due to industrial disputes in the United Kingdom, reported to the Department as beginning in December, was 119. In addition, 16 stoppages which began before December were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The approximate number of workers involved, during December, in these 135 stoppages, including workers thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, is estimated at nearly 25,000. The aggregate number of working days lost at the establishments concerned, during December, was about 79,000.

Of the stoppages of work due to industrial disputes known to have been in progress at some time in December, the coal mining industry accounted for 72, involving over 7,000 workers, and resulting in an aggregate loss of about 13,000 working days.

The following Table gives an analysis, by groups of industries, of disputes involving stoppages of work in December:—

Industry Group.	Number of Stoppages in progress in Month.			Number of Workers involved in all Stoppages in progress in Month.	Aggregate Number of Working Days lost in all Stoppages in progress in Month.
	Started before beginning of Month.	Started in Month.	Total.		
Coal Mining	2	70	72	7,100	13,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding .. .	7	14	21	6,100	45,000
Transport .. .	—	15	15	5,900	7,000
Other Industries and Services .. .	7	20	27	5,500	14,000
Total, December, 1947	16	119	135	24,600	79,000
Total, November, 1947	16	146	162	42,200	176,000
Total, December, 1946	9	88	97	18,800	51,000

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING DECEMBER.

Occupations and Locality.	Approximate Number of Workers involved.		Date when stoppage		Cause or Object.	Result.
	Directly.	In-directly†.	Began.	Ended.		
COAL MINING:— Colliery workers—Whitburn, near Sunderland (one colliery).	1,500	..	12 Dec.	13 Dec.	Dispute respecting payment of "consideration money" to hewers working on a seam claimed to be abnormally hard.	Work resumed on advice of trade union officials.
ENGINEERING:— Workers employed in the aircraft industry—Belfast (one firm).	3,500	..	14 Nov.	10 Dec.	Protest against the suspension, as redundant, of a number of fitters and electricians for one day.	Work resumed under old conditions.
Workers employed in the aircraft industry—Newtownards and Lisburn (one firm).	500	..	19 Nov.	10 Dec.	In sympathy with the workers involved in the above dispute.	
TRANSPORT:— Staff employed at a railway goods depot—London, S.W.	1,400	..	10 Dec.	11 Dec.	Dissatisfaction with canteen facilities and other grievances.	Work resumed on the understanding that the matters in question would be the subject of joint discussion.
LEATHER:— Workers employed in leather manufacture—Bolton.	1,220	..	18 Dec.	19 Dec.	Dissatisfaction with alleged delay in settlement of a national claim for increased wages.	Work resumed on advice of trade union officials, pending further negotiations.

* Stoppages of work due to disputes not connected with terms of employment or conditions of labour are excluded from the statistics. In addition, stoppages involving less than 10 workers, and those which lasted less than one day, are also excluded, unless the aggregate number of working days lost exceeded 100. The figures for the month under review are provisional and subject to revision; those for earlier months have been revised where necessary in accordance with the most recent information.

† *i.e.*, thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes.

INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES.

FIGURES FOR 16th DECEMBER, 1947
(PRICES AT 17th JUNE, 1947, TAKEN AS = 100).

All Items 104 : Food 103.

The index of retail prices measures, for the United Kingdom, the average changes, as compared with 17th June, 1947, in the prices of the goods and services which entered into working-class expenditure in 1937-38, as recorded in the family budgets collected from large numbers of households in that period. The relative changes in the price levels of the various items included are combined by the use of "weights" representing the proportions in which these items entered into working-class expenditure in 1937-38, adjusted to take account of changes in prices between that date and mid-June, 1947.*

The following Table shows the indices at 16th December, 1947, for each of the main groups of items and for all the groups combined, together with the relative weights which are used in combining the group indices into a single "all items" index:—

GROUP.	INDEX FIGURES FOR 16th DECEMBER, 1947.	WEIGHTS.
I. Food	103.4	348
II. Rent and rates	100.1	88
III. Clothing	102.4	97
IV. Fuel and light	107.1	65
V. Household durable goods	106.3	71
VI. Miscellaneous goods	109.2	35
VII. Services	102.5	79
VIII. Drink and tobacco	104.1	217
All items	103.7†	1,000

The figures given above are shown in the form in which they are used in the procedure adopted for calculating the index for all the groups combined, *i.e.*, to the nearest first place of decimals. The decimals are shown only in order that, if desired, calculations may be made of the effect of combining particular groups and excluding others.† The information available as to price changes, however, is such that no precise significance can be attributed to the decimals, and for any other purpose, therefore, the figures should be used to the nearest whole number.

On the above basis, and taking the level of prices at 17th June, 1947, as 100, the "all items" index at 16th December was 104, compared with 103 at 18th November. The rise in the index, during the month under review, was mainly due to increased prices for potatoes and apples in the food group, and for articles of furniture, various household appliances and floor coverings.

In the *food* group the average price of potatoes rose following an increase in the maximum permitted prices, and there was also a rise in the prices of apples. These increases were partly offset by lower prices for tomatoes and brussels sprouts. The remaining articles of food covered by the index showed relatively little movement in price between 18th November and 16th December. For the food group as a whole there was a slight rise in the average level of prices, but, to the nearest whole number, the index for 16th December was 103, the same figure as at 18th November.

In the *clothing* group there were some small increases in the average prices of many of the articles covered by the index, but, expressed to the nearest whole number, the index for this group was 102, showing no change as compared with a month earlier.

As regards the *fuel and light* group, during the month under review there were increases in the charges for gas in certain areas, but there was relatively little movement in prices for other items covered by the group. For the fuel and light group, taken as a whole, the index at 16th December was 107, the same figure as at 18th November.

In the group covering *household durable goods* the main changes during the month were increases in the prices of articles of furniture, carpets and other floor coverings, and various household appliances, most of these increases being attributable to the recent increases in the rates of purchase tax. For the group as a whole the average level of prices rose by about 2 per cent., the group index, expressed to the nearest whole number, being 106 at 16th December, compared with 104 at 18th November.

Items in the group covering *miscellaneous goods* showed relatively few changes in prices during the month, and, for the group as a whole, the index figure at 16th December was 109, the same figure as at 18th November.

In the *services* group the only price movements of note were increases in laundry charges in a number of areas. For the services group as a whole the index at 16th December, expressed to the nearest whole number, was 103, compared with 102 a month earlier.

In the *drink and tobacco* group there was little change in the level of prices during the month and at 16th December the index figure was 104, the same figure as at 18th November.

* A brief description of the scope and method of calculating the new index was given on page 255 of the issue of this GAZETTE for August, 1947.

† Taken as equivalent to 104 (see paragraph following the Table).

‡ The combination of any two or more group indices is effected by multiplying the respective indices by their corresponding weights and dividing the sum of the resulting products by the sum of the weights used.

In the remaining expenditure group, *viz.*, rent and rates, there has been no appreciable movement since the base date and the index figure at 16th December was 100.

The price comparisons utilised in the compilation of these index figures relate to a fixed list of items, and steps are taken to ensure that, so far as possible, the index figures reflect real changes in price levels but not changes in the prices quoted which are attributable to variations in quality.

SUMMARY OF INDEX FIGURES.

The following Table shows the index figures for food and for "all items" from 17th June, 1947, onwards:—

Date.	Food Index.	All items Index.
1947:—		
17th June	100	100
15th July	101	101
12th August	99	100
16th September	100	101
14th October	101	101
18th November	103	103
16th December	103	104

An article reviewing the changes in retail prices during the year 1947 appears on pages 5 to 7.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

In the Table below a summary is given of the latest information relating to changes in retail prices in overseas countries, contained in official publications received since last month's issue of this GAZETTE was prepared.

Country and Base of Index.*	Latest Period for which Index Figure is available.	Index Figure.	Rise (+) or Fall (—) of Index Figure compared with Previous Month (in Index Points).	Rise of Index Figure since August, 1939.†	
				Index Points.	Per Cent.
EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.					
Bulgaria (1939=100)					
All Items	October	640.3	+ 21.1	540.3†	540†
Food	"	833.4	+ 37.9	733.4†	733†
Czechoslovakia (Prague) (March, 1939=100)					
All Items	Oct. (1st week)	284.3	— 0.4	184.3†	184†
Food	"	287.4	— 2.3	187.4†	187†
Finland (Aug. 1938=100)					
All Items	November (end)	690†	+ 58	590†	590†
Food	"	867†	+ 107	767†	767†
France (1938=100)					
Food, Paris	November	1,378	+ 69	1,270	1,176
Other large towns	August	1,155	+ 185§	1,046	960
Hungary (Budapest) (1-23 Sept., 1946=100)					
All Items	October (end)	141.2	+ 21.1	41.2†	41†
Food	"	172.5	+ 36.9	72.5†	73†
Iceland (Reykjavik) (Jan.-Mar., 1939=100)					
All Items	November (1st)	326	+ 1	225†	225†
Food	"	379	+ 1	278†	273†
Italy (Large towns) (1938=100)					
All Items	October	5,313	— 21	5,213†	5,213†
Food	"	6,796	— 50	6,696†	6,696†
Netherlands (Medium and small towns) (1938-1939=100)					
All Items	November	198	Nil	98†	98†
Food	"	210	Nil	110†	110†
Poland (April, 1945=100)					
All Items, Warsaw	September	138	— 2	38†	38†
Food, Lodz	"	141	+ 1	41†	41†
Food, Warsaw	"	106	— 4	6†	6†
Food, Lodz	"	124	+ 4	24†	24†
Portugal (Lisbon) (July, 1946=100)					
All Items*	September	202.5	+ 2.1	103.8	105
Food	"	210.3	+ 2.5	111.9	114
All Items	September	168	+ 28	60	56
Food	"	172	+ 5	58	51

* The items of expenditure on which the "all-items" index figures are based are food, house-rent, clothing, fuel and light, and other or miscellaneous items, except in the case of Portugal and the Union of South Africa (food, fuel and light, rent, and certain other household articles only).

† In the following countries the comparison is with a period other than August, 1939: Bulgaria, average of 1939; Czechoslovakia, March, 1939; Finland, average of August, 1938, to July, 1939; Hungary, average of 1st-23rd September, 1946; Iceland, 1st September, 1939; Italy, average of 1938; Netherlands, average of 1938 and 1939; Poland, April, 1945; Canada, beginning of September, 1939; New Zealand, 15th December, 1942; Trinidad, average of 1935.

‡ Figures supplied by Labour Attaché, British Legation in Helsinki.

§ The index is quarterly, and comparison is with the previous quarter.

|| Miscellaneous items include direct taxation. If direct taxation is excluded, the figure was 158, an increase of 3 points compared with June and of 50 points or 46 per cent. compared with 1st July, 1939.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS—continued.

Country and Base of Index.*	Latest Period for which Index Figure is available.	Index Figure.	Rise (+) or Fall (—) of Index Figure compared with Previous Month (in Index Points).		Rise of Index Figure since August, 1939.†	
			Index Points.	Per Cent.	Index Points.	Per Cent.
OTHER COUNTRIES.						
Canada (1935-39=100)	Nov. (beginning)	143.6	+ 1.4	42.8†	42†	
All Items	"	173.6	+ 2.3	74.2†	75†	
Food	"	"	"	"	"	"
Ceylon (Colombo) (Nov., 1942=100)	September	138	Nil	†	†	
All Items	"	125	"	†	†	
Food	"	"	"	"	"	"
India (Bombay) (July, 1933-June, 1934=100)	October	296	— 3	191	182	
All Items	"	373	— 9	261	233	
Food	"	"	"	"	"	"
Jamaica (Kingston) (Aug., 1939=100)	September	203.30	+ 4.65	103.30	103	
All Items	"	180.91	+ 1.36	80.91	81	
Food	"	"	"	"	"	"
New Zealand (15th Dec., 1942=1,000)	September	1,032	+ 58	32†	3†	
All Items	"	"	"	"	"	"
South Africa, Union (9 urban areas) (1938=100)	August	140.5	— 0.3	41.2	41	
All Items*	"	152.2	— 1.1	54.5	56	
Food	"	"	"	"	"	"
Southern Rhodesia (Aug., 1939=100)	October	137	+ 1	37	37	
All Items	"	152	+ 5	52	52	
Food	"	"	"	"	"	"
Trinidad (1935=100)	Nov. (beginning)	221	Nil	121†	121†	
All Items	"	252	Nil	152†	152†	
Food	"	"	"	"	"	"

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.

The following Table shows, approximately, the receipts and payments of the Unemployment Fund in Great Britain for the periods stated:—

	Thirteen Weeks ended 27th Dec., 1947.	Thirteen Weeks ended 27th Sept., 1947.	Thirteen Weeks ended 28th Dec., 1946.
	£	£	£
(1) General Account.			
Contributions received from:—			
Employers	6,515,000	7,023,000	6,605,000
Employed Persons	6,514,000	7,023,000	6,605,000
Service Depts.†	410,000	479,000	1,663,000
Exchequer	6,722,000	7,242,000	7,436,000
Miscellaneous Receipts	1,564,000	4,303,000	588,000
Total Income	21,725,000	26,070,000	22,897,000
Benefit	4,082,000	3,810,000	5,473,000
Cost of Administration	1,547,000	1,481,000	1,092,000
Miscellaneous Payments	56,000	106,000	140,000
Expenses under National Insurance Act, 1946**	20,000	40,000	—
Total Expenditure	5,705,000	5,437,000	6,705,000
(2) Agricultural Account.			
Contributions received from:—			
Employers	99,000	158,000	107,000
Employed persons	98,000	158,000	106,000
Exchequer	98,000	158,000	107,000
Miscellaneous Receipts	41,000	116,000	17,000
Total Income	336,000	590,000	337,000
Benefit	162,000	27,000	35,000
Cost of Administration	37,000	60,000	40,000
Miscellaneous Payments	2,000	2,000	—
Total Expenditure	201,000	89,000	75,000

UNEMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCES.

For the period of thirteen weeks ended 27th December, 1947, expenditure on unemployment allowances at Local Offices of the Ministry of Labour and National Service and of the Assistance Board (excluding the cost of administration) amounted approximately to £600,000. During the thirteen weeks ended 27th September, 1947, the corresponding expenditure was £540,000, and during the thirteen weeks ended 28th December, 1946, it was £1,050,000.

Comparison of the figures for the third and fourth quarters of 1947 with those for the fourth quarter of 1946 is affected by the increases in the allowances for dependent children payable under the Unemployment Assistance (Determination of Need and Assessment of Needs) (Amendment) Regulations, 1946.

* See footnotes *† in second column on page 33.

† Linked with the earlier series of index figures for Ceylon (base, November, 1938, to April, 1939 = 100), the "all-items" figure for September, 1947, was 252, a decrease of 1 point compared with the previous month and an increase of 151 points or 150 per cent. compared with August, 1939.

‡ Not stated.

* A detailed account of the Fund is presented to Parliament annually (see H.C. 67 of Session 1946-47 for the period ended 31st March, 1946).

† Contributions made under Section 96 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1935.

** Preliminary payments to the Treasury from the Unemployment Fund in respect of expenses incurred under the National Insurance Act, 1946, as provided for by the National Insurance (Expenses of Administration) Regulations, 1947.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

The number of workpeople (other than seamen) in the United Kingdom whose deaths from accidents in the course of their employment were reported in December was 123, compared with 141 in November, 1947, and 155 in December, 1946. In the case of seamen employed on ships registered in the United Kingdom, 11 fatal accidents were reported in December, 1947, compared with 7 both in November, 1947, and in December, 1946.* Detailed figures for separate industries are given below.

MINES AND QUARRIES.†		FACTORIES—continued.	
Under Coal Mines Acts:		Electrical Stations	2
Underground	29	Other Industries	—
Surface	2		
Metalliferous Mines	—	WORKS AND PLACES UNDER	
Quarries	5	SS. 105, 107, 108, FACTORIES	
		ACT, 1937.	
TOTAL, MINES AND QUARRIES	36	Docks, Wharves, Quays	2
		and Ships	2
		Building Operations	16
		Works of Engineering	—
		Construction	4
		Warehouses	—
		TOTAL, FACTORIES ACT	64
		RAILWAY SERVICE.	
		Brakemen, Goods Guards	1
		Engine Drivers, Motor-	
		men	1
		Guards (Passenger)	1
		Labourers	—
		Mechanics	3
		Permanent Way Men	8
		Porters	1
		Shunters	2
		Other Grades	5
		Contractors' Servants	1
		TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE	23
		SEAMEN.	
		Trading Vessels	10
		Fishing Vessels	1
		TOTAL, SEAMEN	11
		TOTAL (including Seamen)	134

A summary of fatal industrial accidents reported in 1947 is given on page 8 of this GAZETTE.

INDUSTRIAL DISEASES.

The Table below shows the number of cases and deaths† in the United Kingdom reported during December under the Factories Act, 1937, or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, 1926:—

I. Cases.		I. Cases—continued.	
		ANTHRAX.	
LEAD POISONING.		Wool	1
Operatives engaged in:		Handling of Horsehair	1
Smelting of Metals	—	Handling and Sorting of	
Plumbing and Soldering	—	Hides and Skins	1
Shipbreaking	1	Other Industries	1
Printing	—	TOTAL	4
Other Contact with	—		
Molten Lead	—	EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION	
White and Red Lead	—	(SKIN CANCER).	
Works	—	Pitch	7
Pottery	—	Tar	6
Paint and Colour Works	—	TOTAL	13
Shipbuilding	—		
Paint used in Other Industries	1	CHROME ULCERATION.	
Other Industries	1	Manuf. of Bichromates	—
Painting of Buildings	—	Chromium Plating	5
TOTAL	3	TOTAL	5
OTHER POISONING.		Total, Cases	26
Mercurial Poisoning	1		
TOTAL	1	II. Deaths.	
		Nil.	

An article on page 8 of this GAZETTE gives statistics of cases of industrial diseases reported in 1947.

* These figures exclude fatal accidents to seamen directly attributable to causes arising from the recent war. No such accidents were reported during December, 1947; fifty-seven were reported in November, 1947, and 9 in December, 1946.

† For mines and quarries, weekly returns are furnished, and the figures cover the 4 weeks ended 27th December, 1947, in comparison with the 4 weeks ended 29th November, 1947, and the 4 weeks ended 28th December, 1946.

‡ Deaths comprise all fatal cases reported during the month; they have also been included (as cases) in the same or previous returns.

RELEASES AND DISCHARGES FROM THE FORCES.

STATISTICS FOR NOVEMBER, 1947.

During November, 1947, the number of men and women reported as released and discharged from the Forces and Auxiliary and Nursing Services was 56,060. The total number of men and women released and discharged in the period from 18th June, 1945, to the end of November, 1947, was 4,869,410.

Particulars are given below showing in detail the numbers of releases and discharges (a) reported during November, and (b) effected during the period from 18th June, 1945, to 30th November, 1947, together with (c) a comparison of the latter with the numbers laid down in the Government's programme.

Releases and Discharges from the Forces and Auxiliary and Nursing Services.

Service.	Class A.	Class B.	Other Releases and Discharges.	Total.
November, 1947.				
Men.				
Royal Navy	6,740	120	1,080	7,940
Army	35,040	450	1,830	37,320
Royal Air Force	6,740	80	990	7,810
Total	48,520	650	3,900	53,070
Women.				
Royal Navy	270	—	50	320
Army	1,600	10	250	1,860
Royal Air Force	760	—	50	810
Total	2,630	10	350	2,990
Total, Men and Women.				
Royal Navy	7,010	120	1,130	8,260
Army	36,640	460	2,080	39,180
Royal Air Force	7,500	80	1,040	8,620
Total	51,150	660	4,250	56,060
18th June, 1945, to 30th November, 1947.				
Men.				
Royal Navy	651,660	21,440	51,480	724,580*
Army	2,368,520	206,590	199,880	2,774,990
Royal Air Force	806,630	56,530	59,110	922,270
Total	3,826,810	284,560	310,470	4,421,840
Women.				
Royal Navy	71,860	310	5,870	78,040*
Army	199,120	2,900	21,340	214,360
Royal Air Force	137,740	990	16,440	155,170
Total	399,720	4,200	43,650	447,570
Total, Men and Women.				
Royal Navy	723,520	21,750	57,350	802,620*
Army	2,567,640	209,490	221,220	2,998,350
Royal Air Force	944,370	57,520	75,550	1,077,440
Total	4,226,530	288,760†	354,120	4,869,410

Comparison of the Numbers Released and Discharged with the Numbers in the Government's Programme.

Service.	Men.			Women.		
	Pro-gramme.	Releases and Discharges.	Excess(+) or Deficit(—) on Pro-gramme.	Pro-gramme.	Releases and Discharges.	Excess(+) or Deficit(—) on Pro-gramme.
Royal Navy	706,500	724,580	+18,080	78,380	78,040	— 340
Army	2,769,190	2,774,990	+ 5,800	219,320	214,360	— 4,960
Royal Air Force	915,270	922,270	+ 7,000	156,200	155,170	— 1,030
Total	4,390,960	4,421,840	+30,880	453,900	447,570	— 6,330

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME APRIL-JUNE, 1948.

Articles have been published from time to time in previous issues of this GAZETTE giving particulars of the provisional programme of releases and discharges from the Forces during various periods—see, for example, the issue for October, 1947 (pages 355-6), which included details of the provisional programme for the first quarter of 1948. A statement has now been issued by the Ministry of Labour and National Service on the programme for the second quarter of the year, details of which are set out below.

The total number of men and women to be released or discharged during the period is estimated to be approximately 144,600. As a result of some adjustments in, and improvements on, the programme announced in October, the total of releases and discharges in the period from 18th June, 1945, to the end of June, 1948, will be 5,313,260, including 4,839,020 men and 474,240 women.

As previously pointed out, the programme of releases and discharges has reached a stage when a high rate of release, such as is now proposed, must inevitably result in a disparity between the age and service groups released from the three Services and

* These figures include an estimate of 1,800 men whose release had been effected at 30th November, 1947, but not yet recorded at the Admiralty.

† Individual specialist releases numbered 18,104 men and 584 women.

between the groups in the various branches, trades and arms within each Service, if operational efficiency is to be maintained.

The numbers of men and women to be released or discharged under the provisional programme for the second quarter of 1948 are shown in detail in the following Table:—

	April.	May.	June.	Total, April-June.
Men:				
Royal Navy	—	—	—	5,000
Army	35,080	35,930	34,700	105,710
Royal Air Force	9,300	9,250	9,300	27,850
Women:				
Royal Navy	135	135	135	405
Army	830	850	840	2,520
Royal Air Force	900	910	940	2,750

In the case of the Nursing Services, the estimated number of V.A.Ds. to be released or discharged from the Royal Navy during the second quarter of 1948 is 56. For the Army, the figure for V.A.Ds. is 16; estimates in respect of Nursing Officers are not yet completed. For the Royal Air Force, the total number of releases and discharges for the quarter will be 47.

VOCATIONAL AND DISABLED TRAINING SCHEMES.

MONTHLY STATISTICS.

The statistics given below, which relate to the Vocational and Disabled Training Schemes, are in continuation of those published in last month's issue of this GAZETTE (page 430). The figures relate to the four weeks ended 17th November, 1947.

The total number of applicants admitted to training during the period under review was 1,218, and in all 12,182 persons were in training at the end of the period. The latter figure includes 10,249 males and 1,933 females, and of the total 3,593 were disabled persons. Over 2,700 trainees were placed in employment during the period. An analysis of these figures is given in the Table below.

Vocational and Disabled Training Schemes—Statistics for four weeks ended 17th November, 1947.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Applicants admitted to training during period:			
Able-bodied	514	213	727
Disabled	465	26	491
Total	979	239	1,218
Number of persons in training at end of period at:			
Government Training Centres—			
Able-bodied	4,595	196	4,791
Disabled	1,982	20	2,002
Technical and Commercial Colleges—			
Able-bodied	1,816	1,321	3,137
Disabled	534	229	763
Employers' Establishments—			
Able-bodied	563	98	661
Disabled	478	21	499
Residential (Disabled) Centres	281	48	329
Total	10,249	1,933	12,182
Trainees placed in employment during period:			
Able-bodied	2,060	163	2,223
Disabled	464	30	494
Total	2,524		

Further Education and Training Scheme—Progress up to 31st December, 1947.

	Men.	Women.	Total.
December, 1947.			
Number of applications for assistance made	3,055	173	3,228
Number of awards made by—			
Ministry of Labour and National Service	1,038	25	1,063
Ministry of Education	1,249	112	1,361
Other award-making Departments	303	19	322
Total awards	2,590	156	2,746
Number of applications rejected	859	105	964
Applications transferred to other training schemes or withdrawn	420	40	460
Cumulative totals up to end of December, 1947.			
Number of applications for assistance made	131,132	13,286	144,418
Number of awards made by—			
Ministry of Labour and National Service	28,451	1,181	29,632
Ministry of Education	46,668	5,351	52,019
Other award-making Departments	11,259	1,482	12,741
Total awards	86,378	8,014	94,392
Number of applications rejected	21,589	1,849	23,438
Applications transferred to other training schemes or withdrawn	11,269	1,523	12,792
Cases under consideration at end of period	11,896	1,900	13,796*

BUSINESS TRAINING SCHEME.

MONTHLY STATISTICS.

The figures given below show the progress made under the Business Training Scheme up to 6th December, and are in continuation of those published in previous issues of this GAZETTE.

The number of persons who, at 6th December, 1947, had already completed a General Business Course was 6,001. Of this number, 4,291 had proceeded to Specialised Business Courses, while a further 142 were under submission to such Courses. At 6th December, 508 persons were attending a General Business Course.

Statistics relating to the progress of the Business Training Scheme (a) during the four weeks ended 6th December, 1947, and (b) during the period from the inception of the Scheme to 6th December are given in the following Table:—

	Four weeks ended 6th December, 1947.	Cumulative totals up to 6th December, 1947.
Number who have completed a General Business Course	104	6,001
Number placed in Specialised Business Courses	99	4,291
Number placed in business training vacancies	2	194
Number placed in employment†	39	1,366

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

FACTORIES ACT—DANGEROUS MACHINERY—GUARD REMOVED TO ALLOW MACHINE TO BE ADJUSTED—WORKMAN INJURED WHILE MACHINE WAS BEING TESTED.

The plaintiff was employed by the defendants as a machine inspector. If he found a machine to be defective, he would not touch the machine himself but would have it adjusted by tool-setters.

A power press was producing defective pressings. This machine had an upper tool and a lower die, and the guard comprised a gate which, when open, prevented the power pedal from being depressed. If, however, the whole guard was raised the safety device was not in action.

The plaintiff called upon tool-setters and had the guard removed and certain adjustments made, following which a master pressing was placed in the lower die to test the correctness of the adjustments. Before the guard was replaced, the machine was set in motion to eject the pressing and injured the plaintiff's hand. Under Regulation 2 of the Operations at Unfenced Machinery Regulations, 1938, one or more persons shall be appointed machinery attendants and be furnished with a certificate of appointment; but the tool-setters in question had not been provided with such certificates. The plaintiff brought an action for damage on the grounds of negligence and breach of statutory duty. The defendants relied upon Section 16 of the Factories Act, 1937, which provides that all safeguards are to be kept in position while the parts to be safeguarded are in motion or use, except "where any such parts are necessarily exposed for examination." They further alleged contributory negligence.

Mr. Justice Denning held that the machinery was not necessarily exposed for the purpose of examination since the guard could have been replaced. He further held that there was no evidence of contributory negligence. He did not find it necessary to decide

* This figure includes over 3,000 applicants who had been informed by the Ministry of Education that awards would be made in their case.

† This category includes persons who returned to their former employment after completing a General Business Course.

whether the non-compliance with Regulation 2 of the Unfenced Machinery Operations Regulations would have operated to nullify the exception in Section 16 of the Factories Act, 1937, had the defendants been within such exception. The defendants appealed.

The Court of Appeal (Lords Justices Lawrence, Tucker and Cohen) dismissed the appeal and held that Section 16 of the Act did not apply while the machinery was not in motion; the guard should have been replaced before the machine was started and the exception did not apply. Even if it had applied, the employers had not furnished the certificates required by Regulation 2 and on that ground could not have relied on the exception.—*Nash v. High Duty Alloys Ltd.* Court of Appeal, 15th January, 1947.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

DECISIONS GIVEN BY THE UMPIRE.

The Umpire is a judicial authority independent of the Ministry of National Insurance, appointed by the Crown (see Section 40 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1935), for the purpose of determining disputed claims to benefit. His decisions* are final.

Appeals to the Umpire may be made by the Insurance Officer or by any association of which the claimant is a member, or, with the leave of the Chairman of the Court of Referees, by the claimant himself. The claimant may also appeal if the decision of the Court was not unanimous.

Recent decisions in cases of general interest are set out below.

Case No. 1099/47 (5th December, 1947).

SECTION 35(5) OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT, 1935: WHETHER UNEMPLOYED: CLAIMANT WORKING FIVE-DAY WEEK OF 44 HOURS: AGREEMENTS PROVIDING FOR HOLIDAYS WITH PAY, AND FOR GUARANTEED WAGES IN FORCE: WORKS CLOSED AT NOON ON FRIDAY, 18TH JULY, 1947, AND RE-OPENED ON THURSDAY, 31ST JULY, 1947: AGREEMENTS DATED 3RD APRIL, 1946, AND 19TH DECEMBER, 1946, BETWEEN ENGINEERING AND ALLIED EMPLOYERS' NATIONAL FEDERATION AND AMALGAMATED UNION OF FOUNDRY WORKERS CONSTRUED WITH PARTICULAR REGARD TO "NORMAL IDLE DAY" AND HOLIDAY PERIOD: CLAIMANT ENTITLED TO COUNT IDLE SATURDAY, 26TH JULY, FOR CONTINUITY BUT NOT ENTITLED TO BENEFIT FOR THAT DAY.

"My decision is that the claimant is not entitled to benefit in respect of 26th July, 1947, but is entitled to reckon that day for continuity.

"At the material time the claimant was employed as a moulder by the Atlas Steel Foundry and Engineering Co. Ltd. at their foundry. The employers issued a notice to their employees dated 20th May, 1947, and headed 'Summer Holidays 1947,' to the effect that the works would close at noon on Friday, 18th July, 1947, and that the moulding shop would reopen on Thursday, 31st July, 1947, at 9.30 a.m. 'contingent on furnace and other repairs. Labour Exchange will be notified.' It was added that employees required before the reopening date would be notified by the respective foremen.

"At this time a five-day week of 44 hours was worked at the foundry under an agreement dated 19th December, 1946, between the Engineering and Allied Employers' National Federation and the Amalgamated Union of Foundry Workers. Under this agreement hours worked on Saturday mornings were to be subject to overtime premium. It was provided that the agreement should operate from Monday, 6th January, 1947.

"On 3rd April, 1946, an agreement had been arrived at between the Federation and the Union providing for holidays with pay. Under this agreement the employee was to be credited 'in respect of holidays for each full week of work performed, a sum representing one-fiftieth of the appropriate day-time rate plus time-workers' national bonus for the time being' and pro-rata for less than a full week's work. These credits were to be accumulated and paid to the employee 'at the recognised summer holiday period or such other time as may be mutually agreed.' The agreement also secured to the employees 'guaranteed wages equivalent to their inclusive hourly plain time rate for 34 hours in any pay week.'

"There is no provision in this agreement as to the length of the annual holiday, but in their grounds of appeal from the Insurance Officer's decision the Association state that 'for the past number of years' the agreement has been six days' holiday and I gather that this statement is not challenged.

"In accordance with the above-mentioned notice the claimant ceased work at noon on Friday, 18th July, and resumed work on 31st July. At the hearing before me, a statement by the Deputy Regional Insurance Officer was put in to the effect that the claimant worked only 39½ hours, for which he received payment, and that the full week was 44 hours. I understand that the claimant received this payment in respect of the working week before the beginning of his holiday and that in addition he received the appropriate holiday payment in accordance with the agreement of April, 1946.

"There is no express finding by the Court of Referees as to the day of the week on which the claimant's working week began. At the hearing before me the Insurance Officer submitted that in the absence of evidence to the contrary it should be presumed that the working week begins on Monday. I agree with this view and I also think that in this case the fact that the agreement for the five-day week under which the claimant was working came into operation on Monday, 6th January, 1947, affords positive evidence that in this case the presumption would be correct. The claimant's last working week before his holiday must therefore be taken to have begun on Monday, 14th July, and he was paid the appro-

* Selected decisions of the Umpire are published (i) in pamphlets—U.I.440 and U.I. Code 8B; (ii) in annual volumes. Applications and enquiries should be addressed to H.M. Stationery Office at any of the addresses shown on the front cover of this GAZETTE.

SINGLE ARBITRATORS AND AD HOC BOARDS OF ARBITRATION.

During December, 1947, no awards were issued by Single Arbitrators appointed under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919.

One award was issued by an independent Chairman appointed under the Conciliation Act, 1896, to deal with a difference between the two Sides of the National Joint Industrial Council for the Home Grown Timber Trade.

COURT OF INQUIRY.

The Minister of Labour and National Service has appointed a Court of Inquiry under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, to inquire into and to report on the causes and circumstances of the dispute between the National Coal Board and the National Union of Colliery Winding Enginemen. The members of the Court are Sir John Forster, K.C. (Chairman), Professor D. T. Jack, M.A., Sir Robert Letch, and Mr. Lincoln Evans.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT AND NATIONAL ARBITRATION ORDERS.

NATIONAL ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL AWARDS.

During December, 1947, the National Arbitration Tribunal issued fourteen awards,* Nos. 1026-1039. Two of the awards are summarised below; the others related to individual employers.

Award No. 1033 (15th December).—Parties: Members of employer bodies adherent to the National Joint Council for the Building Brick and Allied Industries, and members of trade unions constituting the Operatives' Side of the Council in their employment. *Matter in dispute:* The dispute arose out of the failure of the parties to reach agreement regarding the reduction of normal working hours from 48 to 44 a week without loss of pay. *Award:* The Tribunal awarded that, save as respects kilnburners and boilerfiremen, the normal working hours should be reduced to 44 a week with no reduction in the normal weekly wage in the case of timeworkers and with a proportionate adjustment to piece rates in the case of pieceworkers. The Tribunal referred back to the parties, for settlement by negotiation in the light of the above decision, the question of the special position of kilnburners and boilerfiremen.

Award No. 1039 (24th December).—Parties: Firms federated to the Engineering and Allied Employers' National Federation which operate in the Birmingham area and which are engaged in lift erection and lift maintenance, and members of the Electrical Trades Union in their employment. *Matter in dispute:* The dispute arose out of a claim regarding the rate to be paid to lift erectors and lift maintenance engineers. *Award:* The Tribunal awarded that the rate of wages of the workers covered by the claim, as defined in the award, should be not less than 113s. 11d. a week.

NATIONAL ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL (NORTHERN IRELAND) AWARDS.

Since the last issue of this GAZETTE was prepared the National Arbitration Tribunal (Northern Ireland) issued six awards, Nos. 671 to 676. Two of these awards are summarised below.

Award No. 672 (3rd December).—Parties: The member firms of the Belfast and North of Ireland Carriers' Association, and certain employees of the member firms. *Claim:* (1) That the present rates for loaders and storemen should be increased to a minimum of £5 for a week of 44 hours; (2) that lorry assistants should be employed on all lorries with carrying capacity of over 4 tons; and (3) that men employed in the handling of dirty goods should be paid 2s. 6d. a day extra (this part of the claim was to be in substitution for Clause 10 in the existing agreement). At the commencement of the proceedings, items (2) and (3) of the claim were by consent withdrawn. *Award:* The Tribunal found that the claim had not been established and awarded accordingly.

Award No. 676 (15th December).—Parties: The firms represented by the Employers' Side of the National Joint Industrial Council for the Retail Drapery, Outfitting and Footwear Trades (Belfast), and the members of the trade union constituting the Workers' Side of that Council. *Claim:* That the weekly basic salary for certain sales assistants should be increased as specified, and that the existing forms of commission operating in the trades concerned should not be reduced. *Award:* The Tribunal found that the claim had not been established and awarded accordingly.

appropriate wage for that week. It remains, however, to determine on what date that working week ended and the holiday week began.

"In their grounds of appeal to the Court of Referees, the Association contended that this date was Friday, 18th July, at noon, when the member 'went on holiday.' It is true that according to the employers' notice the works closed on that day for the holiday period and accordingly the claimant ceased work on that day. Nevertheless, the working week was five days and began on Monday the 14th, and Saturday the 19th would have been an 'idle' day even if the works had not been closed for the holiday period on that day. The claimant was paid his appropriate wages for the working week beginning Monday the 14th. In my opinion therefore the next week in respect of which he could have claimed remuneration began on Monday the 21st. This being the period of his annual holiday, he was entitled to holiday payment in accordance with Clause B 1 (b) of the agreement of 3rd April, 1946.

"At the date of this agreement both the working week and the holiday period consisted of six days. Under Clause B 1 (b) the employees were to receive a sum 'in respect of holidays for each full week's work performed.' The reference to a full week's work indicates in my opinion that the payment was made 'in respect of' the whole 6 days' holiday which was then equal in duration to the whole working week. It follows that when the working week was reduced to 5 days the holiday payment must be deemed to have been made in respect of that reduced period. No payment was therefore made in respect of Saturday, 26th July. But as Saturday was the normal 'idle' day, the 26th July would have been an 'idle day' even if it had not fallen in the holiday period. It follows that the claimant is not entitled to benefit in respect of that day, but is entitled to count it for continuity, in accordance with Umpire's Decision 2076/27.*"

Case No. 1146/47 (29th December, 1947).

SECTION 35(5) OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT, 1935: WHETHER UNEMPLOYED: UPON LEAVING EMPLOYMENT ON 5TH JULY, 1947, CLAIMANT RECEIVED PAYMENT IN RESPECT OF HOLIDAY WHICH HAD BEEN FIXED FOR WEEK BEGINNING 28TH JULY: INTERVAL BETWEEN DATE OF HOLIDAY AND DATE OF TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT IN EXCESS OF 12 WORKING DAYS: CLAIMANT TREATED AS UNEMPLOYED DURING HOLIDAY PERIOD: CLAIM FOR BENEFIT ALLOWED.

"My decision is that the claim for benefit is allowed. "The claimant left her employment on 5th July, 1947, and the Court of Referees found that good cause for leaving was shown. They disallowed her claim in respect of the period 28th July to 2nd August, 1947, inclusive, because the claimant received on the last day of her employment a payment in respect of a holiday which had been fixed for the week beginning 28th July.

"As the date for the holiday had been fixed the payment made in respect of the holiday was rightly allocated to the period of the holiday as provided by Umpire's Decision 466/46.† It was held in Umpire's Decision 682/46 (not reported) that, where the interval between the date of the holiday and the date when employment terminated was short, the claimant should not be treated as being unemployed during the holiday period. As a general rule, by analogy with the 12 days' rule, which has been adopted to determine whether a claimant was finally discharged before the holiday, it may be held that, where the interval between the date of the holiday and the date when employment terminates is one of 12 working days or more, the claimant should be treated as being unemployed during the holiday period, but, if the interval is less than 12 days, he should be treated as not unemployed during that period. In the present case the interval was one of 20 days and the claim may, therefore, be allowed."

THE INDUSTRIAL COURTS ACT, 1919, AND CONCILIATION ACT, 1896.

INDUSTRIAL COURT AWARDS.

During December, 1947, the Industrial Court issued three awards, Nos. 2119 to 2121. Two of these awards are summarised below.

Award No. 2119 (1st December).—Parties: Charles Roberts and Co. Ltd., and the Laminated and Coil Spring Workers' Union. *Claim:* To determine by what method piece-work prices should be fixed in the firm's spring shop for machine-bent hook-end wagon-bearing springs. *Award:* The Court awarded that, upon a strict legal interpretation of an agreement subsisting between the parties, the prices to be paid for machine-bent springs fall to be determined by negotiation between the firm concerned and the Union.

Award No. 2121 (31st December).—Parties: The Electrical Trades Union and the Lochaber Power Company. *Claim:* To determine whether the firm should observe rates of wages and conditions of employment not less favourable than those agreed by the Joint Industrial Council for the Electricity Supply Industry. *Award:* On the evidence adduced the Court were not satisfied that the present rates of wages and conditions of employment were less favourable than those agreed by the Joint Industrial Council for the Electricity Supply Industry. The Court found and so awarded that the Lochaber Power Company was outwith the electricity supply industry and was therefore under no obligation to observe rates of wages and conditions of employment not less favourable than those agreed by the Joint Industrial Council.

* This decision has been published in U.I.440, page 139 (Pamphlet 7/1927).

† This decision has been published in U.I. Code 8B, page 10 (Pamphlet 2/1946).

* See footnote * in second column on page 38.

WAGES COUNCILS ACT, 1945.

NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

During December, 1947, notices of intention to submit to the Minister of Labour and National Service wages regulation proposals were issued by the following Wages Councils:—

Aerated Waters Wages Council (Scotland).—Proposal A.S.(27), dated 2nd December, 1947; relating to the fixing of revised general minimum time rates and overtime rates.

Paper Bag Wages Council (Great Britain).—(1) Proposal P.(41), dated 2nd December, 1947; relating to the fixing of revised general minimum time rates, piece work basis time rates and overtime rates. (2) Proposal P.(42), dated 2nd December, 1947; relating to the increase of the annual holiday with pay from 6 days to a maximum of 12 days and fixing payment for such holidays.

Rope, Twine and Net Wages Council (Great Britain).—Proposal R.(90), dated 12th December, 1947; relating to the fixing of revised general minimum time rates, piece work basis time rates, general minimum piece rates and overtime rates.

Jute Wages Council (Great Britain).—Proposal J.(76), dated 16th December, 1947; relating to the fixing of revised general minimum time rates, guaranteed time rates, piece work basis time rates and additional time rates, general minimum piece rates and overtime rates.

Aerated Waters Wages Council (England and Wales).—Proposal A.(32), dated 19th December, 1947; relating to the fixing of revised general minimum time rates, piece work basis time rates and overtime rates.

Further information concerning any of the above proposals may be obtained by persons engaged in the trade affected by application to the Secretary of the Council in question at Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, London, S.W.1.

WAGES REGULATION ORDERS.

During December, 1947, the Minister of Labour and National Service made the following Wages Regulation Orders* giving effect to the proposals made to him by the Wages Councils concerned:—

The Baking Wages Council (England and Wales) Wages Regulation (No. 3) Order, 1947: S.R. & O. 1947, No. 2545 (BK.(34)), dated 1st December, and effective from 15th December, 1947.—This Order prescribes the general minimum time rates and overtime rates.—See page 30.

The Ostrich and Fancy Feather and Artificial Flower Wages Council (Great Britain) Wages Regulation Order, 1947: S.R. & O. 1947, No. 2565 (O.F.15), dated 4th December, 1947, and effective from 1st January, 1948.—This Order prescribes the general minimum time rates, piece work basis time rates and overtime rates.

The Retail Bespoke Tailoring Wages Council (Scotland) Wages Regulation Order, 1947: S.R. & O. 1947, No. 2582. S.195 (R.B.S.(29)), dated 4th December and effective from 22nd December, 1947.—This Order prescribes the general minimum time rates, piece work basis time rates, general minimum piece rates and overtime rates.—See pages 30 and 31.

The Tobacco Wages Council (Great Britain) Wages (No. 2) Regulation Order, 1947: S.R. & O. 1947, No. 2690 (N.(32)), dated 18th December, 1947, and effective from 7th January, 1948.—This Order prescribes the general minimum time rates, piece work basis time rates and overtime rates.

WAGES COUNCILS ACT
(NORTHERN IRELAND), 1945.

NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

During December, 1947, notices of intention to submit to the Ministry of Labour and National Insurance wages regulation proposals were issued by the following Wages Councils:—

General Waste Materials Reclamation Wages Council (Northern Ireland).—Proposal N.I.W.R. (N.24), dated 5th December, 1947; to reduce the normal weekly hours of work from 47 to 44 while maintaining the current statutory minimum remuneration appropriate to a 47-hour week. These proposals are substituted for those contained in Notice N.I.W.R. (N.23), dated 10th October, 1947 (see the issue of this GAZETTE for November, 1947, page 396).

Brush and Broom Wages Council (Northern Ireland).—(1) Proposal N.I.B.B. (N.54), dated 12th December, 1947; relating to the fixing of revised general minimum time rates, piece work basis time rates, general minimum piece rates and overtime rates for male and female workers. (2) Proposal N.I.B.B. (N.55), dated 12th December, 1947; for requiring certain customary holidays to be allowed in addition to annual holidays to workers other than outworkers, and for fixing payment for such holidays.

Baking Wages Council (Northern Ireland).—(1) Proposal N.I.Bk. (N.52), dated 19th December, 1947; for requiring certain customary holidays in addition to annual holidays to be allowed to workers employed in establishments other than home bakeries and for fixing payment for such holidays. (2) Proposal N.I.Bk. (N.53), dated 19th December, 1947; to reduce the normal weekly hours of work for certain male workers employed in establishments other than home bakeries from 48 to 44 while maintaining the current statutory minimum remuneration appropriate to a 48-hour week. (3) Proposals N.I.Bk. (N.54), (N.55) and (N.56), dated 26th December, 1947; to increase general minimum time rates and overtime

* See footnote * in next column.

rates for certain male and female workers employed in establishments other than home bakeries and to reduce the normal weekly hours of work from 48 to 45 in Area A and from 48 to 46 in Areas B and C.

Further information about any of the above proposals may be obtained by persons engaged in the trade affected by application to the Secretary of the Council in question at Tyrone House, Ormeau Avenue, Belfast.

WAGES REGULATION ORDERS.

During December, 1947, the Ministry of Labour and National Insurance made the following Wages Regulation Order* giving effect to the proposal made by the Wages Council concerned:—

The Sugar Confectionery and Food Preserving Wages Council (Northern Ireland) Wages Regulation Order, 1947: S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1947, No. 190 (N.I.F. (27)), dated 2nd December, and effective from 6th December, 1947.—This Order prescribes increased general minimum time rates piece work basis time rates and overtime rates for male and female workers in the trade, and the reduction of the normal weekly hours of work from 48 to 45.—See pages 30 and 31.

CATERING WAGES ACT.

NOTICE OF PROPOSAL.

The Industrial and Staff Canteen Undertakings Wages Board have given notice in Proposal I.S.C. (11) of their intention to submit to the Minister of Labour and National Service proposals for amending the existing Wages Regulation Order so that the guaranteed weekly remuneration for full time workers (as defined) shall be calculated on the basis of 47 hours instead of 44 as at present, and for amending the definition† of an industrial or staff canteen undertaking to include a canteen carried on by a dock authority or by any person or body of persons acting under an arrangement with a dock authority, a "dock authority" for the purpose of the definition meaning any person or body of persons whether incorporated or not who are authorised to construct, or are owners or lessees of, any dock authorised by or under any Act, and "dock" including a wharf or quay.

Further information concerning this proposal may be obtained by persons engaged in the trade from the Secretary of the Wages Board at Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, London, S.W.1.

WAGES REGULATION ORDERS.

During December, 1947, the Minister of Labour and National Service made the Wages Regulation (Licensed Non-Residential Establishment) Order, 1947, and the Wages Regulation (Licensed Non-Residential Establishment) (Holidays) Order, 1947,† giving effect from 21st January, 1948, to proposals submitted to him by the Licensed Non-Residential Establishment Wages Board. These Orders, which replace the Wages Regulation (Licensed Non-Residential Establishment) Order, 1946, and the Wages Regulation (Licensed Non-Residential Establishment) (Holidays) Orders, 1946, make no changes in the existing wage rates which came into force in February, 1947, but provide that the Schedules to the Orders shall not apply to managers, club secretaries, club stewards, entertainers, greenkeepers, gardeners, groundsmen and skittle alley attendants, and amend certain provisions of the Schedules relating to the weekly short day, the weekly day of rest, workers who ordinarily work for the employer for less than 15 hours a week, annual holidays, and other matters.

* Copies of official publications (including Orders, Regulations, etc.) referred to in the GAZETTE may be purchased from H.M. Stationery Office at the addresses shown on the front cover.

† See the reference to the Wages Board (Industrial and Staff Canteen Undertakings) (Amendment) Order, 1947, in the issue of this GAZETTE for September, 1947 (page 289).

‡ S.R. & O. 1947, Nos. 2718 and 2719. H.M. Stationery Office; price 2d. net (3d. post free) each.

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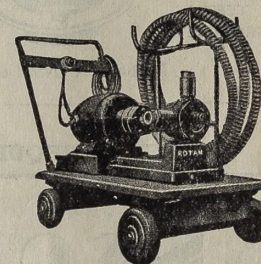
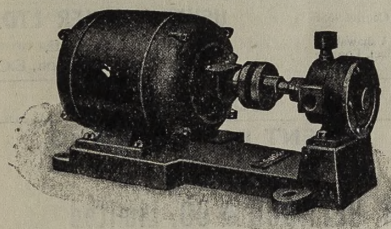
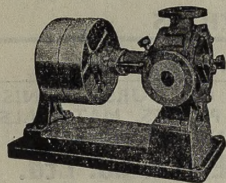
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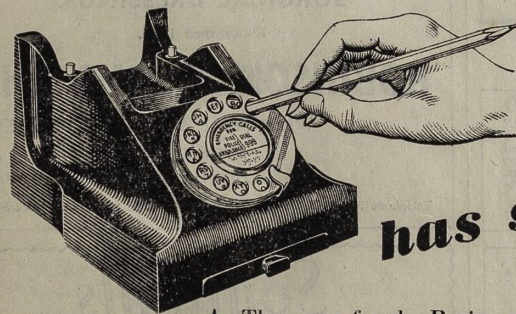
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