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Where appropriate, lists of items under the headings shown in CAPITALS will be found on the pages indicated.

Wages, Retail Prices, Disputes, etc., in 1955

DURING 1955 there was an increase in the average level of full-time weekly rates of wages of about 7 per cent. The current index of weekly wage rates, based on June, 1947 = 100, was 154 at the end of December, 1955, as compared with 144 a year earlier. It is estimated that nearly 12 million workpeople received increases in wages amounting at the end of the year to about £5 million a week. During 1955 it is estimated that nearly 180,000 workers had their normal working hours reduced by an average of about 1½ hours a week.

The average level of retail prices, as measured by the interim index, rose by about 6 per cent. during the year. About one-half of this increase was due to a rise of about 8 per cent. in the average level of food prices, but prices of fuel and light, household durable goods, and many other articles, also showed substantial increases.

Stoppages of work arising from industrial disputes caused the loss of nearly 3,800,000 working days during 1955, at the establishments where the disputes occurred. This was about 1,300,000 more than in the previous year. The number of workers involved in these stoppages was nearly 671,000, about 221,000 more than the figure for 1954.

Rates of Wages

The index number which measures the movement from month to month in the level of full-time weekly rates of wages in the principal industries and services in the United Kingdom rose by 10 points or about 7 per cent. during 1955. This increase of about 7 per cent. compares with 4½ per cent. in 1954, 3 per cent. in 1953, 6 per cent. in 1952, 11 per cent. in 1951, 4 per cent. in 1950, and between 1½ and 2 per cent. in 1949.

The Table in the next column shows the index numbers of

weekly rates of wages (on the basis of 30th June, 1947 = 100) at the end of 1954 and of each month of 1955:—

Date (end of month)	Men	Women	Juveniles	All Workers
1954				
December	142	148	156	144
1955				
January	144	151	158	146
February	145	151	158	147
March	147	153	160	149
April	150	154	162	152
May	151	154	163	152
June	151	155	163	152
July	151	155	163	153
August	151	155	164	153
September	152	156	164	153
October	152	156	165	153
November	152	157	165	154
December	152	158	166	154

The above indices relate to changes in the level of full-time weekly rates of wages but are not a measure of changes in actual weekly earnings. In April and October, 1955, enquiries were made by the Department as to the actual earnings of manual wage-earners employed in manufacturing industries generally and in a number of the principal non-manufacturing industries in the United Kingdom. In April, 1955, the level of average weekly earnings in these industries, expressed as an index number on the basis of April, 1947 = 100, was 176. For these same industries the index of rates of wages at April, 1955, was 152—the same figure as that for all industries and services as in the Table above. The results of the October, 1955, enquiry into weekly earnings are not yet available.

Statistics which are regularly compiled by the Department of the estimated number of workpeople affected by changes in

for stabilising employment and earnings of plantation workers. The Resolution dealt, among other things, with the processing of plantation crops and by-products, measures to increase the internal consumption of plantation products, the promotion of price stabilisation, the provision of new avenues of employment, diversification of production, public works activities, the establishment or improvement of employment services, the development of vocational training facilities, wages and hours of work, and provision in the case of termination of employment.

The Working Party on the effect given to the conclusions adopted at previous sessions classified these conclusions into three categories with the object of facilitating their examination. The Working Party considered the information that had been provided by Governments on certain of the conclusions and indicated a number of Resolutions on which it was suggested that Governments should be asked to supply further information.

The Working Party set up to examine the possibility of plantation labour questions being considered by the International Labour Conference adopted a Memorandum which invited the Governing Body to place on the agenda of an early session of the International Labour Conference an item concerning plantation labour with a view to codifying the provisions of certain existing Conventions and Recommendations into a Convention directly applicable to plantations. (The Governing Body at its 130th Session agreed to this proposal and the subject has been included in the agenda of the 40th (1957) Session of the International Labour Conference, see below.)

The Reports and conclusions of the Sub-Committees and Working Parties were adopted by the Committee in Plenary Session. The Committee also adopted Resolutions concerning trade unions on plantations, the composition of the Committee on Work on Plantations and the desirability of information in regard to the conditions of plantation workers in Africa. Suggestions were also put forward for the agenda of the 4th Session of the Committee.

In accordance with the usual practice, the conclusions of the Committee will be considered by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office.

130th Session of Governing Body

The 130th Session of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office was held in Geneva from 15th to 18th November, 1955, under the chairmanship of Mr. Arthur Brown, Government Member, Canada. The United Kingdom Government was represented by Sir Guildhaume Myrddin-Evans, K.C.M.G., C.B., Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Labour and National Service. Also from the United Kingdom were Sir Richard Snedden, C.B.E., Chairman of the International Standing Committee and Member of the General Purposes Committee and Council of the British Employers' Confederation, and Sir Alfred Roberts, C.B.E., Vice-Chairman of the Governing Body, Member of the General Council of the Trades Union Congress and General Secretary of the Amalgamated Association of Card, Blowing and Ring Room Operatives.

The following paragraphs contain notes on the main subjects discussed by the Governing Body.

Agenda of the 40th (1957) Session of the International Labour Conference

The Governing Body fixed the agenda for the 40th (1957) Session of the International Labour Conference. In addition to the three standing items (Report of the Director-General; Financial and Budgetary Questions; and Information and Reports on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations) and three items (Forced Labour; Weekly Rest in Commerce and Offices; and Living and Working Conditions of Indigenous Populations in Independent Countries) which are likely to be carried forward for second discussion from the 39th (1956) Session of the Conference, the Governing Body selected two further items to which it had given preliminary consideration at its 129th Session (see the issue of this GAZETTE for July, 1955, page 242). The two items added to the agenda were Discrimination in the Field of Employment and Occupation, and Conditions of Employment of Plantation Workers.

Discrimination in the Field of Employment and Occupation

The Governing Body considered a fresh draft report on this subject which had been prepared by the Director-General to meet requests by the United Nations that the International Labour Office should make a study of the question (see the issue of this GAZETTE for July, 1954, page 231). The draft report embodied minor amendments suggested at the 129th Session, when an earlier draft was before the Governing Body (see the issue of this GAZETTE for July, 1955, page 242). After discussion the Governing Body decided that the report needed further revision and instructed the Director-General to submit a revised draft for consideration at its next session.

Report of the Committee on Freedom of Employers' and Workers' Organisations

The Committee set up under the Chairmanship of Lord McNair to examine the extent of the freedom of employers' and workers' organisations from Government domination or control reported to the Governing Body upon the present state of its work. This statement showed that the Committee was not yet ready to make an adequate report, as it was still awaiting replies from a majority of States Members to the detailed questionnaire which it had

circulated. The Committee hoped, however, to be able to undertake the preparation of a final report during January, 1956.

The Employers' Group expressed disappointment that it had not been possible to complete the enquiry in time for consideration at the current session of the Governing Body, as had been originally intended.

Maritime Questions

The Governing Body considered the recommendations put forward by the 18th Session of the Joint Maritime Commission which had met in Paris in October, 1955. It endorsed a proposal that a Maritime Session of the International Labour Conference should be convened in 1957 and that a Tripartite Preparatory Technical Maritime Conference should meet in the autumn of 1956. The agendas for these meetings were provisionally fixed. A decision as to which countries should be invited to participate in the Preparatory Conference was deferred until the next session of the Governing Body.

Technical Assistance

The Governing Body had before it a report from its Technical Assistance Committee containing a general progress report on the International Labour Organisation programme and the results of a special enquiry undertaken by the International Labour Office to evaluate the results of the programme in certain selected countries. The Governing Body took note of the report and decided that further evaluation enquiries should be undertaken in 1956 in respect of certain other countries.

Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy

The Governing Body took note with interest of a report by the delegation from the International Labour Organisation to the International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy. It authorised the Director-General to submit to its next session proposals for a small technical committee to review the safety and health aspects of the problem and to submit a report on the basis of which the Governing Body should decide whether action by the International Labour Conference was called for at this stage. The Director-General was also instructed to notify the sponsoring powers of the Conference convened to draw up the statute for the proposed International Atomic Energy Agency that the International Labour Organisation would welcome an opportunity to be represented at that Conference.

Freedom of Association

The Governing Body adopted a report from its Committee on Freedom of Association, which is charged with the duty of giving preliminary consideration to complaints alleging infringement of trade union rights. The report presented the conclusions of the Committee on eight complaints. In two of these cases the Committee recommended that the complaint should be dismissed without being referred to the Government concerned. In three other cases which had been transmitted to the Governments (including one referred to the United Kingdom Government in respect of British Honduras) the Committee, after considering the observations furnished by the Governments, recommended that the complaints should be dismissed. In two other cases the Committee recommended that the Governing Body should draw the attention of the Governments concerned to certain recommendations made by the Committee, while in the remaining case it was decided that, although some of the allegations did not call for further examination, further information should be sought from the Government concerned on certain outstanding points. The Governing Body also decided to pursue further two cases relating to Poland and Hungary which had lapsed owing to the repeated failure of the Governments concerned to respond to the Governing Body's requests for information.

Finance

The Allocations Committee of the Governing Body considered further the question of the future scale of contributions of States Members and the proposal that the International Labour Organisation scale of contributions should be brought into line with the United Nations scale by three equal steps over a period of three years starting in 1957. It was decided to adjourn further consideration of the proposals until the meeting of the Allocations Committee immediately preceding the International Labour Conference in 1956. The Governing Body took note of this decision.

Other Matters

Other matters considered by the Governing Body included proposals regarding the relations of the International Labour Organisation with non-Governmental organisations; the composition of the Committee of Experts on Social Policy in Non-Metropolitan Territories; developments in connection with a proposed international convention for the protection of performers' rights; the action to be taken on the Resolutions adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 38th Session; the reports of the recent meetings of various bodies, including the 7th Session of the Asian Advisory Committee, the 5th Session of the Textiles Committee, the Panel of the Correspondence Committee on Occupational Safety and Health, and the Working Group of Experts on Family Living Studies; the convocation of meetings of Experts on Women's Employment and on Social Aspects of European Economic Co-operation; and a number of financial and administrative questions.

Year Book of Labour Statistics, 1955

The International Labour Office have recently issued the Year Book of Labour Statistics, 1955.* The Year Book presents a summary, based on communications to the Office or on statistics from official publications, of the principal statistics relating to labour in sixty-seven countries in all parts of the world. The text, headings of Tables, and notes, are given in English, French and Spanish. The countries are listed by continents in the alphabetical order of their English names. In general, the annual series give figures up to and including the year 1954, with monthly and quarterly figures up to June, 1955.

As in previous editions of the Year Book, the statistical Tables are grouped in eleven main sections, dealing with total and economically active population; employment; unemployment; hours of work; wages and labour income; consumer price indices and retail prices; family living studies; social security; industrial injuries; industrial disputes; and migration. Introductory notes to each of these main sections indicate briefly the characteristics of the principal types of statistics to be found in the Tables and draw attention to diversities of statistical methods in the various countries which limit the possibility of making international comparisons. Where data are presented by industrial groups, the United Nations International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities has been used as the uniform basis, so far as this is possible, for the arrangement of industries.

Appendices to the Year Book contain world indices and national indices of industrial production (the national indices cover mining, manufacturing, electricity and gas), and indices of wholesale prices, supplied by the Statistical Office of the United Nations, and a Table of exchange rates, furnished by the International Monetary Fund, showing the relationship of each national currency to the United States dollar. The Year Book also contains a list of sources giving particulars of the principal publications containing current national statistics on labour matters, and an index of the references in the Tables to individual countries.

LABOUR OVERSEAS

Factory Inspection and Accidents in the Irish Republic in 1954

The Report on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Acts, 1901-1920, in the Republic of Ireland during 1954 has been issued by the Department of Industry and Commerce.

At the end of 1954 the total number of premises on the official register was 13,167, compared with 13,362 at the end of 1953 and 12,475 at the end of 1950. During 1954, Factory Inspectors made 13,317 visits to 10,439 premises. At the premises visited the number of persons employed totalled 96,085, including 55,346 men, 26,780 women, 5,076 youths and boys and 8,883 girls.

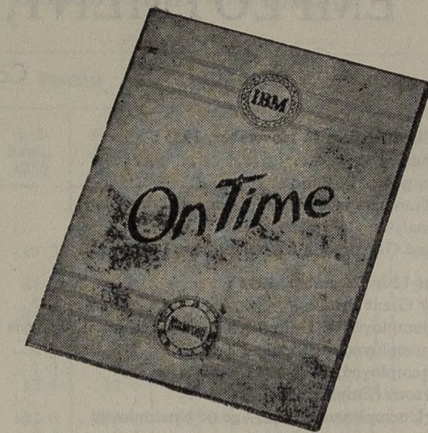
The number of persons injured in reported accidents increased from 1,273 (including 11 fatalities) in 1953 to 1,367 (13 fatalities) in 1954. Figures for the last five years show that the total for 1954 was the highest recorded since 1950, when 1,422 persons were killed or injured. Compared with 1953, there were increases in 1954 in the number of accidents in each of the main industry groups. The largest numerical increase was in the food, drink and tobacco industry group, where the total increased by 19 from 381 in 1953 to 400 in 1954. In the textiles and clothing group of industries there was an increase of 15, from 173 to 188, and there was a similar increase, from 321 to 336, in the metals, engineering and vehicles group. In the woodworking and furniture group of industries the increase was from 63 in 1953 to 67 in 1954, and in docks, buildings and warehouses from 39 to 41. The Report contains a Table giving comparative figures of accidents notified for each year from 1950 to 1954. In three of the industry groups, viz., food, drink and tobacco, textiles and clothing, and docks, buildings and warehouses, the number of accidents in 1954 was higher than in any of the four preceding years; compared with 1950, these industry groups showed increases of 35, 25, and 12, respectively. In the woodworking and furniture industry there were, however, 63 fewer accidents in 1954 than in 1950, and there was also a decline of 47 in the metals, engineering and vehicles group. In other industries the total for 1954 was 335, compared with 352 in 1950. Of the total number of persons injured in accidents in 1954, 1,075 were men, 137 were women, 99 were youths and boys, and 56 were girls.

An analysis of the causes of the accidents which occurred in 1954 shows that 371 persons were injured as a result of accidents involving machinery moved by mechanical power and 31 in connection with the handling of goods or articles in manufacturing or carrying processes. In addition, 206 persons were injured by falling, 156 by blows from falling bodies and 79 from the use of hand tools. The corresponding figures for 1953 were 353, 56, 226, 135 and 42.

In 1954, 6,174 young persons aged between 14 and 16 years were examined by appointed medical practitioners for certificates of fitness to take employment in factories. Of these young persons, 6,141 were certified as fit for employment, including 89 who were granted conditional certificates only. There were 33 rejections, which represented 0.5 per cent. of the total number examined. In the preceding year, the percentage of rejections was 0.6. The main single cause of rejection in 1954 was pediculosis, of which there were nine cases.

The Report also contains a brief account of the work carried out by the Inspectorate under the Industrial Relations Act, 1946, the Apprenticeship Act, 1931, the Conditions of Employment Acts, 1936 and 1944, and the Holidays (Employees) Act, 1939.

* Published in the United Kingdom by the International Labour Office by Staples Press Limited, 14 Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1, price £1 10s.



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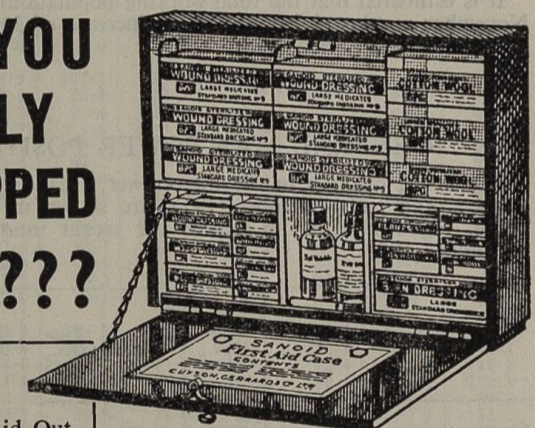
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Table with 12 columns: Industry, Males (End-Nov., 1954, End-Sept., 1955, End-Oct., 1955, End-Nov., 1955), Females (End-Nov., 1954, End-Sept., 1955, End-Oct., 1955, End-Nov., 1955), and Total (End-Nov., 1954, End-Sept., 1955, End-Oct., 1955, End-Nov., 1955). Rows include various industries like Manufacturing of Wood and Cork, Paper and Printing, etc.

SHORT-TIME AND OVERTIME IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

Under the Statistics of Trade Act, 1947, monthly employment returns are collected by the Ministry of Labour and National Service from employers with more than ten workpeople in manufacturing industries, and once a quarter the regular monthly figures for all manufacturing industries, other than shipbuilding and ship repairing, are supplemented by particulars about short-time and overtime. These additional particulars relate to operatives only (i.e., they exclude administrative, technical and clerical staffs and the overtime figures also exclude maintenance workers). Employers are asked to supply this additional information in respect of the

pay weeks to which the quarterly returns relate.

A summary of the information thus obtained in November, 1955, is given in the Table below. The figures of short-time and overtime relate only to those establishments which gave this information on their returns, and for this reason, together with the qualifications referred to above, the figures do not purport to show the total numbers on short-time or overtime in the week in question. The figures in the second column are estimates of the total numbers of operatives at all establishments from which returns were received, including those which reported no short-time or overtime working.

Operatives on Short-time or Overtime in week ended 26th November, 1955 (at establishments which rendered returns)

Table with 7 columns: Industry, Estimated total number of operatives covered by returns (000s), Operatives on Short-time (Number, Aggregate number of hours lost owing to short-time, Average number of hours lost), and Operatives (excluding maintenance workers) on Overtime (Number, Aggregate number of hours of overtime, Average number of hours of overtime worked). Rows include Treatment of Non-Metalliferous Mining Products, Metal Manufacture, Engineering and Electrical Goods, etc.

Unemployment at 12th December, 1955

SUMMARY FOR GREAT BRITAIN

The numbers of persons registered as unemployed at 14th November and 12th December, 1955, were as follows:—

Table with 5 columns: Men 18 and over, Boys under 18, Women 18 and over, Girls under 18, Total. Rows show 14th Nov., 12th Dec., and a decrease of 2,301.

It is estimated that the number of persons registered as unemployed at 12th December represented 1.0 per cent. of the total number of employees. This was the same percentage as at 14th November.

An analysis of the figures for 12th December according to duration of unemployment is given in the following Table:—

Table with 6 columns: Wholly Unemployed (including Casuals) and Temporarily Stopped, categorized by duration (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). Rows include Men 18 and over, Boys under 18, Girls under 18, and Total.

The total of 215,650 includes 38,474 married women.

The numbers of wholly unemployed persons in each Region at 12th December, 1955, analysed according to duration of unemployment, and also the numbers temporarily stopped, are given in the Table below. Separate figures are given for males and females. The changes, compared with 14th November, 1955, in the total numbers unemployed in each Region are shown in the first Table on the next page.

Table with 6 columns: Region, 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, Temporarily Stopped. Rows include London and South-Eastern, Eastern, Southern, etc.

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The following Table gives the numbers of persons registered as unemployed at 12th December, 1955, and the percentage rates of unemployment in each Region:—

Table with 6 columns: Region, Numbers of persons registered as unemployed at 12th December, 1955 (Males, Females, Total), and Percentage rate of unemployment* (Males, Females, Total). Rows include London and South-Eastern, Eastern, Southern, etc.

NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM: REGIONAL ANALYSIS

The total number of unemployed persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in the United Kingdom at 12th December, 1955, was 247,292, including 156,560 men, 5,515 boys, 80,203 women and 5,014 girls. Of the total, 236,462 (including 3,700 casual workers) were wholly unemployed and 10,830 temporarily stopped. The temporarily stopped are persons suspended from work on the understanding that they are shortly to return to their former employment.

The numbers of unemployed persons on the registers in each Region at 12th December, 1955, are shown below.

Table with 6 columns: Region, Men 18 years and over, Boys under 18 years, Women 18 years and over, Girls under 18 years, Total. Rows include London and South-Eastern, Eastern, Southern, etc.

* Number registered as unemployed expressed as percentage of the estimated total number of employees.

NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED IN THE PRINCIPAL TOWNS

The Table below shows the total numbers of unemployed persons on the registers of the Employment Exchanges and Youth Employment Offices in each Administrative Region of England, and in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland at 12th December, 1955, and the numbers of persons on the registers of the Exchanges and Offices situated in some of the principal towns in each Region, together with the increase or decrease compared with 14th November, 1955.

Table showing numbers of unemployed persons in principal towns across various regions like London and South-Eastern, Eastern, Southern, South-Western, Midland, North-Midland, East and West Ridings, North-Western, and Yorkshire.

Table showing numbers of persons on registers at 12th December, 1955, categorized by sex and age group (Men 18 and over, Boys under 18, Women 18 and over, Girls under 18, Total 15 and over).

NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED: 1939 to 1955

The Table below shows the annual average numbers registered as unemployed from 1939 to 1954, and monthly figures for 1955.

Table showing annual average numbers registered as unemployed from 1939 to 1954, and monthly figures for 1955, categorized by sex and age group.

DISABLED PERSONS (EMPLOYMENT) ACT

The number of persons registered under the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act, 1944, at 17th October, 1955 (the last date on which a count was taken), was 818,587, compared with 825,359 at 18th July, 1955.

The number of disabled persons on the Register who were unemployed at 19th December, 1955, was 37,686, of whom 32,181 were males and 5,505 were females. The total included 17,249 persons who had served in H.M. Forces, and 20,437 who had not served. An analysis of these figures is given in the Table below.

Table showing disabled persons classified as suitable for ordinary employment (Ex-Service, Others) and severely disabled persons, categorized by sex and total.

The numbers of unemployed registered disabled persons given above include 160 men and 37 women registered at Appointments Offices.

* These persons are excluded from the statistics of unemployed persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges given in the preceding Tables.

DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND AGE OF UNEMPLOYED

The following Table gives an analysis, according to (a) age and (b) the length of the current spell of registered unemployment, of the number of wholly unemployed persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges and Youth Employment Offices in Great Britain at 12th December, 1955. The analysis does not include persons temporarily stopped (4,194 males and 5,549 females) or unemployed casual workers (2,826 males and 288 females).

Table showing duration of unemployment in weeks and age groups (Under 18, 18 and under 20, 20 and under 40, 40 and under 55, 55 and over) for Males and Females.

Figures for the main age-groups and "duration" categories are given in the Table below for each Region and Development Area :-

Large table showing duration of unemployment in weeks and age groups for various regions (London and South-Eastern, Eastern, Southern, South-Western, Midland, North-Midland, East and West Ridings, North-Western, Northern, Scotland, Wales, Great Britain) and development areas (North-Eastern, South Wales and Monmouthshire, West Cumberland, South Lancashire, Merseyside, Wrexham, Scottish, North-East Lancashire).

NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED : INDUSTRIAL ANALYSIS

The statistics given below show, industry by industry, the numbers of persons who were registered as unemployed in Great Britain and in the United Kingdom, respectively, at 12th December, 1955. For Great Britain the wholly unemployed (i.e., persons out of a situation) are distinguished from those temporarily stopped (i.e.,

persons suspended from work on the understanding that they were shortly to return to their former employment).

The industrial analysis is based on the Standard Industrial Classification. The figures for each industry represent the numbers whose last employment was in that industry.

Industry	Great Britain							United Kingdom (all classes)		
	Wholly unemployed (including casuals)		Temporarily stopped		Total			Males	Females	Total
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Total			
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing	8,079	2,506	1,076	370	9,155	2,876	12,031	14,874	3,067	17,941
Agriculture and Horticulture	5,231	2,467	157	369	5,388	2,836	8,224	10,930	3,027	13,957
Forestry	256	36	7	—	263	36	299	304	36	340
Fishing	2,592	3	912	1	3,504	4	3,508	3,640	4	3,644
Mining and Quarrying	1,236	191	8	21	1,244	212	1,456	1,676	217	1,893
Coal Mining*	750	150	8	1	758	151	909	767	151	918
Iron Ore Mining and Quarrying	19	—	—	—	19	—	19	23	—	23
Stone Quarrying and Mining	234	6	—	—	240	6	246	255	9	264
Slate Quarrying and Mining	42	—	—	—	42	—	42	45	—	45
Clay, Sand, Gravel and Chalk Pits	108	6	—	—	114	6	120	114	6	120
Other Mining and Quarrying	83	29	—	20	83	49	132	85	51	136
Treatment of Non-Metalliferous Mining Products other than Coal	1,924	758	248	753	2,172	1,511	3,683	2,414	1,523	3,937
Bricks and Fireclay Goods	536	143	1	—	537	144	681	603	144	747
China and Earthenware (inc. glazed tiles)	260	223	206	750	466	973	1,439	487	975	1,462
Glass (other than containers)	218	179	—	—	218	180	398	225	187	412
Glass Containers	210	119	5	1	215	120	335	218	120	338
Cement	31	2	—	—	31	2	33	40	3	43
Other Non-Metalliferous Mining Manufactures	669	92	36	—	705	92	797	841	94	935
Chemicals and Allied Trades	1,819	1,237	8	5	1,827	1,242	3,069	1,927	1,267	3,194
Coke Ovens and By-Product Works	78	1	—	—	79	1	80	78	1	79
Chemicals and Dyes	808	315	8	1	816	316	1,132	890	321	1,211
Pharmaceutical Preparations, Toilet Preparations, Perfumery	69	207	—	—	69	207	276	71	211	282
Explosives and Fireworks	305	363	—	—	305	363	668	306	363	669
Paint and Varnish	157	59	—	—	157	61	218	161	61	222
Soap, Candles, Glycerine, Polishes, Ink and Matches	92	230	—	2	94	232	326	98	247	345
Mineral Oil Refining	150	20	—	—	150	20	170	157	21	178
Other Oils, Greases, Glue, etc.	160	42	—	—	160	42	202	166	42	208
Metal Manufacture	2,175	409	41	3	2,216	412	2,628	2,345	416	2,761
Blast Furnaces	67	5	—	—	67	5	72	78	5	83
Iron and Steel Melting, Rolling, etc., not elsewhere specified	707	109	2	1	709	110	819	769	111	880
Iron Foundries	665	165	22	—	687	165	852	719	167	886
Tinplate Manufacture	53	21	5	2	58	23	81	61	23	84
Steel Sheet Manufacture	50	9	11	—	61	9	70	61	10	71
Iron and Steel Tubes (inc. melting and rolling in integrated works)	199	28	—	—	199	28	227	206	28	234
Non-Ferrous Metals Smelting, Rolling, etc.	434	72	1	—	435	72	507	451	72	523
Engineering, Shipbuilding and Electrical Goods	10,877	3,252	282	49	11,159	3,301	14,460	12,070	3,427	15,497
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing	4,172	188	206	3	4,378	191	4,569	4,706	200	4,906
Marine Engineering	355	43	—	—	355	43	398	371	43	414
Agricultural Machinery (exc. tractors)	136	35	1	—	137	35	172	147	35	182
Boilers and Boilerhouse Plant	82	7	—	—	82	7	89	7	98	88
Machine Tools and Engineers' Small Tools	201	58	—	—	201	58	259	207	59	266
Stationary Engines	42	8	—	—	42	8	50	53	10	63
Textile Machinery and Accessories	224	65	23	20	247	85	332	246	115	461
Ordnance and Small Arms	733	117	—	—	733	118	333	222	118	340
Constructional Engineering	15	2	1	—	15	4	19	15	4	19
Other Non-Electrical Engineering	3,083	891	49	9	3,132	900	4,032	3,406	920	4,326
Electrical Machinery	309	237	—	—	309	237	546	323	240	563
Electrical Wires and Cables	165	117	—	—	165	117	282	173	119	292
Telegraph and Telephone Apparatus	103	204	—	—	103	204	307	110	207	317
Wireless Apparatus (exc. valves) and Gramophones	576	516	—	—	576	518	1,094	663	551	1,214
Wireless Valves and Electric Lamps	65	173	—	—	65	174	239	67	175	242
Batteries and Accumulators	61	128	—	—	61	129	190	63	132	195
Other Electrical Goods	355	424	1	12	356	436	792	370	454	824
Vehicles	3,147	795	10	9	3,157	804	3,961	3,546	887	4,433
Manufacture of Motor Vehicles and Cycles	812	175	6	1	818	176	994	878	181	1,059
Motor Repairers and Garages	1,262	218	—	—	1,262	219	1,483	1,449	235	1,684
Manufacture and Repair of Aircraft	423	157	2	—	425	157	582	529	183	712
Manufacture of Parts and Accessories for Motor Vehicles and Aircraft	305	202	7	—	305	209	514	327	212	539
Locomotive Manufacture	157	11	—	—	157	11	168	162	12	174
Manufacture and Repair of Railway Carriages and Wagons and Trams	145	7	—	—	145	7	152	146	7	153
Carts, Perambulators, etc.	43	25	—	—	43	25	68	55	57	112
Metal Goods not Elsewhere Specified	1,854	1,257	32	137	1,886	1,394	3,280	1,986	1,428	3,414
Tools and Cutlery	116	74	5	—	121	74	195	126	77	203
Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Rivets, Nails, etc.	105	127	1	1	106	128	234	111	128	239
Iron and Steel Forgings not elsewhere specified	125	16	—	—	125	16	143	147	16	163
Wire and Wire Manufactures	147	86	—	—	147	86	233	149	87	236
Hollow-ware	179	273	2	12	181	285	466	183	293	476
Brass Manufactures	109	83	—	—	109	83	192	116	83	199
Metal Industries not elsewhere specified	1,073	598	22	124	1,095	722	1,817	1,154	744	1,898
Precision Instruments, Jewellery, etc.	309	335	3	12	312	347	659	328	373	701
Scientific, Surgical and Photographic Instruments, etc.	164	164	1	—	165	164	329	172	182	354
Manufacture and Repair of Watches and Clocks	71	111	1	1	72	112	184	79	112	195
Jewellery, Plate and Refining of Precious Metals	36	53	1	11	37	64	101	37	68	105
Musical Instruments	38	7	—	—	38	7	45	40	7	47
Textiles	2,447	3,595	766	2,381	3,213	5,976	9,189	4,187	7,842	12,029
Cotton Spinning, Doubling, etc.	370	540	265	991	635	1,531	2,166	654	1,540	2,194
Cotton Weaving, etc.	218	624	238	790	456	1,414	1,870	462	1,422	1,884
Woolen and Worsted	393	412	52	140	445	552	997	471	589	1,060
Rayon, Nylon, etc., Production	73	51	43	—	116	51	167	143	76	219
Rayon, Nylon, etc., Weaving and Silk	108	184	24	102	132	286	418	152	303	455
Linon and Soft Hemp	74	163	—	44	74	207	281	663	1,475	2,138
Jute	382	166	—	—	382	166	548	382	170	552
Rope, Twine and Net	67	231	1	—	68	269	337	96	380	476
Hosiery and other Knitted Goods	117	369	27	186	144	555	699	171	605	776
Lace	16	27	—	—	16	30	48	31	41	72
Carpets	58	137	9	—	67	146	213	82	182	264
Narrow Fabrics	23	69	—	—	23	70	93	23	81	104
Made-up Textiles	95	267	—	—	95	282	377	118	498	616
Textile Finishing, etc.	339	261	104	62	443	323	766	621	386	1,007
Other Textile Industries	114	94	—	—	114	94	209	118	94	212

* The figures for coal mining exclude all the unemployed who, although previously employed in coal mining, are known to be unfit for employment in that industry. These men are included with "Other persons not classified by industry" on the next page. The total of 758 males unemployed includes 298 men registered for underground work.

Numbers Unemployed : Industrial Analysis—continued

Industry	Great Britain										United Kingdom (all classes)		
	Wholly unemployed (including casuals)		Temporarily stopped		Total			Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Total						
Leather, Leather Goods and Fur	265	218	51	17	316	235	551	325	241	566			
Leather (Tanning and Dressing) and Fellmongery	172	77	31	11	203	88	291	206	91	297			
Leather Goods	67	120	2	1	69	121	190	75	124	199			
Fur	26	21	18	5	44	26	70	44	26	70			
Clothing	1,563	2,443	611	750	2,174	3,193	5,367	2,390	4,443	6,833			
Tailoring	911	1,310	447	519	1,358	1,829	3,187	1,430	1,980	3,410			
Dressmaking	70	409	12	50	82	459	541	87	541	619			
Overalls, Shirts, Underwear, etc.	32	289	—	13	32	302	334	61	694	755			
Hats, Caps and Millinery	38	52	112	112	150	164	314	166	170	336			
Dress Industries not elsewhere specified	53	161	1	12	54	173	227	80	784	864			
Manufacture of Boots, Shoes, Slippers and Clogs (exc. rubber)	173	200	20	44	193	244	437	205	261	466			
Repair of Boots and Shoes	286	22	19	—	305	22	327	361	22	383			
Food, Drink and Tobacco	4,963	5,227	24	249	4,987	5,476	10,463	5,638	6,274	11,912			
Grain Milling	191	64	2	—	193	64	257	237	68	305			
Bread and Flour Confectionery	1,313	906	2	11	1,315	917	2,232	1,482	998	2,480			
Biscuits	247	462	2	10	249	472	721	259	506	765			
Meat and Meat Products	193	199	5	—	198	199	397	279	210				

Placing Work of the Employment Exchanges

The Table below shows for the four-week periods ended 19th October and 16th November, 1955, the numbers of vacancies filled by the Employment Exchanges of the Ministry of Labour and National Service in Great Britain, together with the numbers remaining unfilled at the end of each period. The figures include placings, etc., by the Youth Employment Offices of certain Local Authorities.

	Four weeks ended 19th October, 1955		Four weeks ended 16th November, 1955		Total Number of Placings, 16th Dec., 1954, to 16th Nov., 1955 (48 weeks)
	Placings	Vacancies Unfilled	Placings	Vacancies Unfilled	
Men aged 18 and over ..	143,521	170,273	133,698	163,926	1,671,242
Boys under 18 ..	13,237	55,232	10,651	55,751	208,416
Women aged 18 and over ..	76,133	106,616	69,313	98,159	799,534
Girls under 18 ..	12,385	69,295	10,279	70,587	209,227
Total ..	245,276	401,416	223,941	388,423	2,888,419

The figures of vacancies filled relate only to those vacancies which were filled by applicants submitted by Employment Exchanges, i.e., they do not include engagements of workpeople by employers that were made without the assistance of Employment Exchanges. The figures are therefore not comparable with the percentage rates of engagements given in the "Labour Turnover" Table on the next page, which relate to engagements of all kinds during the period in question.

The figures of vacancies unfilled represent the numbers of

Industry Group	Placings during four weeks ended 16th November, 1955					Number of notified Vacancies remaining unfilled at 16th November, 1955				
	Men 18 and over	Boys under 18	Women 18 and over	Girls under 18	Total	Men 18 and over	Boys under 18	Women 18 and over	Girls under 18	Total
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing	1,424	355	2,247	60	4,086	16,683	1,799	304	275	19,061
Mining and Quarrying ..	1,452	416	39	8	1,915	5,612	1,367	28	54	7,061
Coal Mining ..	927	395	17	5	1,344	4,762	1,251	13	13	6,039
Treatment of Non-Metalliferous Mining Products other than Coal ..	3,796	297	858	95	5,046	2,597	1,459	1,438	1,387	6,881
Chemicals and Allied Trades ..	4,623	159	541	186	5,298	3,475	640	1,327	1,234	6,676
Metal Manufacture ..	6,827	374	1,321	186	8,628	5,473	1,389	490	377	7,729
Engineering, Shipbuilding and Electrical Goods ..	18,193	1,200	6,297	81	26,362	21,902	5,801	7,102	3,229	38,034
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing ..	4,582	190	161	10	4,943	2,689	248	46	24	3,007
Engineering ..	10,393	825	2,670	342	14,230	15,441	4,709	2,548	2,102	24,800
Electrical Goods ..	3,218	185	3,466	320	7,189	3,772	844	4,508	1,103	10,227
Vehicles ..	9,082	575	1,788	191	11,636	15,121	2,567	2,215	1,050	20,953
Metal Goods not Elsewhere Specified ..	434	273	2,599	273	7,929	3,724	2,420	2,934	2,147	11,225
Precision Instruments, Jewellery, etc. ..	650	89	597	110	1,446	1,251	873	757	857	3,738
Textiles ..	3,798	368	3,729	871	8,766	2,864	8,674	7,190	21,284	31,788
Cotton ..	793	80	1,044	141	2,058	670	869	2,739	1,878	6,156
Wool ..	958	63	675	169	1,865	652	906	2,463	1,714	5,735
Leather, Leather Goods and Fur ..	354	78	235	70	737	348	515	732	800	2,395
Clothing (including Footwear) ..	847	166	3,305	856	5,174	1,330	2,327	14,498	10,322	28,477
Food, Drink and Tobacco ..	5,905	613	7,162	896	14,576	2,370	3,663	3,123	10,880	18,880
Manufactures of Wood and Cork ..	2,662	583	771	147	4,163	2,319	2,272	918	1,029	6,538
Paper and Printing ..	1,414	201	1,422	424	3,461	1,379	1,337	1,789	3,565	8,070
Paper, Paper and Cardboard Goods ..	1,079	90	850	219	2,238	599	391	1,060	1,311	3,361
Printing ..	335	111	572	205	1,223	780	946	729	2,254	4,709
Other Manufacturing Industries ..	2,814	237	1,861	296	5,208	1,308	657	1,607	1,195	4,767
Building and Contracting ..	34,804	1,276	265	88	36,433	23,812	4,465	308	543	29,128
Building ..	23,666	972	168	47	24,853	17,600	3,471	171	354	21,596
Gas, Electricity and Water ..	3,403	48	115	23	3,589	2,305	407	148	147	3,007
Transport and Communication ..	7,992	506	1,611	271	10,380	26,842	3,402	2,977	992	34,213
Distributive Trades ..	8,588	1,825	11,607	2,915	24,935	7,519	12,357	12,864	4,332	51,283
Insurance, Banking and Finance ..	395	74	437	191	1,097	934	704	929	829	1,765
Public Administration ..	4,718	203	1,684	210	6,815	9,140	664	2,531	1,795	13,164
National Government Service ..	1,870	78	1,179	123	3,250	4,976	187	1,657	475	7,295
Local Government Service ..	2,848	125	505	87	3,565	4,164	477	874	354	5,869
Professional Services ..	1,393	127	3,833	399	5,752	2,346	1,862	7,026	3,632	14,866
Miscellaneous Services ..	4,932	447	14,989	946	21,314	3,580	1,879	22,900	6,302	34,661
Entertainments, Sports, etc. ..	466	81	575	66	1,188	413	450	777	313	1,955
Catering ..	3,488	112	9,833	244	13,677	1,764	528	10,706	1,364	14,362
Laundries, Dry Cleaning, etc. ..	436	162	1,273	286	2,157	273	358	2,234	1,682	4,547
Grand Total ..	133,698	10,651	69,313	10,279	223,941	163,926	55,751	98,159	70,587	388,423

The following Table gives a Regional analysis of the numbers of vacancies filled during the four weeks ended 16th November, 1955, and of the numbers of notified vacancies remaining unfilled at the end of the period :-

Region	Men 18 and over		Boys under 18		Women 18 and over		Girls under 18		Total	
	Placings	Vacancies Unfilled	Placings	Vacancies Unfilled	Placings	Vacancies Unfilled	Placings	Vacancies Unfilled	Placings	Vacancies Unfilled
London and South-Eastern ..	31,994	37,104	2,686	15,250	19,284	38,331	2,088	22,409	56,052	113,094
Eastern ..	7,690	12,209	596	3,737	3,970	6,350	575	4,323	12,831	26,619
Southern ..	6,533	12,705	461	2,535	3,203	4,410	595	2,492	10,792	22,142
South-Western ..	6,976	12,046	451	2,152	3,100	3,610	530	2,659	11,057	20,467
Midland ..	14,877	23,912	609	8,777	5,672	10,055	607	8,104	21,765	50,848
North-Midland ..	9,310	15,772	442	5,767	4,035	6,437	489	6,550	14,276	34,526
East and West Ridings ..	11,117	12,445	442	6,358	5,686	7,456	562	7,846	17,960	34,105
North-Western ..	19,431	15,539	1,502	5,988	10,681	13,150	1,217	8,074	32,831	42,751
Northern ..	7,883	7,008	763	1,545	3,760	2,531	907	2,352	13,313	13,436
Scotland ..	12,370	7,871	1,947	2,327	7,212	4,221	2,106	4,551	23,635	18,970
Wales ..	5,517	7,315	599	1,315	2,710	1,608	603	1,227	9,429	11,465
Great Britain ..	133,698	163,926	10,651	55,751	69,313	98,159	10,279	70,587	223,941	388,423

vacancies notified by employers to Employment Exchanges and remaining unfilled at the specified dates. They do not purport to represent the total number of vacancies which require to be filled, and they probably fall short of the total number for several reasons. In the first place, vacancies in employments which are excepted from the provisions of the Notification of Vacancies Order, 1952, may be filled by direct engagement of workpeople without notifying the Employment Exchanges. Secondly, employers who do use the Employment Exchange system may, in certain circumstances (e.g., when they require large numbers of additional workpeople, or where labour of the kind they require is scarce), have a "Standing Order" with the Employment Exchange to submit all suitable applicants to them without "notifying" any specific number of vacancies, and the vacancies remaining unfilled in such cases will not be included in the figures. Nevertheless, comparison of the figures for various dates provides some indication of the change in the demand for labour.

The next Table shows the numbers of vacancies filled during the four weeks ended 16th November, 1955, in each of the industry "Orders" of the Standard Industrial Classification and in certain selected industries within the Orders, together with the number of vacancies remaining unfilled at 16th November, 1955.

Of the total of 143,521 men placed in employment during the four weeks ended 19th October, 1955, 27,932 (19.5 per cent.) were aged 40 and over, of whom 1,473 were aged 65 and over. Among the 76,133 women placed in employment during the same period 16,480 (21.7 per cent.) were aged 40 and over, of whom 966 were aged 60 and over.

Labour Turnover

The Table below shows labour turnover rates (per 100 employees) in the manufacturing industries during the five-week period ended 29th October, 1955, with separate figures for males and females. The figures are based on information given by employers with more than 10 employees on returns which they render every month to the Ministry of Labour and National Service. Each return shows the numbers of males and females on the pay-roll at the date of the return and also at the date of the previous return, and an additional item shows the numbers on the pay-roll at the later of the two dates who were not on the pay-roll at the earlier date. The figures in the last item are adopted as representing engagements during the period, and the figures of discharges and other losses are obtained by adding the numbers engaged during the period to the numbers on the pay-roll at the beginning of the period and deducting from the figures thus obtained the numbers on the pay-roll at the end of the period. It must be borne in mind, however, that the figures of engagements obtained in the way indicated above do not

include persons engaged during the period who were discharged or otherwise left their employment before the end of the same period, and the percentage rates both of engagements and of discharges, etc., in the Table below accordingly understate, to some extent, the total intake and wastage during the period. In spite of this limitation, however, the figures enable comparisons to be made between the turnover rates of different industries and also between the figures for consecutive months for the same industry, in the latter case after allowance is made for any difference in the length of period covered.

It is also important to note that the figures for any industry represent the aggregated totals of the numbers engaged and discharged by all firms rendering returns in the industry. Some of the persons who were discharged or left their employment during the period were probably engaged by other firms in the same industry, and the net numbers of engagements and losses of an industry, considered as one unit, will be less in every case than the sum of the figures for the individual firms.

Labour Turnover Rates in Manufacturing Industries: 5 weeks* ended 29th October, 1955

Industry	Number of Engagements per 100 employed at beginning of period			Number of Discharges and other Losses per 100 employed at beginning of period		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Treatment of Non-Metalliferous Mining Products other than Coal ..	3.8	4.4	3.9	3.5	4.4	3.7
Bricks and Fireclay Goods ..	3.3	4.0	3.3	3.3	3.9	3.4
China and Earthenware (including Glazed Tiles) ..	3.5	3.8	3.7	2.9	4.3	3.7
Glass (other than Containers) ..	3.6	5.4	4.1	2.6	4.0	3.0
Glass Containers ..	5.2	5.6	5.3	4.7	6.1	5.0
Cement ..	1.8	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.7
Other Non-Metalliferous Mining Manufactures ..	4.6	5.1	4.7	4.3	4.9	4.4
Chemicals and Allied Trades ..	2.7	4.3	3.1	2.3	3.7	2.7
Coke Ovens and By-Product Works ..	2.5	1.3	2.5	2.1	1.0	2.1
Chemicals and Dyes ..	2.9	3.5	3.0	2.4	3.1	2.5
Pharmaceutical Preparations, etc. ..	3.0	5.2	4.3	2.7	4.3	3.6
Explosives and Fireworks ..	1.6	2.8	2.1	1.7	2.9	2.1
Paint and Varnish ..	3.0	4.8	3.5	3.3	4.1	3.6
Soap, Candles, Polishes, etc. ..	2.8	5.0	3.7	2.4	4.5	3.3
Mineral Oil Refining ..	1.8	3.5	2.0	1.1	2.0	1.2
Other Oils, Greases, Glue, etc. ..	3.1	5.6	3.6	2.9	3.5	3.1
Metal Manufacture ..	3.2	3.7	3.2	2.5	3.4	2.6
Blast Furnaces ..	2.1	1.0	2.1	2.2	1.5	2.2
Iron and Steel Melting, Rolling, etc. ..	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.0	2.7	2.1
Iron Foundries ..	3.7	3.9	3.8	3.0	3.9	3.1
Tinplate Manufacture ..	2.4	3.5	2.5	1.2	3.9	1.5
Steel Sheet Manufacture ..	2.1	2.8	2.1	1.6	2.2	1.6
Iron and Steel Tubes ..	4.0	3.1	3.9	3.2	3.1	3.2
Non-Ferrous Metals Smelting, etc. ..	4.1	4.9	4.2	3.3	3.7	3.4
Engineering and Electrical Goods ..	3.1	5.4	3.7	2.7	4.5	3.2
Marine Engineering ..	2.5	2.1	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.5
Agricultural Machinery ..	2.8	5.2	3.1	2.5	4.4	2.7
Boilers and Boilerhouse Plant ..	2.7	2.9	2.7	2.6	2.2	2.5
Machine Tools and Engineers' Small Tools ..	3.0	4.6	3.2	2.3	3.6	2.5
Stationary Engines ..	2.9	4.1	3.1	2.2	3.4	2.4
Textile Machinery and Accessories ..	2.2	2.6	2.2	3.4	3.9	3.4
Ordnance and Small Arms ..	2.0	4.2	2.4	1.6	3.0	1.9
Constructional Engineering ..	3.3	3.5	3.3	3.6	3.6	3.6
Other Non-Electrical Engineering ..	3.1	4.7	3.4	2.7	3.8	2.9
Electrical Machinery ..	2.9	4.4	3.3	2.5	3.8	2.9
Electrical Wires and Cables ..	3.8	4.8	4.1	3.3	4.5	3.7
Telegraph and Telephone Apparatus ..	2.7	4.9	3.5	2.1	3.3	2.5
Wireless Apparatus ..	4.6	7.8	6.1	3.5	6.3	4.9
Wireless Valves and Electric Lamps ..	4.1	5.9	5.1	3.1	4.5	3.9
Batteries and Accumulators ..	3.7	9.6	6.2	2.9	9.4	5.7
Other Electrical Goods ..	4.1	5.7	4.8	3.1	4.9	3.9
Vehicles ..	2.9	4.4	3.1	2.4	3.7	2.6
Manufacture of Motor Vehicles, etc. ..	3.1	4.1	3.			

Employment in the Coal Mining Industry in November

The statistics given below in respect of employment, etc., in the coal mining industry in November have been compiled by the Ministry of Fuel and Power from information provided by the National Coal Board.

The average weekly number of wage-earners on the colliery books in Great Britain during the four weeks ended 26th November was 699,200, the same figure as for the four weeks ended 29th October, compared with 704,300 for the four weeks ended 27th November, 1954. The total numbers who were effectively employed* were 634,000 in November, 629,800 in October, and 639,600 in November, 1954; 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 Divisions in November, together with the increase or decrease† in each case compared with October, 1955, and November, 1954. The figures for the latest month are provisional and figures for earlier months have been revised, where necessary.

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

Division†	Average numbers of wage-earners on colliery books during 4 weeks ended 26th November, 1955	Increase (+) or decrease (-) compared with the average for	
		4 weeks ended 29th October, 1955	4 weeks ended 27th November, 1954
Northern (Northumberland and Cumberland)	47,100	+ 100	+ 300
Durham	101,800	.. ..	+ 100
North Eastern	138,100	- 100	- 1,500
North Western	58,500	+ 100	- 500
East Midlands	101,400	- 200	+ 400
West Midlands	56,500	- 100	- 1,600
South Western	105,400	.. ..	+ 2,900
South Eastern	6,800	.. ..	+ 200
England and Wales	615,600	- 200	- 5,500
Scotland	83,600	+ 200	+ 400
Great Britain	699,200	.. ..	- 5,100

It is provisionally estimated that, during the four weeks of November, about 4,780 persons were recruited to the industry, while the total number of persons who left the industry was about 4,450; the numbers on the colliery books thus showed a net increase of 330. During the four weeks of October there was a net decrease of 1,040.

The average number of shifts worked per week by coal-face workers who were effectively employed was 5.00 in November, 4.96 in October, and 5.03 in November, 1954. The corresponding figures for all workers who were effectively employed were 5.50, 5.46 and 5.50.

Information is given in the Table below regarding absenteeism in the coal mining industry in November and in October, 1955, and November, 1954. 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 represent the numbers of non-appearances, expressed as percentages of the total numbers of possible appearances.

Absence Percentage (five-day week)

	November, 1955	October, 1955	November, 1954
Coal-face Workers:			
Voluntary	4.97	5.36	4.98
Involuntary	9.35	9.91	9.14
All workers:			
Voluntary	3.79	4.08	3.83
Involuntary	8.48	8.83	8.34

For face-workers the output per man-shift worked was 3.34 tons in November, compared with 3.33 tons in the previous month and 3.29 tons in November, 1954.

The output per man-shift calculated on the basis of all workers was 1.26 tons in November; for each of the months October, 1955, and November, 1954, the figure was 1.25 tons.

* Excluding wage-earners employed at mines not operated by the National Coal Board. These number approximately 5,400.
† "No change" is indicated by three dots.
‡ The divisions shown conform to the organisation of the National Coal Board.

Unemployment Benefit and National Assistance

Unemployment Benefit

For the period of thirteen weeks ended 24th December, 1955, expenditure on unemployment benefit in Great Britain (excluding the cost of administration) amounted to approximately £3,753,000. During the thirteen weeks ended 24th September, 1955, the corresponding figure was £3,013,000, and during the thirteen weeks ended 25th December, 1954, it was £3,576,000.

National Assistance

Local Offices of the Ministry of Labour and National Service undertake the payment of national assistance to persons who are required to register for employment and are entitled to national assistance. The amount of national assistance thus paid during the fourteen weeks ended 31st December, 1955, was £1,844,000. The corresponding amount paid during the thirteen weeks ended 24th September, 1955, was £1,530,000, and during the thirteen weeks ended 25th December, 1954, it was £2,106,000.

Comparison of the figures for the two most recent quarters with those for the earlier quarters is affected by the increase in the scale rates which came into force on 7th February, 1955, and adjustments resulting from increases in national insurance benefits at various dates in April and May, 1955 (see the issues of this GAZETTE for January and February, 1955, pages 12 and 48).

Insured Persons Absent from Work owing to Sickness or Industrial Injury

The Table below shows the numbers of insured persons in the various Regions of England, in Scotland and Wales, and in Great Britain as a whole, who were absent from work owing to sickness or industrial injury on 20th December, 1955, and the corresponding figures for 22nd November, 1955, and 21st December, 1954. The statistics have been compiled by the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance from claims to sickness or industrial injury benefit under the National Insurance Acts, and the National Insurance (Industrial Injuries) Acts, respectively. The principal groups of persons who do not claim these benefits in respect of their incapacity (and who are therefore excluded from the statistics) are (i) a large proportion of those whose incapacity lasts less than four days, (ii) civil servants receiving full pay during incapacity, and (iii) for sickness benefit only, married women who have chosen not to pay contributions under the main National Insurance scheme.

A relatively small number of claims do not result in the payment of benefit, but, because they indicate certified incapacity for work, such claims are included in the Table. Injury benefit is payable in respect of both industrial accidents and prescribed industrial diseases.

Region	Thousands					
	Numbers of Insured Persons Absent from Work owing to					
	Sickness			Industrial Injury		
	20th Dec., 1955	22nd Nov., 1955	21st Dec., 1954	20th Dec., 1955	22nd Nov., 1955	21st Dec., 1954
London and S. Eastern:						
London and Middlesex	85.9	91.9	88.7	3.5	3.7	3.7
Remainder	71.8	74.6	73.1	3.3	3.5	3.4
Eastern	41.6	43.4	43.6	2.0	2.2	1.9
Southern	34.1	35.0	35.0	1.6	1.6	1.6
South-Western	48.7	49.9	51.3	2.1	2.4	2.2
Midland	73.7	78.2	78.4	4.1	4.4	4.2
North-Midland	50.5	54.5	57.1	4.7	5.3	4.6
North-Western	77.7	82.8	86.3	7.0	8.0	7.2
East and West Ridings	142.4	153.2	156.2	7.0	7.5	6.5
Northern	61.6	65.7	67.6	6.2	7.7	6.6
Scotland	111.0	117.9	119.5	7.5	8.0	7.1
Wales	61.9	63.3	61.9	6.3	6.7	6.1
Total, Great Britain	860.9	910.4	918.7	55.3	60.9	55.1

The proportion of males included in the total (Great Britain) figures of persons absent from work owing to sickness remains fairly constant at between 65 and 66 per cent., except in epidemic periods, when it may rise to about 69 per cent. In the totals for industrial injury the proportion remains constant throughout the year at about 88 per cent.

The total number of persons shown in the Table above as absent owing to sickness represented 4.3 per cent. of the total number of insured persons. The corresponding figure for absences due to industrial injury was 0.3 per cent.

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 121, compared with 115 in the previous month and 120 in December, 1954. In the case of seamen employed in ships registered in the United Kingdom, 4 fatal accidents were reported in December, compared with 10 in the previous month and 43 in December, 1954. Detailed figures for separate industries are given below for December, 1955.

Mines and Quarries†

Under Coal Mines Act :	
Underground	39
Surface	6
Quarries	4
Metalliferous Mines ..	1
TOTAL, MINES & QUARRIES	50

Factories

Clay, Stone, Cement, Pottery and Glass	3
Chemicals, Oils, Soap, etc. ..	3
Metal Extracting and Refining	3
Metal Conversion and Founding (including Rolling Mills and Tube Making)	2
Engineering, Locomotive Building, Boilermaking, etc.	3
Railway and Tramway Carriages, Motor and Other Vehicles and Aircraft Manufacture ..	1
Shipbuilding	4
Other Metal Trades	4
Cotton	1
Wool, Worsted, Shoddy ..	1
Textile Printing, Bleaching and Dyeing	1
Tanning, Currying, etc. ..	1
Food and Drink	4
General Woodwork and Furniture	4
Paper, Printing, etc.	1
Rubber Trades .. ..	..

WORKS AND PLACES UNDER ss. 105, 107, 108, FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Electrical Stations .. ..	..
Docks, Wharves, Quays and Ships	9
Building Operations	13
Works of Engineering .. ..	..
Construction	3
Warehouses .. ..	..
TOTAL, FACTORIES ACT ..	60

Railway Service

Brakemen, Goods Guards ..	..
Engine Drivers, Motor-men	1
Permanent Way Men	5
Porters	1
Shunters	1
Other Grades	2
Contractors' Servants ..	1
TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE	11

Total (excluding Seamen) 121

Seamen

Trading Vessels	2
Fishing Vessels	2
TOTAL, SEAMEN	4
Total (including Seamen)	125

Industrial Diseases

The number of cases and deaths‡ in the United Kingdom reported during December* under the Factories Act, 1937, or the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, 1926, are shown below.

I. Cases

Lead Poisoning

Operatives engaged in :	
Smelting of Metals	1
Shipbreaking	1
Other contact with Molten Lead	1
Paint used in Other Industries	2
Printing	1
Paint and Colour Works ..	1
Other Industries	3
TOTAL	10

Carbon Bisulphide Poisoning 1

Anthrax

Wool	1
Other Industries .. ..	..
TOTAL	1

I. Cases—continued

Epitheliomatous Ulceration (Skin Cancer)

Pitch and Tar	13
Mineral Oil	8
TOTAL	21

Chrome Ulceration

Manuf. of Bichromates	10
Chromium Plating	13
Dyeing and Finishing	3
Other Industries	3
TOTAL	26

Total, Cases .. 59

II. Deaths

Epitheliomatous Ulceration (Skin Cancer)

Pitch and Tar .. ..	..
Mineral Oil	4
TOTAL	4

Industrial Rehabilitation

The statistics of training at Industrial Rehabilitation Units given below relate to the four weeks ended 12th December, 1955.

	Men	Women	Total
Persons admitted to courses during period ..	605	134	739
Persons in attendance at courses at end of period ..	1,193	230	1,423
Persons who completed courses during period ..	578	92	670

* See page 7 for figures for the whole year 1955.
† For mines and quarries, weekly returns are obtained and the figures cover the 5 weeks ended 31st December, 1955.
‡ Deaths comprise all fatal cases reported during the month; they have also been included (as cases) in the same or previous returns.

Work of Appointments Services

The particulars given below relate to the work of the Appointments Services of the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

Technical and Scientific Register

The Technical and Scientific Register operates centrally on a national basis from Almack House, 26-28 King Street, St. James's Square, London, S.W.1 (Telephone number, Whitehall 6200), but it also has a representative at the Scottish Appointments Office, 450 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, C.2 (Telephone number, Glasgow Douglas 7161).

The Register, which is assisted by Advisory Committees composed of members of the professions concerned, provides a placing and advisory service for physicists, mathematicians, chemists (other than pharmacists), metallurgists, agriculturists, biologists and other scientists, professional engineers, architects, surveyors, town planners, estate agents and valuers. The qualification for enrolment is in general a university degree or membership of the appropriate professional institution. A register of vacancies is maintained, which includes a wide range of overseas vacancies.

The total number of persons enrolled on the Technical and Scientific Register at 12th December was 3,314*; this figure included 2,445 registrants who were already in work but desired a change of employment, and 869 registrants who were unemployed.

The numbers of vacancies notified, filled, etc., between 15th November and 12th December (4 weeks) are shown below.

Vacancies outstanding at 15th November	5,090
,, notified during period	686
,, filled during period	184
,, cancelled or withdrawn	511
,, unfilled at 12th December	5,081

Appointments Register

The Appointments Register is concerned with the placing of other professional workers and persons with administrative, managerial or senior executive experience or qualifications. The registers are maintained at three offices: the London Appointments Office, which serves the South of England and the Midlands and South Wales; the Northern Appointments Office in Manchester, which serves the North of England broadly as far as the southern borders of Yorkshire and Cheshire, and North Wales; and the Scottish Appointments Office in Glasgow, which covers the whole of Scotland.

The total number of persons on the registers of the Appointments Offices at 12th December was 13,225†, consisting of 12,054 men and 1,171 women. The registrants included 4,851 men and 521 women who were wholly unemployed. The remaining 7,203 men and 650 women were, at the time of their registration, in employment but requiring other posts; in the majority of cases the employment was of a temporary nature or was unsuitable having regard to their qualifications and experience or the personal circumstances of the registrant.

The following Table shows the numbers‡ of registrations at each of the Offices:—

Appointments Office	Wholly Unemployed		In Employment		Total
	Men	Women	Men	Women	
London	3,674	397	4,466	464	9,001
Northern	802	79	1,916	100	2,897
Scottish	375	45	821	86	1,327
Total	4,851	521	7,203	650	13,225

During the period 15th November to 12th December, 1955, there were new registrations by 1,200 men and 150 women, and in the same period the registrations of 1,302 men and 212 women were withdrawn.

The Table below shows the numbers of vacancies (other than those for nurses and midwives) notified, filled, etc., between 15th November and 12th December.

	Men†	Women
Vacancies outstanding at 15th November	2,274	257
,, notified during period	647	56
,, cancelled or withdrawn during period	449	44
,, filled during period	267	22
,, unfilled at 12th December	2,205	247

* This figure includes 293 registrants who were also registered at Appointments Offices and 103 unemployed registrants who were also registered at Employment Exchanges.

† These figures include 1,547 persons who were also registered at Employment Exchanges for the purpose of claiming unemployment benefit but exclude 96 persons registered for overseas employment only. Registrations of nurses and midwives are also excluded.

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

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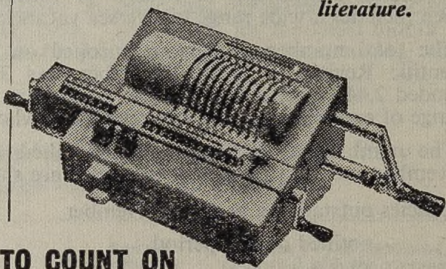
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Employment Overseas

AUSTRALIA

The Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics estimate that the total number of civilians in employment as wage and salary earners, other than those engaged in rural industries and private domestic service, was about 2,740,000 in August, 1955, an increase of 0.2 per cent. compared with the previous month and of 3.0 per cent. compared with August, 1954.

CANADA

Returns received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from employers in industries other than agriculture and private domestic service indicate that the total number of workpeople in employment at 1st September, 1955, in the establishments covered by the returns, was 1.7 per cent. higher than at the beginning of the previous month and 4.6 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1954. The number of persons employed in manufacturing industries at 1st September was 2.1 per cent. higher than at the beginning of the previous month and 5.1 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1954.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The number of civilians in employment as wage or salary earners in industries other than agriculture and domestic service in October, 1955, is estimated by the Department of Labor to have been approximately 50,393,000. This was 0.2 per cent. higher than the figure for the previous month, and 3.7 per cent. higher than for October, 1954. The index figure of wage-earners' employment in manufacturing industries (base 1947-9 = 100) showed a decrease of 0.1 per cent. in October, compared with the previous month, but an increase of 6.1 per cent. compared with October, 1954.

The Bureau of the Census estimated that the total number of unemployed persons at the middle of October was about 2,131,000, compared with 2,149,000 at the middle of the previous month and 2,741,000 at the middle of October, 1954.

DENMARK

At the end of November, 1955, returns received by the Danish Statistical Department from approved unemployment funds showed that 66,531, or 9.8 per cent. of a total membership of about 679,000, were unemployed, compared with 6.9 per cent. at the end of the previous month and 7.3 per cent. at the end of November, 1954. Of the total, 34,776 had been unemployed for seven days or more and the remainder had been unemployed for less than seven days or were not considered as ordinary unemployed (because of advanced age, etc.).

FRANCE

The number of persons registered as applicants for employment at the beginning of November, 1955, was 137,879, of whom 41,359 were wholly unemployed persons in receipt of assistance. The corresponding figures were 128,954 and 38,072 at the beginning of the previous month and 157,849 and 49,188 at the beginning of November, 1954.

GERMANY

In the Federal Republic the number unemployed at the end of November, 1955, was 602,977, compared with 510,195 at the end of the previous month and 947,526 at the end of November, 1954. In the Western Sectors of Berlin the corresponding figures at the same dates were 125,139, 117,432 and 169,797.

IRISH REPUBLIC

The number of unemployed persons on the live register of Employment Exchanges at 17th December, 1955, was 54,446, compared with 54,151 at 19th November and 61,551 at 18th December, 1954.

ITALY

The number registered for employment at the end of August, 1955, was 2,022,381, of whom 1,199,058 were wholly unemployed with a previous history of employment and the remainder were young persons, etc., registering for first employment or employed persons seeking other employment. At the end of the previous month the number registered for employment was 2,059,170, including 1,223,820 wholly unemployed and at the end of August, 1954, it was 2,040,166, including 1,192,299 wholly unemployed.

NETHERLANDS

The number of persons wholly unemployed at 31st October, 1955, including persons who are relief workers as well as those in receipt of unemployment benefit, was 34,164, compared with 31,730 at the end of the previous month and 41,332 at the end of October, 1954. The number of persons included in the total who were employed on relief work was 5,595 at 31st October, compared with 4,911 at 30th September, 1955, and 3,269 at the end of October, 1954.

SPAIN

The number of persons registered as unemployed was 102,510 at the end of August, 1955, compared with 98,915 at the end of the previous month and 116,209 at the end of August, 1954.

WAGES, DISPUTES, RETAIL PRICES

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Changes in Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour

RATES OF WAGES

Changes in December

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 £240,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 820,000 workpeople.

The principal increases affected distributive and ancillary workers employed by retail co-operative societies and in the retail multiple grocery and provisions trade, workers in the iron and steel industry, postmen and postwomen, and operating and maintenance staff employed by municipal tramway, trolleybus and omnibus undertakings. Others receiving increases included workpeople employed in hosiery manufacture in the Midlands, in biscuit manufacture, in the manufacture of tin boxes and other metal containers and in the ophthalmic optical industry.

Distributive and ancillary workers employed by retail co-operative societies received increases of 12s. 6d. a week for branch managers and managers, of 7s. to 25s., according to age, occupation and area, for other male workers 21 years and over and of 3s. 6d. to 19s. for other female workers 21 and over. In the retail multiple grocery and provisions trade there were increases of 11s. or 12s. a week for branch shop managers and managers and of amounts varying up to 22s. a week for other male workers and up to 16s. for other female workers. For workers in the iron and steel industry there were small increases payable under sliding-scale arrangements based on the index of retail prices. For postmen and postwomen 20 years and over there were increases ranging from 2s. to 13s. a week, according to age. Drivers and conductors

employed by municipal tramway, trolleybus and omnibus undertakings received an increase of 11s. a week, maintenance craftsmen 3d. an hour, and other maintenance staff 9s. 6d. or 8s. 3d. a week, according to grade.

For workpeople employed in hosiery manufacture in the Midlands the cost-of-living bonus was increased by ½d. in the shilling on basic wages, equivalent to an increase in current rates of approximately 3 per cent. In biscuit manufacture there were increases in minimum weekly rates of 8s. for male workers 20 years and over and 6s. for female workers 17 years and over. The general minimum time rates fixed under the Wages Councils Act for workpeople employed in tin box manufacture were increased by 3d. an hour for men and 2d. for women; the piecework basis time rates were increased by 3½d. an hour for men and 2½d. for women. For workpeople employed in the ophthalmic optical industry there were increases of 9s. 6d. a week for men and 7s. 6d. for women.

Of the total increase of £240,000, about £144,000 was the result of direct negotiations between employers and workpeople or their representatives; about £58,000 resulted from arrangements made by Joint Industrial Councils or other joint standing bodies established by voluntary agreement; about £23,000 was the result of the operation of sliding scales based on the index of retail prices; about £11,000 resulted from Orders made under the Wages Councils Act; and the remainder resulted from arbitration awards.

HOURS OF LABOUR

No changes in hours of labour were reported during the month.

Changes in Wages and Hours in 1955

A special article dealing with these changes appears on pages 1 to 3 of this issue of the GAZETTE.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING DECEMBER

(NOTE.—The figure in brackets below an item in the column headed "District" relates to the page in the volume "TIME RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR, 1ST APRIL, 1955," on which details for that date are given.)

Industry	District (see also Note at beginning of Table)	Date from which Change took effect	Classes of Workpeople	Particulars of Change
Forestry	Great Britain (5)	Beginning of first full pay week following 4 Nov.†	Youths and female forest workers employed by the Forestry Commission	Increases of 5s. a week for youths 20 and under 21 years, of 4s. for those 18 and under 20 and for female workers 21 years and over, and of 2s. or 3s., according to age, for younger workers. Minimum rates after change: youths and boys 58s. a week at 15, rising to 121s. at 20 and under 21; women and girls 56s. at 15, rising to 101s. at 21 and over.
Mining and Quarrying	Cumberland (8)	19 Dec.	Iron-ore miners	Cost-of-living net additions to wages, previously granted, increased‡ by 2d. a shift (7s. 8d. to 7s. 10d.) for men and youths 18 years and over, and by 1d. (3s. 10d. to 3s. 11d.) for boys.§
	West Cumberland (9)	do.	Limestone quarrymen	Cost-of-living net additions to wages, previously granted, increased‡ by 2d. a shift (7s. 9d. to 7s. 11d.) for men and youths 18 years and over, and by 1d. (3s. 10½d. to 3s. 11½d.) for boys.¶
	Cleveland	5 Dec.	Ironstone miners	Flat-rate additions to wages, previously granted, increased‡ by 2.4d. a shift (8s. 4.8d. to 8s. 7.2d.) for men and youths 18 years and over, and by 1.2d. (4s. 2.4d. to 4s. 3.6d.) for boys under 18.¶
	North Lincolnshire	4 Dec.	Ironstone miners and quarrymen	Flat-rate additions to wages, previously granted, increased‡ by 2.6d. a shift (6s. 6d. to 6s. 8.6d.) for men, by 1.95d. (4s. 10.45d. to 5s. 0.445d.) for youths 18 and under 21 years, and by 1.3d. (3s. 3d. to 3s. 4.3d.) for boys under 18.
Cement Manufacture	Great Britain (30-31)	First full pay week commencing on or after 12 Dec.	Shift workers	Flat-rate additions to wages, previously granted, increased‡ by 2.72d. a shift (6s. 2.8d. to 6s. 5.52d.) for men, by 2.04d. (4s. 8.1d. to 4s. 10.14d.) for youths 18 and under 21 years, and by 1.36d. (3s. 1.4d. to 3s. 2.76d.) for boys under 18.**
			Limestone quarrymen	Flat-rate additions to wages, previously granted, increased‡ by 2d. a shift (6s. 8d. to 6s. 10d.) for men and youths 18 years and over, and by 1d. (3s. 4d. to 3s. 5d.) for boys under 18.
			Shift workers	Shift work allowances increased by ½d. an hour (3d. to 3½d.) for workpeople on three rotating shifts of 8 hours each a day, two rotating shifts of 12 hours each a day, or two rotating shifts consisting of a day shift and a night shift, and 1½d. to 2d.) for workpeople on two rotating shifts of 8 hours each a day.
Pressed Glass Manufacture	Gateshead and Sunderland	First full pay week in Dec.	Labourers and other unskilled workpeople	Increases in basic time rates of 2½d. an hour for men, of 2½d. for women, and of proportional amounts for juveniles. Minimum time rates after change include: men 21 years and over 3s. 0½d. an hour, women 21 and over 2s. 1½d.
Glass Container Manufacture	Great Britain (29)	Commencement of first full pay period following 15 Dec.	Shift workers, except those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries	Increase of 25 per cent. (50 to 75 per cent.) in the allowance on basic rates for the 24 hours covering the normal Sunday shifts.

* 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 clerical workers, for whom the information available is not sufficient to form a basis for statistics. The estimates of the effect 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.

† These increases were agreed in December, 1955, with retrospective effect to the date shown.
‡ Under sliding-scale arrangements based on the official index of retail prices.
§ Wages are subject to further ad hoc additions of amounts ranging from 4s. 4d. to 5s. 2d. a shift for men, with half the appropriate amounts for youths.
¶ Wages are subject to further flat-rate additions (not subject to sliding-scale arrangements) totalling 7s. 10d. a shift for underground workers 18 or over and surface workers 21 or over, plus 9d. to datal workers whose base rate is less than 8s. 1½d. a shift, with proportional additions for younger workers, or additions varying at different mines on tonnage rates.
** Wages are subject to further flat-rate additions (not subject to sliding-scale arrangements) of 1s. a shift for men, of 9d. for youths 18 and under 21 years, and of 6d. for boys.

Principal Changes in Rates of Wages Reported during December—continued

Industry	District (see also Note at beginning of Table)	Date from which Change took effect	Classes of Workpeople	Particulars of Change
Patent Fuel and Briquette Manufacture	Great Britain	Beginning of first full pay week including 1 Nov.*	Workpeople employed by the National Coal Board	Increase of 1s. 9d. a shift in the divisional standard rates for adult timeworkers in the national occupational groups; increase in piece rates to give a similar increase for pieceworkers, and proportionate increases for workers under 21 years; guaranteed wage payment increased by 1s. 9d. a shift.
Coke Manufacture	Scotland, Cumberland, South Durham, Cleveland, Lancashire, Lincolnshire, Northants, and South Wales (certain firms)†	4 Dec.	Workpeople employed at coke oven plants attached to blast-furnaces	Flat-rate additions to wages, previously granted, increased† by 2-6d. a shift (6s. 6d. to 6s. 8-6d. for shift-rated workers) or by 0-35d. an hour (10-64d. to 10-99d. for hourly-rated workers) for men and for women and youths employed on men's work, by 1-95d. a shift (4s. 10-5d. to 5s. 0-45d.) or by 0-26d. an hour (7-98d. to 8-24d.) for youths 18 and under 21 and for women employed on youths' work, and by 1-3d. a shift (3s. 3d. to 3s. 4-3d.) or by 0-18d. an hour (5-32d. to 5-5d.) for boys and for girls doing boys' work.
Pig Iron Manufacture	England and Wales and certain works in Scotland (42)	4 Dec.	Workpeople employed at blast-furnaces, except those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries	do. do.
	West of Scotland (42)	Pay period commencing nearest 1 Dec.	Workpeople employed at certain blast-furnaces, excluding those engaged on maintenance work	Flat-rate additions to wages, previously granted, increased† by 2-6d. a shift (6s. 6d. to 6s. 9d. calculated to the nearest penny) for men, with usual proportions for youths.
Iron and Steel Manufacture	Great Britain§ (43)	5 Dec.	Workpeople employed at steel sheet rolling mills	Flat-rate additions to wages, previously granted, increased† by 2-6d. a shift (6s. 6d. to 6s. 8-6d.) for men and women 21 years and over, by 1-95d. (4s. 10-5d. to 5s. 0-45d.) for youths and girls 18 and under 21 years, and by 1-3d. (3s. 3d. to 3s. 4-3d.) for those under 18.
	Great Britain|| (43)	4 Dec.	Workpeople employed in steel melting shops (melters, pitmen, slagmen, lademen, furnace helpers, gas producer-men, semi-skilled workers and labourers, etc.)	Flat-rate additions to wages, previously granted, increased† by 2-6d. a shift (6s. 6d. to 6s. 8-6d. for shift-rated workers) or by 0-35d. an hour (10-64d. to 10-99d. for hourly-rated workers) for men and women, by 1-95d. a shift (4s. 10-5d. to 5s. 0-45d.) or by 0-26d. an hour (7-98d. to 8-24d.) for youths and girls 18 and under 21 years, and by 1-3d. a shift (3s. 3d. to 3s. 4-3d.) or by 0-18d. an hour (5-32d. to 5-5d.) for those under 18.
	Great Britain|| (43)	do.	Workpeople employed at steel rolling mills	do. do.
	North-East Coast	do.	Iron puddlers, millmen, semi-skilled workers, labourers, etc., employed at iron puddling furnaces and rolling mills	do. do.
	Great Britain|| (43)	do.	Maintenance craftsmen employed on coke oven and blast-furnace plants, in steel melting shops, and in steel rolling mills	Flat-rate additions to wages, previously granted, increased† by 0-35d. an hour (10-64d. to 10-99d.) for craftsmen, by 0-26d. (7-98d. to 8-24d.) for apprentices 18 to 21 years, and by 0-18d. (5-32d. to 5-5d.) for apprentices under 18.
	South-West Wales (43)	do.	Workpeople employed in Siemens steel manufacture, except bricklayers and carpenters	Flat-rate additions to wages, previously granted, increased† by 2-6d. a shift (5s. 5d. to 5s. 7-6d.) for men and for women employed on men's work, by 1-95d. (4s. 0-75d. to 4s. 2-7d.) for youths 18 and under 21, and by 1-3d. (2s. 8-5d. to 2s. 9-8d.) for youths under 18.
	South Wales and Monmouthshire¶ (43)	do.	Workpeople employed at iron and steel works	Cost-of-living bonus increased† by 2-4d. a shift (4s. 8-4d. to 4s. 10-8d. for skilled craftsmen, and 5s. 11-4d. to 6s. 1-8d. for other men) for men and women 18 years and over, and by 1-2d. (2s. 4-2d. to 2s. 5-4d. or 2s. 11-7d. to 3s. 0-9d.) for those under 18.
Tinplate Manufacture	South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire (43)	do.	Men, youths, women and juveniles (except apprentices)	Flat-rate additions to wages, previously granted, increased† by 2-6d. a shift (6s. 6d. to 6s. 8-6d.) for men and for women engaged specifically to replace male labour, by 1-95d. (4s. 10-5d. to 5s. 0-45d.) for youths 18 and under 21 years and for women 18 years and over, and by 1-3d. (3s. 3d. to 3s. 4-3d.) for workers under 18.
Tube Manufacture	Newport and Llandore	do.	Men, youths and boys	Cost-of-living bonus increased† by 2-32d. a shift (6s. 6-3d. to 6s. 8-62d.) for men, by 1-54d. (4s. 4-177d. to 4s. 5-723d.) for youths 18 and under 21, and by 1-16d. (3s. 3-15d. to 3s. 4-31d.) for boys.
Galvanising	England and Wales	5 Dec.	Galvanisers and ancillary workers employed at steel sheet works, other than those engaged in the process of annealing	Flat-rate additions to wages, previously granted, increased† by 2-6d. a shift (6s. 6d. to 6s. 8-6d.) for men and women 21 years and over, by 1-95d. (4s. 10-5d. to 5s. 0-45d.) for youths and girls 18 and under 2 years, and by 1-3d. (3s. 3d. to 3s. 4-3d.) for those under 18.
Shuttle Making	Lancashire and Yorkshire (51)	Pay day in week following 25 Nov.	Journeymen	Increase† of 1d. an hour in the minimum daywork rate, and of 3 per cent. (35 to 38 per cent.) in the percentage addition to piecework rates. Minimum daywork rate after change: Lancashire 4s. 2d. an hour, Yorkshire 4s. 4d.
Tin Box and Metal Container Manufacture	Great Britain (63) (231)	16 Dec.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls	Increase in general minimum time rates of 3d. an hour for male workers and of 2d. for female workers, other than learners, and of 1d. to 2½d., according to age, for learners. General minimum time rates after change: men 21 years or over employed as knife hands or press hands 3s. 4d. an hour, all other male workers except learners 3s. 2d., male learners 1s. 2½d. at under 16 years, rising to 2s. 8½d. at 20; all female workers except learners 2s. 2½d., female learners 1s. 2d. at under 16, rising to 1s. 9½d. at 17. Piecework basis time rates continue to be 15 per cent. above the appropriate minimum time rates.**
Keg and Drum Manufacture	Great Britain (230)	5 Dec.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls	Increase in general minimum time rates of 3d. an hour for male workers 21 years or over, of 1d. to 2½d., according to age, for youths and boys, of 2d. for female workers 21 or over, and of ½d. to 1½d. for girls; increases in piecework basis time rates of ¾d. for male workers 21 or over, of ½d. to 2½d. for youths and boys, of 2½d. for women 21 or over, and of 1d. to 1½d. for girls. General minimum time rates after change: male workers 1s. 1½d. an hour at under 16 years, rising to 3s. 2d. at 21 or over, female workers 1s. to 2s. 2½d.; piecework basis time rates: male workers 1s. 2½d. to 3s. 5½d., female workers 1s. 1½d. to 2s. 5½d.**
Needle, Fish Hook and Fishing Tackle Manufacture	Great Britain (67)	Beginning of first full pay period following 28 Nov.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls	Increase of 3-478d. an hour (33-022d. to 36-5d.) in the standard wage for unskilled men 21 years and over, and of proportional amounts for skilled and semi-skilled men and for women and younger workers. Minimum time rates after change for a 44-hour week include: men 21 years and over—skilled 155s. 6d., semi-skilled 141s., unskilled 133s. 10d.; women 21 and over 102s. 7d.

* These increases were agreed in December, 1955, and had retrospective effect to the date shown.

† These increases affected employees of firms which are members of the Iron and Steel Trades Employers' Association.

‡ Under sliding-scale arrangements based on the official index of retail prices.

§ These increases affected mainly the employees of firms which are members of the Sheet Trade Board, the districts concerned being Staffordshire, Cheshire, Tees-side, South Wales and Monmouthshire and the Glasgow district.

|| These increases affected employees of firms which are members of the Iron and Steel Trades Employers' Association, the principal districts concerned being the North-East Coast, Cumberland, Lancashire, South Yorkshire (excluding Sheffield special steels district), Lincolnshire, South Wales and West of Scotland.

¶ These increases affected employees of firms which are members of the South Wales and Monmouthshire Iron and Steel Manufacturers' Association.

** These increases took effect under Orders issued under the Wages Councils Act. See page 451 of the December, 1955, issue of this GAZETTE.

Principal Changes in Rates of Wages Reported during December—continued

Industry	District (see also Note at beginning of Table)	Date from which Change took effect	Classes of Workpeople	Particulars of Change
Ophthalmic Optical Industry	Great Britain (70)	First pay day in week commencing 5 Dec.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls	Increase in minimum rates of 9s. 6d. a week for male workers 21 years or over, of 7s. 6d. for female workers 21 or over, and of 3s. to 8s., according to age, for younger workers. Minimum weekly rates after change: operatives on prescription work—males 43s. at 15 years, rising to 141s. 6d. at 21 or over after two years in the industry, females 42s. to 102s. 6d., at 24 after three years in the industry on work of a similar nature, males 153s. 6d., females 114s. 6d., at 29 after eight years' experience, males 156s. 6d., females 119s. 6d.; operatives on mass production, stock and store assistants and packers—males 43s. at 15, rising to 135s. 6d. at 21, females 42s. to 97s. 6d., at age 21 or over after three years in the industry timeworkers are entitled to a minimum service award of 9s. a week, making the minimum rates 144s. 6d. for males and 106s. 6d. for females; piecework rates for pieceworkers on mass production work are to yield to the average worker not less than the basic rate laid down for operatives on mass production work, plus 20 per cent.
Shirtings and Costume Cloths Manufacture	Glasgow, West of Scotland and Carlisle	Beginning of first full pay period in Dec.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls	New minimum rates introduced, resulting in varying increases for time and pieceworkers.* Rates after change include: male timeworkers—tape dressers 172s. 6d. a week, beamers, warpers, twisters and drawers 161s. 3d., power loom tenters 195s.; piecework rates for beamers, warpers, twisters and drawers to yield at least 180s. a week; female timeworkers 18 years and over—weavers and winders, pickers and darners 90s.; juveniles 52s. 6d. at 15, rising to 84s. 4d. at 17½; piecework rates for weavers and winders to yield at least 105s. a week.
Mechanical Cloth Manufacture	Bury and district	First full pay week in Dec.	Workpeople employed in the manufacture of cloth (woven felt and cotton filter cloth) used for mechanical purposes	Increase† of 2 per cent. (49 to 51 per cent.) in the percentage addition to basic wage rates.
Pressed Felt Manufacture	Rossendale Valley (certain firms)	First pay day in Dec.	Men, women and juveniles	Increase† of 1s. a week for men, and of 8d. for women and juveniles. Minimum rates after change, inclusive of cost-of-living bonus: men 21 years and over 141s. 8d. a week; women 18 and over, felt production processes 106s., cutting and stitching 96s. 6d.
Flax and Hemp Manufacture	Great Britain (86) (229)	5 Dec.	Timeworkers	Increase in general minimum time rates of 5s. 5d. to 7s. 2d. a week, according to occupation and period of employment, for male workers 21 years or over, of 4s. or 4s. 4d. for female workers 18 or over, and of varying amounts for younger workers, apprentices, improvers and learners. General minimum time rates after change include: male workers 21 years or over—tenters 150s. 7d. a week, under-tenters (after 3 years' experience after age 21) 134s. 1d., dressers, mounters, card cutters and hacklers (hand dressers) 142s. 5d., hemp-rollers on non-reciprocating machines and hemp breakers 145s. 2d., day shift spinners 127s., night shift spinners 128s. 11d., weavers (after 6 months' experience after age 21) 134s. 1d., other workers (except apprentices and improvers to tenting or dressing) 126s.; female workers 18 or over—spinners, card cutters, weavers, winders, reelers and warpers 91s. 7d., other workers (except learners) 84s.‡
			Pieceworkers	Increase in piecework basis time rates of 6s. 9d. a week for male hose-pipe weavers, and of 4s. 5d. for female workers; increases in pieceworkers' guaranteed time rates of 5s. 11d. or 6s. 5d., according to period of employment, for male weavers 21 years or over, of 4s. for women 18 or over, and of 2s. 4d., 2s. 10d. or 3s. 3d., according to age, for girls. Rates after change include: piecework basis time rates—male hose-pipe weavers 141s. 3d. a week, female workers 93s.; guaranteed time rates—male weavers (after 6 months' experience after age 21) 134s. 1d., female workers (except learners) 18 years or over 84s.‡
Hosiery Manufacture	Midlands§ (90)	First pay day in Dec.	Men, women and juveniles	Cost-of-living bonus increased† by ½d. in the shilling (5½d. to 6d.) on basic wages.
	Hawick (91)	Pay day in week ending 2 Dec.	Men, women and juveniles	Increase† of 4s. 6d. (41s. 6d. to 46s.) in the flat-rate bonus for men, of 3s. (30s. to 33s.) for women, and of proportional amounts for apprentices. Minimum weekly rates after change, inclusive of percentage bonus of 95 per cent. on basic rates and the flat-rate bonus of 46s. for men and 33s. for women: journeymen 148s. 5d., journeymen 102s. 6d.
Carpet Manufacture	Great Britain (92)	18 Nov.	Men, women and juveniles	Increase in basic minimum time rates of 3s. a week for male workers 21 years and over, of 2s. for female workers 20 and over, and of proportional amounts for younger workers; Minimum time rates after change, inclusive of cost-of-living bonus and lieu bonus, include: male workers 21 years and over—dry beamers, packers, backsizers and starchers, card men (Jacquard, wilton and gripper), fur cutters, with 6 months' experience in any of the jobs 148s. 6d. a week, wet beamers or dressers with 12 months' experience 163s. 6d., croppers and shearers with 6 months' experience 148s. 6d., 156s. or 163s. 6d., according to width of machine, other male workers 21 and over 139s. 6d.; female workers 20 years and over—card cutters with 18 months' experience 106s. 6d., other female workers 93s.
Surgical Dressings, etc., Manufacture	Great Britain (94)	First usual pay day on or after 5 Dec.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls	Increase in minimum rates of 8s. a week for male workers 18 years and over, and of 6s. for younger male workers and for female workers. Minimum rates after change include: men 21 years and over 140s. 6d. a week, women 18 and over 99s. 6d.
Textile Bleaching, Dyeing and Finishing	Northern Ireland (97)	First full pay period following 21 Dec.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls	Increase in minimum rates of 7s. a week for unskilled adult male workers, of 4s. for adult female workers, and of proportional amounts for skilled and semi-skilled male workers and male and female juveniles. Minimum time rates after change include: male workers 21 years and over—skilled workers (including engine-drivers) 131s. 6d. a week, semi-skilled (including firemen) 125s. 1d., general workers or labourers 118s. 9d.; women 18 and over 80s. 2d.
Hosiery Dyeing, Finishing, etc.	Midlands (various districts)|| (97)	First pay day in Dec.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls	Increase† of 2 per cent. (28½ to 30½ per cent.) in the percentage addition paid on all time and piece rates.
Cotton Waste Reclamation	Great Britain (229)	7 Dec.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls	Increase of 1d. an hour in general minimum time rates for male workers 21 years or over and for female workers of all ages, and of ½d. for male workers under 21. General minimum time rates after change: men 21 years or over 2s. 9d. an hour, youths and boys 1s. 6d. at under 16, rising to 2s. 6½d. at 20; women 18 years and over 2s. 1½d. (England and Wales) or 2s. 1½d. (Scotland), girls 1s. 5d. at under 16, rising to 1s. 10d. at 17.‡
Retail Bespoke Tailoring	Scotland (105) (230)	30 Dec.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls	Increase of varying amounts, according to occupation, for workers previously in area C, and for certain workers, according to locality, in area B, as the result of the re-classification of localities into 2 areas (previously 3).†
Wholesale Mantle and Costume Making	Great Britain (108) (231)	5 Dec.	Men, youths and boys Women and girls	Increase of 2½d. an hour in general minimum time rates for workers other than learners, and of 1½d., 2d. or 2½d., according to age, for learners; increase of 2½d. an hour in piecework basis time rates.** Increase of 2d. an hour in general minimum time rates for workers other than learners, and of 1½d. or 2d., according to period of employment, for learners; increase of 2d. an hour in piecework basis time rates.**

* Production bonus previously paid to pieceworkers now discontinued, but no female worker shall suffer by reason of this.

† Under sliding-scale arrangements based on the official index of retail prices.

‡ These increases took effect under Orders issued under the Wages Councils Act. See page 451 of the December, 1955, issue of this GAZETTE.

§ Including Hinckley, Leicester, Loughborough, Nottingham, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Mansfield and district.

|| Including Leicester, Loughborough, Hinckley and district, Nuneaton and Nottingham district and Derby.

** These increases took effect under an Order issued under the Wages Councils Act. See page 36 of this GAZETTE. The localities comprising areas A and B are defined in the Order.

*** These increases took statutory effect under an Order issued under the Wages Councils Act. See page 450 of the December, 1955, issue of this GAZETTE. The new rates have by agreement been in operation since 1st September or the beginning of the first pay period following that date, and were published on page 367 of the October, 1955, issue of this GAZETTE.

Principal Changes in Rates of Wages Reported during December—*continued*

Industry	District (see also Note at beginning of Table)	Date from which Change took effect	Classes of Workpeople	Particulars of Change
Corset Making	Great Britain (229)	14 Dec.	Men, youths and boys Women and girls	Increase of 2½d. an hour in general minimum time rates for workers 21 years or over, and of 1½d., 2d. or 2½d., according to age, for younger workers; increase of 2½d. an hour in piecework basis time rates.* Increases of 2d. an hour in general minimum time rates for workers other than learners, and of 1½d. or 2d., according to period of employment, for learners; increase of 2d. an hour in piecework basis time rates.*
Baking	Northern Counties of England† (117-118)	First pay day in Dec.	Workpeople employed by co-operative societies in the baking industry	New minimum weekly rates, resulting in increases of varying amounts, agreed as follows:—male workers 21 years and over—bakery dept., foremen 171s. 6d. a week, first hands 163s. 1d., doughmakers, confectionery mixers and ovenmen 159s. 4d., confectioners, table hands and plant operatives 153s. 9d. (guaranteed minimum 157s. 6d.), stokers 148s. 3d., other workers 21 years and over 146s. 3d., packing and despatch dept., charge-hands and slicing and wrapping operatives 153s. 9d., bakery workers 150s., other workers 146s. 3d.; youths and boys 58s. 8d. at under 15½, rising to 146s. 3d. at 20½ years and over; † female workers 21 years and over—bakery dept., forewomen 120s., first hands 112s. 6d., ovenwomen 108s. 9d., confectioners 105s., other workers 21 and over 94s. 8d., packing and despatch dept., charge-hands 102s. 2d., bakery workers 98s. 5d., other workers 94s. 8d., girls 55s. at under 15½, rising to 94s. 8d. at 20½ years and over.‡
	London† (117-118)	12 Sept.	do.	Increases in minimum rates of 9s. 6d. a week for men 21 years and over, of 7s. for women 21 and over, and of proportional amounts for younger workers. Minimum rates after change include: men 21 years and over—foremen confectioners and foremen bakers (six or more men on one shift) 182s. 6d. a week, (under six) 174s. 6d., first hands 167s. 6d., second hands 164s. 6d., confectioners or table hands 162s. 6d., workers in unspecified occupations 155s. 6d.; women 21 and over—forewomen 128s. 6d., single hands 120s. 6d., confectioners 119s. 6d., workers in unspecified occupations 112s. 6d.
	Southern Counties of England† (117-118)	First full pay period commencing after 5 Dec.	do.	New minimum weekly rates, resulting in increases of varying amounts, agreed as follows:—male workers 21 years and over—bakery dept., foremen 171s. 6d., first hands 163s. 1d., doughmakers, confectionery mixers and ovenmen 159s. 4d., confectioners, table hands and plant operatives 153s. 9d. (guaranteed minimum 157s. 6d.), packing and despatch dept., charge-hands and slicing and wrapping operatives 153s. 9d., bakery workers 150s., other workers 146s. 3d.; youths and boys 58s. 8d. at under 15½, rising to 146s. 3d. at 20½ and over; † female workers 21 and over—bakery dept., forewomen 120s., first hands 112s. 6d., ovenwomen 108s. 9d., confectioners 105s., other workers 21 and over 94s. 8d., packing and despatch dept., charge-hands 102s. 2d., bakery workers 98s. 5d., other workers 94s. 8d., girls 55s. at under 15½, rising to 94s. 8d. at 20½ and over.‡
	Bristol, Somerset, Wilts., Dorset, Devon and Cornwall§ (117-118)	5 Dec.	do.	do.
	North West Area|| (117-118)	Pay day in week commencing 17 Oct.	do.	do.
	Northern Ireland.. (120) (232)	21 Dec.	Nightworkers, other than Sunday workers and transport workers	Increases of 6s. a week in general minimum time rates for journeymen bakers, doughmakers, ovenmen, confectionery mixers, bakehouse labourers, packers and other male workers 21 years or over, and of 3s. for apprentice bakers and other youths 18 and under 21. General minimum time rates after change, inclusive of "additional payments": journeymen bakers, County of the City of Belfast and districts within 15 statute miles therefrom 174s. 6d. a week, all other areas 166s. 6d., doughmakers, ovenmen and confectionery mixers 182s., 173s. 9d., bakehouse labourers 151s. 9d., 144s. 9d., packers 150s. 9d., 143s. 9d., apprentice bakers 60s. 6d. or 58s. during first year of apprenticeship, rising to 103s. or 98s. 3d. during fifth year, other workers 90s. 9d. or 86s. 6d. at 18, rising to 148s. 3d. or 141s. 6d. at 21 or over.¶
			Sunday workers	Increases of 7s. a week in general minimum time rates for journeymen bakers, doughmakers, ovenmen, confectionery mixers, bakehouse labourers, packers and other male workers 21 years or over, and of 3s. 6d. for apprentice bakers and other youths 18 and under 21. General minimum time rates after change: journeymen bakers, County of the City of Belfast and districts within 15 statute miles therefrom 196s. 7d. a week, all other areas 187s. 7d., doughmakers, ovenmen and confectionery mixers 205s. 4d., 196s., bakehouse labourers 171s. 3d., 163s. 4d., packers 170s. 1d., 162s. 2d., apprentice bakers 60s. 6d. or 58s. during first year of apprenticeship, rising to 117s. 3d. or 111s. 9d. during fifth year, other workers 102s. 4d. or 97s. 8d. at 18, rising to 167s. 2d. or 159s. 7d. at 21 or over.¶
			Transport workers	Increases of 6s. a week (9s. to 15s.) in the additions to the general minimum time rates for transport workers (all areas), and of 3s. (4s. 6d. to 7s. 6d.) for stablemen (all areas), and harness cleaners and van washers (areas A and B only).¶
Biscuit Manufacture	Great Britain (121)	First pay day following 4 Dec.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls	Increases in minimum weekly rates of 8s. for male workers 20 years and over, of 4s., 5s. or 7s., according to age, for younger male workers, of 6s. for female workers 17 years and over, and of 4s. for younger female workers. Minimum rates after change: men 21 years and over—grade I occupations 158s. a week, grade II 154s., grade III 148s., grade IV 144s., ungraded workers 138s.; youths and boys 56s. at 15 years, rising to 115s. at 20; women 21 years and over—grade I occupations 107s., grade II 104s., ungraded workers 98s.; girls 54s. at 15, rising to 94s. at 20.
Sugar Confectionery Manufacture and Food Preserving	Northern Ireland.. (232)	22 Dec.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls	Increases of 2d. an hour in general minimum time rates for men 21 years or over, of ¼d. to 1¼d., according to age, for youths and boys, of 1½d. for women 18 years or over, and of ¼d. or ½d. for girls; increases of 2d. an hour in piecework basis time rates for male workers, and of 1¼d. for female workers. Rates after change: general minimum time rates—men 21 years or over 10½d. an hour, women 18 or over 1s. 11½d., youths and boys 10½d. at under 15, rising to 2s. 3½d. at 20 and under 21, girls 10½d. at under 15, rising to 1s. 6d. at 17 and under 18; piecework basis time rates—male workers 3s. 0½d., female workers 2s. 0¼d.**

* These increases took statutory effect under an Order issued under the Wages Councils Act. See page 451 of the December, 1955, issue of this GAZETTE. The new rates have, by agreement, been in operation since 24th October or beginning of first pay period following that date, and were published on page 407 of the November issue of this GAZETTE.

† These increases affected workpeople employed by co-operative societies affiliated to the Northern Sectional Wages Board, the Metropolitan District Hours and Wages Board and the Southern Sectional Wages Board of the Co-operative Union Ltd.

‡ Previously the adult rate was paid at 21 years and over; nightworkers now receive an addition of 15 per cent. on the rates shown above.

§ These increases applied to workpeople employed by co-operative societies affiliated to the South Western Sectional Wages Board of the Co-operative Union Ltd.; previously the localities were classified into two areas with different rates for male workers in Bristol and in area B of Devon and Cornwall.

|| These increases applied to workpeople who are members of the Amalgamated Union of Operative Bakers, Confectioners and Allied Workers, and are employed by co-operative societies affiliated to the North Western Sectional Wages Board of the Co-operative Union Ltd.

¶ These increases took effect under Orders issued under the Wages Councils Act (Northern Ireland). See page 36 of this GAZETTE. These rates are payable to workers whose working days of the normal working week entail at least 3 hours' work between 6 p.m. and 8 a.m. and commence before midnight. For transport workers area A consists of the County of the City of Belfast and districts within 15 statute miles therefrom, area B the County of the City of Londonderry, and area C all other districts.

** These increases took effect under an Order issued under the Wages Councils Act (Northern Ireland). See page 36 of this GAZETTE.

Principal Changes in Rates of Wages Reported during December—*continued*

Industry	District (see also Note at beginning of Table)	Date from which Change took effect	Classes of Workpeople	Particulars of Change
Fish Curing	Aberdeen ..	4 Nov.	Male workers, other than sawyers, employed in the box pool dept. of the fish curing industry	Increase of 2½d. an hour for men 21 years and over, and of proportional amounts for youths and boys. Rates after change: men 21 years and over 36½d. an hour, youths and boys 18½d. at 16, rising to 26½d. at 20.
Distilling	Scotland (130)	2 Oct.	Men employed in pot still malt distilleries	Increase of 2½d. an hour. Minimum rates after change: men on day-shifts 2s. 11½d. an hour, on constant night-shifts 3s. 1½d., on 3-shift and alternate day and night shifts 3s. 0¼d.; existing differentials maintained for stillmen, mashmen, tunmen, kilnmen and boilerfiremen.
Aerated Waters Manufacture	Northern Ireland.. (232)	8 Dec.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls	Increases in general minimum time rates of 1½d. an hour for foremen, forewomen or syrup makers and for other male and female workers 19 years or over, and of ¼d., ½d. or 1d., according to age, for younger workers. General minimum time rates after change: foremen, forewomen or syrup makers 2s. 11d. an hour, other male workers 1s. 0½d. at under 16, rising to 2s. 8½d. at 21 or over, other female workers 1s. 0¼d. at under 16, rising to 1s. 11d. at 19 or over.*
Sign Production and Display	England and Wales	First full pay week commencing on or after 1 Dec.	Production artists, writers, poster writers, screen process printers, auxiliary workers, etc.	Increase† of 2s. a week (24s. to 26s.) in the cost-of-living bonus paid to all workers.
Coopering	Great Britain and Belfast (138)	First pay day following 5 Dec.	Dayworkers	Increases† of 1d. an hour in the national minimum daywork rate for men, and of proportional amounts for apprentices. Rates after change for journeymen: London 4s. an hour, elsewhere 3s. 11d.
Basket Manufacture	United Kingdom (138)	First pay day in Dec.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls	Pieceworkers Increase‡ of 4 per cent. (99 to 103 per cent.) in the piecework plussage.
Newspaper Printing	London .. (148)	1 Dec.	Compositors and machine managers engaged in the production of national morning, evening and Sunday newspapers	Cost-of-living bonus increased† by 5s. a week (2s. to 7s.). Minimum weekly rates after change, inclusive of cost-of-living bonus of 7s.: hand compositors (permanent time hands)—morning papers 301s., evening papers 295s., Sunday papers 266s., machine managers—night work, 1 roll-rotary 253s., up to 3 rolls 275s., 4 rolls 287s., day work 212s., 222s., 228s., men on overlay or interlays 212s.
Rubber Manufacture	Great Britain (154)	22 Nov.	Timeworkers	Increases in basic time rates of 3d. an hour for men 21 years and over, of 2d. for women 21 and over, and of proportional amounts for younger workers. Basic rates after change include: men 21 years and over—grade A unskilled workers 3s. 2½d. an hour, grade B semi-skilled 3s. 4d., grade C skilled 3s. 5½d., grade D work calling for special skill or responsibility including working chargehands 3s. 7d.; women 21 and over—2s. 4d., 2s. 4½d., 2s. 5d., 2s. 5½d.§
			Workers on systems of payment-by-results	Piecework prices or bonus schemes to yield to a worker of average ability not less than the following amounts: men Grade A 3s. 10d. an hour, grade B 4s., grade C 4s. 2d., grade D 4s. 4d.; women 21 and over 2s. 9d., 2s. 9½d., 2s. 10½d., 2s. 11½d.§
Rubber Floor Laying	do.	do.	Skilled layers and labourers ..	Increase of 3d. an hour. Minimum rates after change: skilled layers 3s. 9½d. an hour, labourers 3s. 5d.
Cinematograph Film Production	United Kingdom	First pay day in Dec.	Laboratory workers, including technical and clerical workers and certain other workers| employed in film printing and processing laboratories	Cost-of-living bonus increased† by 2s. a week (42s. to 44s.) at 21 years and over, and by 1s. 4d. (28s. to 29s. 4d.) at under 21.
	Great Britain ..	do.	Technical workers whose normal salaries do not exceed £19 10s. a week, and learners, employed in producing newsreels	Cost-of-living bonus increased† by 1s. a week (49s. to 50s.) at 21 years and over, and by 8d. (32s. 8d. to 33s. 4d.) at under 21.
Animal Gut Industry	England and Wales	Week commencing 7 Nov.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls	Increases of 15s. a week in minimum time rates for foremen, of 10s. for other male workers 19 years and over, and of 7s. 6d. for younger male workers and for female workers. Minimum rates after change: male workers—foremen (where more than 5 are employed) 190s. a week, (five or less) 180s., qualified gutmen 20 years and over 152s. 6d., 19 and under 20 147s. 6d., all other gutmen 140s.; youths and boys 72s. 6d. at 16, rising to 108s. 6d. at 18; females—qualified gutwomen 20 years and over 107s. 6d., 19 and under 20 104s., all other gutwomen 95s. 6d.; girls 65s. 6d. at 16, rising to 80s. at 18.
Electrical Contracting	Mersey District¶ (161)	12 Dec.	Men, youths and boys	Increase of 2d. an hour (1d. to 3d.) in the addition payable in lieu of travelling time to journeymen electricians with consequential increases for adult mates and for youths and boys. Standard inclusive rates after change: journeymen electricians 4s. 3½d. an hour, adult mates 3s. 5d.
Road Passenger Transport Services	Great Britain (excluding Metropolitan Area) (172)	First full pay period following 10 Nov.**	Workpeople employed by municipal tramway, trolleybus and omnibus undertakings:— Operating staff (drivers, conductors, garage and running shed staff, except skilled maintenance workers) Maintenance craftsmen and apprentices	Increases of 11s. a week for drivers and conductors, of 8s. 3d. for semi-skilled maintenance workers, and of 9s. 6d. for unskilled maintenance workers; all Saturday work performed after 1 p.m. by semi-skilled and unskilled maintenance workers to be paid for at rate of time-and-a-quarter. Rates after change include: drivers, commencing rate 156s. a week, rising to a maximum of 159s. after 12 months' continuous service, conductors 151s. to 154s.; semi-skilled and unskilled men in depots and garages—grade A1 158s. 7d., grade I 150s. 3d., grade II 144s. 9d., grade III, cleaners and labourers 141s. Increases of 3d. an hour for craftsmen, and of proportional amounts for apprentices. Rates after change include: craftsmen—special group undertakings 4s. 4d. to 4s. 7d. an hour, group I 4s. 3d., group II 4s. 2d.
Post Office	United Kingdom (184-185)	1 Nov.††	Postmen and postwomen ..	Increases ranging from 2s. to 13s. a week, according to age, for full-time postmen and postwomen 20 years and over with proportional increases for part-time staff. Rates after change include: postmen—London 120s. a week at 20 years of age, rising to 165s. at 24 then to a maximum of 184s. 6d., intermediate areas 116s. to 161s. then to 179s. 6d., provincial areas 112s. to 157s. then to 174s. 6d.; postwomen—116s. to 143s. then to 153s., 113s. to 139s. then to 149s., 110s. to 135s. then to 145s.

* These increases took effect under an Order issued under the Wages Councils Act (Northern Ireland). See page 451 of the December, 1955, issue of this GAZETTE.

† Under sliding-scale arrangements based on the official index of retail prices.

‡ Piecework rates to be calculated by adding at least 50 per cent. to existing basic piecework prices before the addition of the current piecework plussage.

§ These increases apply to workpeople covered by the agreement of the National Joint Industrial Council for the Rubber Manufacturing Industry.

| Including boiler attendants, storemen, transport mechanics, transport drivers, charge-hand cleaners, cleaners, commissionaires, doormen and gatemen, charge-hand painters, painters, painters' mates, carpenters, carpenters' mates and general labourers.

¶ Areas within a radius of 10 miles of the Liverpool Landing Stage and the towns of Runcorn, Widnes and St. Helens.

** These increases were agreed in December, 1955, and had retrospective effect to the date shown.

†† These increases were authorised in December, 1955, and had retrospective effect to the date shown.

Principal Changes in Rates of Wages Reported during December—continued

Industry	District (see also Note at beginning of Table)	Date from which Change took effect	Classes of Workpeople	Particulars of Change
Retail Distribution	Great Britain (197)	Pay day in week commencing 5 Dec.	Branch managers, managers (other than pharmacy), distributive and ancillary workers employed by retail co-operative societies	Increases of 12s. 6d. a week for branch managers and managers, of 7s. to 25s., according to age, occupation and area, for male workers 21 years and over, of 3s. 6d. to 19s. for female workers 21 years and over, of 6d. to 23s. for youths and 6d. to 17s. 3d. for girls 18 to 20, and of 6d. to 14s. 6d. for boys and 9d. to 11s. 9d. for girls under 18. Rates after change include: shop assistants in all departments (except hairdressers and cafe workers)—male workers, Metropolitan area 62s. a week at 15 years, rising to 161s. at 21 (previously the highest rate was payable at 23), Provincial A area 57s. to 154s., Provincial B area 53s. to 148s., female workers 60s. to 120s., 55s. to 114s., 51s. to 111s.; male warehousemen, packers, porters, cleaners, lift attendants, cellarmen—Metropolitan 62s. at 15 to 156s. 6d. at 21 (male warehousemen 163s.), A 57s. to 148s. 6d. (154s.), B 53s. to 144s. 6d. (148s.); female packers, cleaners, lift attendants, warehouse workers—Metropolitan 60s. at 15 to 115s. 6d. at 21, A 55s. to 109s., B 51s. to 106s. 6d.; adult male milk workers—roundsmen, Metropolitan 160s., A 151s., B 147s., rotary roundsmen, head sterilisers and head pasteurisers 168s. 6d., 159s. 6d., 155s. 6d., foremen 173s. 6d., 164s. 6d., 160s. 6d., assistant roundsmen, assistant pasteurisers, assistant sterilisers 157s., 150s., 146s. 6d. (inside workers in the Metropolitan area 161s.); adult female milk workers (other than roundswomen) 117s. 6d., 111s., 109s. (transport workers engaged wholly or mainly in handling milk receive 4d. an hour extra when employed between the hours of 9 p.m. and 5 a.m.); adult bakery roundsmen—Metropolitan 160s., A 151s., B 147s.; transport workers—one-horse carters and drivers 21 years and over of mechanically and electrically propelled vehicles with a carrying capacity of up to and including 15 cwt., Metropolitan 158s., A 149s. 6d., B 147s. 6d., of over 15 cwt. and under 2 tons 161s., 151s. 6d., 148s. 6d., of 2 and under 3 tons 164s., 154s. 6d., 151s. 6d., of 3 and up to and including 5 tons 169s. (4 to 5 tons in the Metropolitan area 170s.), 155s. 6d., 152s. 6d., all other adult workers 158s., 148s. 6d., 146s. 6d. Increases in minimum rates of remuneration of 11s. or 12s. a week, according to area. Minimum rates after change: branch shop managers, London area 172s. a week where weekly trade is under £50, to 258s. where weekly trade is between £1,190 and £1,210, Provincial A area 163s. to 249s., Provincial B area 159s. to 245s.; branch shop manageresses, London 141s. 6d. to 227s. 6d., A 135s. 6d., B 133s. 6d., 133s. 6d., 133s. 6d., 133s. 6d.*
Retail Multiple Grocery and Provision Trade	England and Wales	Pay day in week commencing 5 Dec.	Branch shop managers and manageresses	Increases in minimum rates of remuneration of 5s. to 22s. a week, according to age, occupation and area, for male workers, and of 6s. to 16s. for female workers. Minimum rates after change: grade 1 clerks 23 years or over (previously the highest rate was payable at 24)—male workers, London area 165s. a week, Provincial A area 157s., Provincial B area 153s., female workers 116s. 6d., 112s. 6d., 110s. 6d.; grade 1 clerks under 23 years, grade 2 clerks, shop assistants, stockmen or ordermen, canvassers, van salesmen, cashiers or central warehouse workers—male workers, London 65s. at under 16, rising to 159s. at 22 or over (previously the highest rate was payable at 23), A 60s. to 151s., B 58s. to 147s., female workers 53s. to 112s., 51s. to 108s., 50s. to 106s.; all other workers—male workers, London 64s. at under 16, rising to 154s. at 22 or over, A 59s. to 146s., B 57s. to 142s., female workers 52s. to 107s., 50s. to 103s., 49s. to 101s.*
			All other workers (except transport workers)	Increases in minimum rates of remuneration of 9s. or 10s. a week, according to area, for drivers 21 years or over of mechanically propelled vehicles of 1 ton or less carrying capacity and for drivers of one-horse drawn vehicles, of 8s. or 9s., according to age, for those under 21, and of 10s. for drivers, all ages, of mechanically propelled vehicles of over 1 ton and for drivers of two-horse drawn vehicles. Minimum rates after change: drivers of mechanically propelled vehicles of 1 ton or less carrying capacity and drivers of one-horse drawn vehicles, London area 101s. a week at under 18 years, rising to 159s. at 21 or over, Provincial A area 94s. to 151s., Provincial B area 91s. to 147s.; drivers, all ages, of mechanically propelled vehicles of over 1 and up to 2 tons carrying capacity and drivers of two-horse drawn vehicles, London 162s., all Provinces 154s., of over 2 and up to 5 tons 167s., 160s., of over 5 tons 170s., 162s.*
	Scotland	Pay day in week commencing 5 Dec.	Branch shop managers and manageresses	Increases in minimum rates of remuneration of 11s. a week. Minimum rates after change: branch shop managers 164s. a week where weekly trade is under £80, to 248s. where weekly trade is between £1,190 and £1,210; branch shop manageresses 133s. 6d. where weekly trade is under £70 to 223s. 6d.*
			Other workers	Increases in minimum rates of remuneration of 7s. 6d. to 22s. a week, according to age, for male workers, and of 5s. to 15s. for female workers. Minimum rates after change: grade 1 clerks 24 years or over (previously the highest rate was payable at 25)—male workers, area 1 157s. a week, area 2 153s., female workers 112s. 6d., 109s. 6d., grade 1 clerks under 24 years, grade 2 clerks, shop assistants, central warehouse workers, and all other workers not specified—male workers, area 1 57s. 6d. at 15 years, rising to 151s. at 23 or over (previously the highest rate was payable at 24), area 2 54s. 6d. to 147s., female workers, area 1 51s. to 108s., area 2 48s. to 105s.*
Local Authority Services	England and Wales (210)	Pay day in week commencing 5 Dec.	Shift workers	Shift-work allowance increased by 1d. an hour (2d. to 3d.).

* These rates are applicable to the employees of firms which are parties to the agreements of the Joint Committees for the Retail Multiple Grocery and Provision Trade in England and Wales and Scotland, respectively.

Index of Rates of Wages

The index figure of rates of wages measures the movement, from month to month, in the level of full-time weekly rates of wages in the principal industries and services in the United Kingdom compared with the level at 30th June, 1947, taken as 100. The industries and services covered by the index and the method of calculation were described on page 41 of the issue of this GAZETTE for February, 1948. The index is based on the recognised rates of wages fixed by collective agreements between organisations of employers and workpeople, arbitration awards or statutory orders. The percentage increases in the various industries are combined in accordance with the relative importance of the industries, as measured by the total wages bill in 1946. The index does not reflect changes in earnings due to such factors as alterations in working hours, or in piecework earnings due to variations in output or the introduction of new machinery, etc. As indicated on page 307 of the September issue of this GAZETTE, the index of actual weekly earnings in April, 1955, the latest available, was 176 for all workers combined as compared with 152 for rates of wages in those industries covered by the earnings enquiries (and 152 also in all the principal industries and services).

Where necessary, the figures have been revised to include changes arranged with retrospective effect or reported too late for inclusion in the current figures.

In the first Table opposite are shown the separate index figures for men, women, juveniles and "all workers" for December in each of the years 1947 to 1953, inclusive, for March, June, September and December, 1954, and for each month of 1955. The second Table shows the figure for "all workers" for each month since June, 1947.

All figures in the Tables are on the basis of 30th June, 1947 = 100, and relate to the end of the month.

Date	Men	Women	Juveniles	All Workers
1947, December	103	103	106	103
1948, December	107	109	110	109
1949, December	109	112	113	110
1950, December	113	116	118	114
1951, December	125	130	133	126
1952, December	132	138	143	134
1953, December	136	143	149	138
1954, March	138	144	150	139
June	141	146	154	142
September	141	147	154	143
December	142	148	156	144
1955, January	144	151	158	146
February	145	151	158	147
March	147	153	160	149
April	150	154	162	152
May	151	154	163	152
June	151	155	163	152
July	151	155	163	153
August	151	155	164	153
September	152	156	164	153
October	152	156	165	153
November	152	157	165	154
December	152	158	166	154

All Workers												
Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1947	—	—	—	—	100	100	101	101	102	103	103	103
1948	104	104	105	105	105	106	106	106	106	107	107	107
1949	108	108	108	108	108	109	109	109	109	109	109	109
1950	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	111	111	111
1951	115	116	117	118	118	119	120	120	122	122	126	126
1952	127	128	128	129	129	129	130	130	131	131	134	134
1953	134	135	135	135	135	136	136	136	137	137	137	138
1954	139	139	139	141	142	142	142	143	143	144	144	144
1955	146	147	149	152	152	152	153	153	153	154	154	154

Industrial Disputes

DISPUTES IN DECEMBER

The number of stoppages of work* arising from industrial disputes in the United Kingdom, reported to the Department as beginning in December, was 134. In addition, 14 stoppages which began before December were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The approximate number of workers involved during December in these 148 stoppages, including workers thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes, is estimated at about 24,000. The aggregate number of working days lost during December at the establishments concerned was about 116,000.

The following Table gives an analysis by groups of industries of stoppages of work in December due to industrial disputes:—

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	120	122	8,600	14,000
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing	5	1	6	1,200	20,000
Vehicles	1	4	5	8,500	75,000
All remaining industries and services	6	9	15	5,800	7,000
Total, December, 1955	14	134	148	24,100	116,000
Total, November, 1955	28	246	274	52,500	292,000
Total, December, 1954	20	122	142	34,100	81,000

Of the total of 116,000 days lost in December, 19,000 were lost by 15,200 workers involved in stoppages which began in that month. Of these workers, 14,900 were directly involved and 300 indirectly involved (*i.e.*, thrown out of work at the establishments

where the stoppages occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes). The number of days lost in December also included 97,000 days lost by 8,900 workers through stoppages which had continued from the previous month.

Duration of Stoppages

Of 135 stoppages of work owing to disputes which ended during December, 76, directly involving 8,200 workers, lasted not more than one day; 28, directly involving 3,600 workers, lasted two days; 11, directly involving 1,700 workers, lasted three days; 10, directly involving 800 workers, lasted four to six days; and 10, directly involving 7,900 workers, lasted over six days.

Causes of Stoppages

Of the 134 disputes leading to stoppages of work which began in December, 4, directly involving 1,200 workers, arose out of demands for advances in wages, and 69, directly involving 8,200 workers, on other wage questions; 10, directly involving 700 workers, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; 49, directly involving 3,900 workers, on other questions respecting working arrangements; and one, directly involving 800 workers, on a question of trade union principle. One stoppage, directly involving 100 workers, was in support of workers involved in another dispute.

STATISTICS FOR YEAR 1955

The total number of stoppages of work due to industrial disputes in the United Kingdom, reported to have begun in 1955, was 2,424. The total number of workers involved in all stoppages in progress during the year (including those which began in 1954 and extended into 1955) was 670,900. The aggregate number of working days lost in 1955 through all stoppages in progress during the year was approximately 3,794,000. This compares with a total of 2,457,000 in 1954.

A summary of the statistics of disputes in 1955, with comparative statistics for 1954 and, in less detail, for earlier years, is given in the annual review on pages 5 and 6 of this GAZETTE.

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES DURING DECEMBER

Industry, Occupations† and Locality	Approximate Number of Workers involved		Date when Stoppage		Cause or Object	Result
	Directly	Indirectly†	Began	Ended		
COAL MINING :— Fillers and other colliery workers—Thorne, Doncaster, Yorks. (one colliery)	1,080	—	28 Dec.	29 Dec.	Fillers' dissatisfaction with wages paid for alternative work	Work resumed pending negotiations.
SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP REPAIRING :— Rivetters and other shipyard workers—various areas on the East Coast of Scotland (various firms)	240	150	26 Sept.	30 Dec.	Rejection of a demand that the wage agreement covering Clyde-side rivetters should be applied to East Coast shipyards	Increase in minimum rates and revision of piecework arrangements.
Joiners and other workers employed in shipbuilding—Birkenhead (one firm)	460	400	11 Nov.	—	Employer's termination of an understanding about demarcation	No settlement reported.
AIRCRAFT :— Workers employed on aero-engine manufacture—Glasgow area (one firm)	7,350	—	26 Oct.	14 Dec.	Rejection of a demand for the dismissal of a worker deprived of his trade union card for alleged failure to comply with a workshop decision	Work resumed.

* The statistics relate to stoppages of work due to disputes connected with terms of employment or conditions of labour. They exclude stoppages involving fewer than 10 workers, and those which lasted less than one day, except any in which 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.

† The occupations printed in italics are those of workers indirectly involved, *i.e.*, thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes.

Time Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour

1st April, 1955

Minimum, or standard, time rates of wages of wage-earners in the great majority of industries have been fixed by voluntary collective agreements between organisations of employers and workpeople or by statutory orders under the Wages Councils Acts, the Agricultural Wages Acts and the Catering Wages Act. In a number of cases the agreements have been arrived at by Joint Industrial Councils or similar bodies. In this volume, particulars are given of the minimum, or standard, rates of wages fixed by these agreements and orders for the more important industries and occupations. The source of the information is given in each case.

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U.K. Index of Retail Prices

INDEX FOR 13th DECEMBER, 1955

ALL ITEMS (17th June, 1947 = 100) .. 154

At 13th December, 1955, the retail prices index was 154 (prices at 17th June, 1947 = 100), the same figure as at 15th November, compared with 145 at 14th December, 1954.

The interim index of retail prices measures the change from month to month in the average level of prices of the commodities and services entering into the expenditure of the great majority of households in the United Kingdom. As with most indices of this kind it is based on the price movements of a large and representative selection of goods and services. The index is a measurement of price changes only and does not reflect changes in expenditure resulting from variations in the nature and quantities of goods purchased from time to time. Accordingly the price comparisons used in compiling the index figures relate in general to a fixed list of items in given quantities, although certain changes in the list of items were made at the beginning of 1952. In order to ensure that, so far as possible, the index figures reflect real changes in price levels, no account is taken of changes in the prices quoted which are attributable solely to variations in the quality of the items on sale.

The index is not calculated in terms of money but in percentage form, the average level of prices at the base date being represented by 100. Some goods and services are relatively much more important than others and the percentage changes in the price levels of the various items since the base date are combined by the use of "weights". The index figures for each month are first calculated as index numbers with prices at 15th January, 1952, taken as 100, and the weights used are in proportion to the estimated average household consumption of the various items in a recent period (1950) valued at the prices ruling in January, 1952.

DETAILED FIGURES FOR 13th DECEMBER, 1955

(15th January, 1952 = 100)

The following Table shows, for each of the nine main groups of items and for all the groups combined, the indices at 13th December, 1955, on the basis 15th January, 1952 = 100, together with the relative weights which have been used in combining the group indices into a single "all items" index.

GROUP	INDEX FIGURE FOR 13th DECEMBER, 1955 (15th January, 1952 = 100)	WEIGHT
I. Food	127.1	399
II. Rent and rates	116.7	72
III. Clothing	98.3	98
IV. Fuel and light	127.5	66
V. Household durable goods	101.6	62
VI. Miscellaneous goods	106.5	44
VII. Services	117.6	91
VIII. Alcoholic drink	103.1	78
IX. Tobacco	102.9	90
All items	116.2	1,000

PRINCIPAL CHANGES DURING MONTH

Food

Between 15th November and 13th December there were reductions in the average prices of tomatoes, bacon and ham, eggs and brussels sprouts. The effect of these reductions was partly offset by rises in the average levels of prices of cooking apples, fish, butter and cheese. For the food group as a whole the average level of prices fell by rather less than 1 per cent. and the group index figure, expressed to the nearest whole number, was 127 at 13th December, compared with 128 at 15th November.

Clothing

Between 15th November and 13th December there were increases in the average prices of most articles of clothing and footwear. The effect of these increases was to raise the level of clothing prices, taken as a whole, by about 1 per cent. and the group index figure, expressed to the nearest whole number, was 98 at 13th December, compared with 97 at 15th November.

Fuel and Light

Between 15th November and 13th December higher winter prices for household coal took effect in London and the south of England, and there were increases in the charges for electricity in most areas. As a result of these increases the average level of prices for the fuel and light group as a whole rose by about 1 1/2 per cent. and the index for the group, expressed to the nearest whole number, was 128 at 13th December, compared with 126 at 15th November.

Household Durable Goods

The average prices of many appliances and many articles of hardware rose between 15th November and 13th December. For the group as a whole, the average level of prices rose by about one-half of 1 per cent. and the group index figure, expressed to the nearest whole number, was 102 at 13th December, compared with 101 at 15th November.

Miscellaneous Goods

During the period under review there were increases in the average prices of household soap and soap powder. For the miscellaneous

goods group as a whole, the average level of prices rose only slightly, and the group index figure, expressed to the nearest whole number, remained unchanged at 106.

Services

Between 15th November and 13th December there were increases in bus fares and in the charges for laundering, hairdressing and shoe repairing in some areas. The effect of these increases was to raise the average level of prices and charges for the group as a whole by nearly one-half of 1 per cent., and the group index figure, expressed to the nearest whole number, was 118 at 13th December, compared with 117 at 15th November.

Other Groups

In the three remaining groups, covering rent and rates, alcoholic drink and tobacco there was little change in the general level of prices during the month under review. The index figures for these groups, expressed to the nearest whole number, were 117, 103 and 103, respectively.

ALL ITEMS INDEX FOR 13th DECEMBER, 1955

(17th June, 1947 = 100)

The index numbers quoted in the two preceding sections are index numbers showing changes in the level of prices compared with the level at 15th January, 1952, these latter being taken as = 100. Before January, 1952, the index figures were calculated on a different weighting basis and they showed the changes in the level of prices compared with a level of 100 at 17th June, 1947, the date when the Interim Index of Retail Prices was started. The "all items" index numbers in the two series can be linked together, however, in order to produce a continuous series of figures showing the change in the level of prices compared with the level at the starting date of the index, *viz.*, 17th June, 1947.

Thus, at 13th December, 1955, the "all items" figure in the new series, with prices at 15th January, 1952, taken as 100, was 116.2. This figure has then to be linked to the index figure for 15th January, 1952, in the old series, in order to produce an "all items" figure for 13th December, 1955, comparable with all the indices published for dates up to and including January, 1952, *i.e.*, on the basis 17th June, 1947, taken as 100. The calculation is as follows:—

All items index at 15th January, 1952 (17th June, 1947 = 100)	132.5
All items index at 13th December, 1955 (15th January, 1952 = 100)	116.2
\therefore All items index at 13th December, 1955 (17th June, 1947 = 100)	$132.5 \times \frac{116.2}{100}$
	= 154.0, that is 154

A Table showing the figures for "all items" from June, 1947, onwards with prices at 17th June, 1947, taken as 100 is provided in an article reviewing the changes in retail prices during the year 1955 which appears on pages 4 and 5 of this GAZETTE.

Retail Prices Overseas

The latest information received is given in the Table below.

Country	Base of Index* and Month for which Index Figure is given	Index Figure	Rise (+) or Fall (—) of Index Figure (in Index Points) compared with	
			Month before	Year before
European Countries				
France (Paris)	1949 = 100			
All Items	Oct., 1955	146.0	+ 1.5	+ 3.1
Food	" "	137.5	+ 2.5	+ 3.4
Germany (Federal Republic)	1950 = 100			
All Items	Nov., 1955	112	+ 1	+ 2
Food	" "	118	+ 2	+ 2
Irish Republic	Aug., 1947 = 100†			
All Items	Nov., 1955	131	+ 3‡	+ 5
Sweden	1949 = 100			
All Items	Sept., 1955	134	+ 1	+ 5
Food	" "	148	+ 2	+12
Other Countries				
Canada	1949 = 100			
All Items	Nov., 1955	116.9	Nil	+ 0.1
Food	" "	113.0	— 0.5	— 0.4
India*	1949 = 100			
All Items	Sept., 1955§	96	— 1	— 4
Food	" "	93	— 1	— 8
Japan	1951 = 100			
All Items	Aug., 1955	117.8	+ 0.8	— 2.2
Food	" "	115.6	+ 1.3	— 6.4
United States	1947 = 100			
All Items	Oct., 1955	114.9	Nil	+ 0.4
Food	" "	110.8	— 0.8	— 1.0

* The items of expenditure on which the "all items" figures are based are food, clothing, house-rent, fuel and light, and other or miscellaneous items. The index for India is an All-India average of the indices for a number of areas; it is expressed on base 1949 = 100 as a "General" and as a "Food" figure.
† A figure for "Food" is not available on this base. On base August, 1953 = 100 it was 106.0 at November, 1955.
‡ The index is quarterly and comparison is with the previous quarter.
§ Figures for the two latest months are provisional.

ARBITRATION AWARDS, NOTICES, ORDERS, ETC.

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Industrial Disputes Order, 1951, and Conditions of Employment and National Arbitration (Northern Ireland) Orders, 1940 to 1945

Industrial Disputes Tribunal Awards

During December the Industrial Disputes Tribunal issued eight awards, Nos. 780 to 787*. One of the awards is summarised below; the others related to individual employers.

Award No. 786 (23rd December).—Parties: Members of the National Federated Electrical Association, and members of the Electrical Trades Union in their employment. *Matter in dispute:* The dispute arose out of a difference between the parties as to whether or not there should be a further increase of 1d. an hour in the journeyman electrician's rate over and above the 3d. an hour interim settlement, on the basis of the claim made by the Union as submitted in November, 1954. *Award:* The Tribunal took note of the fact that the issue raised by the terms of reference agreed between the parties was whether the increase of 3d. an hour provided for journeymen electricians under the interim agreement of 22nd February, 1955, following the Union's claim of 24th November, 1954, was an appropriate increase at that time, or whether there should have been a further increase of 1d. an hour. The Tribunal were of opinion that the increase of 3d. an hour was an appropriate one in the circumstances prevailing at the time the agreement was concluded, and they therefore found and so awarded that the claim as set out in the terms of reference had not been established.

National Arbitration Tribunal (Northern Ireland) Awards

During December the National Arbitration Tribunal (Northern Ireland) issued three awards, two of which are summarised below. The other award did not relate to a substantial part of an industry.

Award No. 1143 (2nd December).—Parties: The Electricity Board for Northern Ireland and certain members of the Clerical and Administrative Workers' Union in their employment. *Claim:* For increased salary scales for clerical and administrative staff employed by the Board. *Award:* The Tribunal awarded that, with effect from 1st July, 1955, the present salary scales of clerical and administrative staff employed by the Board should be increased by amounts shown, for each of the grades of staff, in a detailed schedule to the award.

Award No. 1145 (21st December).—Parties: The member firms of the Irish Bleachers' Association Limited, the member firms of the Irish Dyers Limited, the member firms of the Hydraulic Mangle Finishers' Association, and certain members of the Amalgamated Transport and General Workers' Union and the National Union of General and Municipal Workers. *Claim:* Application by the Unions on behalf of their members for (a) two additional customary holidays with pay; and (b) a substantial increase in wages to the workers, both time and piece rate. *Award:* The Tribunal awarded:—(1) *Customary Holidays:* That commencing with the year 1956 the workers to whom the claim relates shall be granted two additional customary holidays with pay each year; (2) *Wages:* (i) That the minimum rate of wages of unskilled adult male time-workers shall be increased by 7s. a week; (ii) that the minimum rates of wages of semi-skilled, skilled and juvenile male time-workers shall be increased in the same proportion as the increase herein granted to unskilled male time-workers; (iii) that the minimum rate of wages of adult female time-workers shall be increased by 4s. a week; (iv) that the minimum rate of wages of juvenile female time-workers shall be increased in the same proportion as the increase herein granted to adult female time-workers. The award, so far as the paragraph on wages is concerned, to have effect from the beginning of the first full pay period following the date of the award.

Civil Service Arbitration Tribunal

During December the Civil Service Arbitration Tribunal issued four awards, Nos. 302 to 305*, which are summarised below.

Award No. 302 (3rd December).—Parties: The Institution of Professional Civil Servants and the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation. *Claim:* For increased salary scales with retrospective effect for Chief Air Traffic Control Officer, Senior Air Traffic Control Officers, and Air Traffic Control Officers Grades I, II and III employed by the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation. *Award:* The Tribunal awarded that with effect from 1st January, 1953, the pay of Air Traffic Control Officers Grades I, II and III should be increased by £30 at each point in the salary scale.

* See footnote * in first column on page 39.

The Tribunal found against the claim in respect of the Chief Air Traffic Control Officer, the London and South Eastern Divisional Air Traffic Control Officer, and the Senior Air Traffic Control Officers and awarded accordingly.

Award No. 303 (8th December).—Parties: The National Federation of Sub-Postmasters and the Post Office. *Claim:* For increased minimum payments with retrospective effect for Scale Payment Sub-Postmasters and Sub-Postmistresses. *Award:* The Tribunal awarded that the minimum payments per annum for a Scale Payment Sub-Postmaster or Sub-Postmistress, as from 1st July, 1955, shall be as follows: *Non-Telegraph Offices:* Postal Order Offices £160, Savings Bank Offices £165, Money Order Offices £175; *Auxiliary Telegraph Offices:* Postal Order Offices £165, Savings Bank Offices £175, Money Order Offices £180; *Full Telegraph Offices:* Postal Order Offices £200, Savings Bank Offices £210, Money Order Offices £215. In making this award the Tribunal have taken into consideration the Agreement of October, 1955, under which Part I emoluments of Sub-Postmasters and Sub-Postmistresses were increased as from 1st July, 1955, by 4 1/2 per cent.

Award No. 304 (14th December).—Parties: The Society of Telecommunication Engineers and the Post Office. *Claim:* For increased salary scales with retrospective effect for Assistant Engineers and Inspectors employed by the Post Office. *Award:* The Tribunal awarded: (a) that the consolidated London salary scales (*i.e.*, scales not attracting the first Civil Service Pay Supplement) of Assistant Engineers and Inspectors employed by the Post Office shall, with effect from 1st January, 1955, be as follows: Assistant Engineers, age 18 to 20 £430, age 21 £475, age 22 £500, age 23 £525, age 24 £555, age 25 £585 then by £25 to £660 by £30 to £840 by £20 to £860, Inspectors, £585 by £20 to £625 by £25 to £700 by £20 to £720; (b) that the "corresponding points" principle shall be applied in the assimilation to the new scales of officers in post.

Award No. 305 (29th December).—Parties: The Civil Service Union and H.M. Treasury. *Claim:* For increased salary scale with retrospective effect for Grade III of the Linked Departmental Classes of Instructional Officers. *Award:* The Tribunal awarded: (a) that the salary scale for Grade III of the Linked Departmental Classes of Instructional Officers shall be £615 by £20 to £655 by £25 to £730 by £15 to £745, the minimum of the scale to be linked to age 26, plus or minus £20 for each year above or below that age, but not exceeding age 28; (b) that the above scale shall be effective from 1st September, 1955, and shall attract Pay Supplement with effect from 1st July, 1954; (c) that normal Civil Service three-tier provincial differentiation shall apply; (d) that the "corresponding points" principle shall be applied in the assimilation to the new scale of officers in post.

The Tribunal noted that the Treasury had agreed to consider the upgrading of certain posts as indicated in their correspondence with the Union.

Industrial Courts Act, 1919, and Conciliation Act, 1896

Industrial Court Awards

During December the Industrial Court issued two awards, Nos. 2589 and 2590. One of the awards is summarised below; the other award related to an individual employer.

Award No. 2590 (14th December).—Parties: Officers' Side and Management Side of the Joint Negotiating Committee for Justices' Clerks' Assistants. *Matter in Dispute:* A difference between the parties as to the recommendation to be made to the employing authorities and to the Council of each County and Borough having a separate Commission of the Peace as to the scales of salary for whole-time Justices' Clerks' Assistants employed outside the Administrative County of London. *Award:* The Court found and awarded that the recommendations made should be (i) that the following grades of post should be established: General Division Grades I and II, Senior Clerks' Division, Deputy Clerks' Division and Principal Assistants' Division; (ii) that the salary scale for General Division Grade I should be: Males, age 15 £170, age 16 £190, age 17 £210, age 18 £230, age 19 £250, age 20 £275, age 21 £300, age 22 £325, age 23 £350, then by £25 to £475; Females, age 15 £154, age 16 £171, age 17 £188, age 18 £205, age 19 £220, age 20 £242, age 21 £264, age 22 £284, age 23 £306, then by £22 to £350 by £20 to £370 by £22 to £414. (Equal pay for females to be introduced by the public service formula of a seven-year transitional process; the scales quoted above are those operating in local government service between 1st July and 31st December, 1955); (iii) that the salary scale for General Division Grade II should be: Males and Females £500 by £20 to £580; (iv) that the salary scales for Senior Clerks, Deputy Clerks, and Principal Assistants should, for each grade and within a range of salaries specified in the award, be the subject of negotiation between the two sides of the Joint Negotiating Committee for Justices' Clerks' Assistants, and, if agreement is not

reached within two months of the date of the award, either party may refer unresolved questions to the Court; (v) that the salary scales for Typists and Shorthand Typists should be those which have already been negotiated by the Joint Negotiating Committee; (vi) that the award should operate from 1st April, 1953.

The award defines the qualifications for and nature of the duties of Grades I and II of the General Division and recommends that the duties of the performance of which is to govern the entry of an Assistant Clerk to the Senior Clerk or Deputy Clerk and Principal Assistant Divisions should be defined by joint negotiation.

Single Arbitrators and *ad hoc* Boards of Arbitration

During December one award was issued by a Single Arbitrator appointed under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919. The award related to an individual undertaking.

Wages Councils Acts, 1945-1948

Notices of Proposals

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

Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Wages Council (Scotland).—Proposal W.D.S.(64), dated 6th December, for fixing revised general minimum time rates and piecework basis time rates for male and female workers.

Hat, Cap and Millinery Wages Council (Scotland).—Proposal H.M.S.(44), dated 6th December, for fixing revised general minimum time rates and piecework basis time rates for male and female workers.

Laundry Wages Council (Great Britain).—Proposal W.(76), dated 6th December, for fixing revised general minimum time rates and piecework basis time rates for male and female workers and amending the provisions relating to holidays and holiday remuneration.

Retail Bespoke Tailoring Wages Council (England and Wales).—Proposal R.B.(47), dated 30th December, for fixing revised general minimum time rates and piecework basis time rates for male and female workers.

Retail Drapery, Outfitting and Footwear Trades Wages Council (Great Britain).—Proposal R.D.O.(23), dated 30th December, for fixing revised statutory minimum remuneration for male and female workers and amending the provisions relating to holidays and holiday remuneration.

Cutlery Wages Council (Great Britain).—Proposal C.T.(58), dated 30th December, for fixing revised general minimum time rates and piecework basis time rates for male and female workers and amending the provisions relating to holidays and holiday remuneration.

Further information concerning any of the above proposals may be obtained from the Secretary of the Council in question, at Ebury Bridge House, Ebury Bridge Road, London, S.W.1.

Wages Regulation Orders

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

The Retail Bespoke Tailoring Wages Council (Scotland) Wages Regulation (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1955: S.I. 1955 No. 1887 (R.B.S.(45)), dated 14th December and effective from 30th December. This Order re-defines the areas which determine the minimum remuneration applicable to workers in relation to whom the Council operates.—See page 29.

The Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Wages Council (England and Wales) Wages Regulation (Amendment) Order, 1955: S.I. 1955 No. 1938 (W.D.(63)), dated 20th December and effective from 13th January, 1956. This Order prescribes revised general minimum time rates and piecework basis time rates for male and female workers.

The Hat, Cap and Millinery Wages Council (England and Wales) Wages Regulation (Amendment) Order, 1955: S.I. 1955 No. 1969 (H.M.(48)), dated 22nd December and effective from 13th January, 1956. This Order prescribes revised general minimum time rates and piecework basis time rates for male and female workers.

Decisions of the Commissioner under the National Insurance Acts

The Commissioner is a judicial authority independent of the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance and appointed by the Crown (see Section 43 of the National Insurance Act, 1946, and Section 42 of the National Insurance (Industrial Injuries) Act, 1946). His decisions, which are final, are binding on Insurance Officers and Local Tribunals and must be followed in appropriate cases. They are thus the "case law" which is the principal means of maintaining consistency of decisions.

* See footnote * in first column on page 39.
† Selected decisions of the Commissioner are published periodically in the following series:—Series "R(U)"—decisions on unemployment benefit; Series "R(P)"—decisions on retirement pensions; Series "R(S)"—decisions on sickness benefit; Series "R(G)"—decisions on guardian's allowance, maternity benefit, death grant and widow's benefit; Series "R(I)"—decisions on all benefits and on any other questions arising under the Industrial Injuries Acts. An Index to Commissioner's Decisions, which is kept up to date by amendments published at monthly intervals, is also available. Applications and enquiries should be addressed to H.M. Stationery Office at any of the addresses shown in the first column on page 39.

Wages Councils Act (Northern Ireland), 1945

Notices of Proposals

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

Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Wages Council (Northern Ireland).—Proposal N.I.W.D. (N.76), dated 16th December, for fixing revised statutory minimum remuneration for male and female workers in the Factory Branch of the trade.

Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Wages Council (Northern Ireland).—Proposal N.I.W.D. (N.77), dated 16th December, for fixing revised statutory minimum remuneration for female workers in the Retail Branch of the trade.

Linen and Cotton Handkerchief and Household Goods and Linen Piece Goods Wages Council (Northern Ireland).—Proposal N.I.H.H.G. (N.140), dated 16th December, for fixing revised statutory minimum remuneration for male and female workers in the trade.

Further information concerning any of the above proposals may be obtained from the Secretary of the Council concerned, at Tyrone House, Ormeau Avenue, Belfast.

Wages Regulation Orders

During December the Ministry of Labour and National Insurance made the following Wages Regulation Orders* giving effect to the proposals made by the Wages Councils concerned:—

The Baking Wages Council (Northern Ireland) Wages Regulation (No. 1) Order, 1955 (N.I. Bk. (N.202)), dated 9th December and effective on and from 21st December. This Order prescribes revised statutory minimum remuneration for certain night workers employed in the County of the City of Belfast and in districts situate within a radius of 15 statute miles therefrom and fixes revised rates for the first two hours of overtime worked in the week.—See page 30.

The Baking Wages Council (Northern Ireland) Wages Regulation (No. 2) Order, 1955 (N.I. Bk. (N.203)), dated 9th December and effective on and from 21st December. This Order prescribes revised statutory minimum remuneration for certain night workers employed in the County of the City of Londonderry and fixes revised rates for the first two hours of overtime worked in the week.—See page 30.

The Baking Wages Council (Northern Ireland) Wages Regulation (No. 3) Order, 1955 (N.I. Bk. (N.204)), dated 9th December and effective on and from 21st December. This Order prescribes revised statutory minimum remuneration for certain night workers employed in areas other than the County of the City of Belfast and districts situate within a radius of 15 statute miles therefrom and the County of the City of Londonderry, and fixes revised rates for the first two hours of overtime worked in the week.—See page 30.

The Baking Wages Council (Northern Ireland) Wages Regulation (No. 4) Order, 1955 (N.I. Bk. (N.205)), dated 9th December and effective on and from 21st December. This Order prescribes revised statutory minimum remuneration for night transport workers in the baking trade.—See page 30.

The Sugar Confectionery and Food Preserving Wages Council (Northern Ireland) Wages Regulation Order, 1955 (N.I.F. (N.49)), dated 9th December and effective on and from 22nd December. This Order prescribes revised statutory minimum remuneration for male and female workers in the trade.—See page 30.

Catering Wages Act, 1943

Notices of Proposals

During December the following Wages Board issued notice of intention to submit wages regulation proposals to the Minister of Labour and National Service:—

Licensed Residential Establishment and Licensed Restaurant Wages Board.—Proposal L.R.(21), dated 13th December, for fixing revised weekly minimum remuneration for male and female workers and for amending the provisions relating to holidays and holiday remuneration.

Appeals to the Commissioner under the National Insurance Acts may be made by an Insurance Officer, or by an association of which the claimant is a member, or by the claimant himself with the leave of the Tribunal or the Commissioner, or without such leave if the decision of the Tribunal was not unanimous.

Appeals to the Commissioner under the Industrial Injuries Acts may be made by an Insurance Officer, or by a person whose right to benefit is or may be, under the fourth Schedule to the 1946 Act, affected by the decision, or by an association of which the claimant or the deceased was a member, or by the claimant himself. No appeal may be made without the leave of the Tribunal or of the Commissioner.

Recent decisions of general interest are set out opposite.

* See footnote * in first column on page 39.

Decision No. R(U) 19/55 (18th August)

Claimant attended at the colliery where he was employed as a ripper when his normal work was brought to a standstill through a strike of fillers, but he took no positive step to offer himself at the colliery for work, alternative to his usual work, which was available to him. Held that claimant had not discharged the onus of showing that he was not participating in the trade dispute.

Decision of the Commissioner

"My decision is that the claimant lost his employment on 7th February, 1955, as a result of a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute at his place of employment and therefore he is disqualified for receiving unemployment benefit under section 13(1) of the National Insurance Act, 1946, from 7th February to 15th February, 1955, inclusive, when the stoppage of work came to an end.

"The questions to be determined in this appeal of the insurance officer are whether the claimant lost his employment by reason of a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute at his place of employment and whether he is disqualified for receiving unemployment benefit from 7th February, 1955, to 15th February, 1955, when the stoppage of work came to an end.

"The facts show that the claimant is employed as a ripper at A.H. colliery, Featherstone. On the day shift (7th February, 1955) 200 fillers of the Silkstone seam refused to work owing to dissatisfaction over the price list. The fillers in the W. H. & S. main seams ceased work in sympathy as from the afternoon shift on that date. In general, rippers, panners and packers did not present themselves for work as from the afternoon shift of 7th February, 1955, and thereafter, until full working was resumed at the colliery on the morning shift of 16th February, 1955.

"The facts as recited by the insurance officer in his appeal show that the claimant is stated to have said that on 7th February, 1955, his own job had not been available to him, that he had gone to the pit on the Monday afternoon shift and had seen the under-manager but no one had spoken a word to him and that he had returned home. It appears that this information was passed to an official of the Regional Insurance Office together with a statement by the manager of the claimant's local employment exchange that the colliery management had said that work was available for all men on the day and afternoon shifts on 7th February, 1955.

"The claimant claimed unemployment benefit from and including 7th February, 1955.

"The insurance officer decided that the claim should be disallowed from and including 7th February, 1955, on the ground that the claimant lost his employment by reason of a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute at his place of employment.

"Against that decision the claimant appealed to the local tribunal on the ground that he attended for work on 7th February, 1955, but that, as the fillers had withdrawn their labour, his own job as a ripper was not available and he returned home. He had on other occasions been offered alternative work as a filler and he had always refused that work. In a letter bearing the date 14th March, 1955, the manager of the colliery where the claimant worked stated that work would have been found for anyone who presented himself for work up to 6 a.m. on 8th February, 1955, and that rippers, panners and packers who had presented themselves for work before that time could have been employed on general bywork—which they are normally expected to do and are usually prepared to undertake when normal work is not available.

"The appeal was heard by the local tribunal and the evidence which was recorded is as follows:—

"Claimant states for 2½ years he has worked as a ripper in one loader gate, in the Silkstone seam at A.H. colliery. Has not, during that time, filled any coal. Wages do not depend on amount of coal filled or the rate of wages paid to fillers. Work as a ripper is part of a cycle, and if fillers do not do their work rippers cannot do theirs.

"In previous disputes—sometimes after having reached the pit bottom—he and his fellow rippers have been asked to fill coal but have always refused. Never during disputes has he—or so far as he knows, his fellow rippers—been offered any other work than filling as an alternative to the ripping—never been offered general bywork although this description covers work that is generally available about a pit but does not cover coal filling.

"On Monday, 7th February, found when in the pit yard that fillers had not worked that morning, and that meant that ripping work would not be available for the afternoon. Took it for granted that the only alternative work to be offered would be coal filling, so with other rippers on that shift went home without speaking to anyone in authority for the employers. Did not offer himself again for work until he knew that the coal fillers had returned.

"General bywork is a proper alternative to ripping and has been followed when work as a ripper has not been available, for reasons other than a dispute.

"In answer to questions, claimant insists that he has never been offered any alternative to ripping than filling, during disputes.

"Colliery manager's contention is that work is found for all men during the first 24 hours of a dispute. Only time that rippers have been asked to fill coal during a dispute is for safety at coal face.

"Under manager, Silkstone seam, confirms.

"The claimant's representative states that a dispute affecting the fillers on J.'s gate occurred on 30th December to 5th January, 1955. Between 19th August, 1953, to 21st January, 1955, alleged that there have been 19 disputes at A.H. collieries—16 on Silkstone seam alone, and all affecting fillers. Certain of these disputes would affect claimant—this is the first time he has been declined benefit. Claimed for management that records would show that rippers had done other work. For first 24 hours only work would have been found for all those put off work by fillers' dispute. Sometimes, during a fillers' dispute on the claimant's face, he has worked finishing ripping on his face.

On Monday, 7th February, he knew there was no ripping to do if fillers had not worked. During a fillers' dispute on his face he had never done ripping work on another face. Claimant's representative states that as trade union secretary he has never known of arrangement to provide for first 24 hours' work for all those not directly involved in dispute. Manager states that the understanding is confined to his own pit. Under manager states that some of all classes of labour have been found work during a dispute in which they are not directly concerned. Insurance officer submits that claimant must show that he has not participated in dispute. Accepted that rippers not financially interested in dispute, but that he did not present himself for work.

"National Union of Mineworkers' representative points out that unemployment benefit has, during other fillers' disputes, been paid.

"On 16th February, when dispute broke out again, all were sent home."

"The local tribunal found that on Monday, 7th February, 1955, claimant was not participating in a trade dispute. He did not, however, properly present himself for work which, as an alternative to that in his usual grade, was available for him during the first 24 hours of the dispute affecting fillers. After the first 24 hours of the dispute work, other than as a filler, was not available until the fillers' dispute was settled. The unanimous decision of the tribunal was 'claim disallowed but benefit to be disallowed only for the 7th. Benefit otherwise to be paid.'

"Since the tribunal hearing it has been confirmed on behalf of the National Coal Board that 5 back rippers and one borer presented themselves for work at the colliery on 7th February, 1955, were offered employment as general byworkers and worked in that capacity on that day.

"In the submission of the insurance officer the claimant was a person who lost employment in an employed contributor's employment by reason of a stoppage of work which was due to a trade dispute at his place of employment and to avoid disqualification the claimant must show, among other things, that he was not participating in the trade dispute which caused the stoppage of work. (See paragraph (a) of the proviso to sub-section (1) of section 13 of the National Insurance Act, 1946.)

"The insurance officer contends that there is no dispute about the fact that the claimant went to the pit on 7th February, 1955, saw the under-manager but did not speak to him and went home. The insurance officer submits that the question is whether by his action or inaction the claimant identified himself with the cause of the strikers. She submits that the onus of proof that the claimant was not participating in the trade dispute lies on the claimant and she contends that by not taking some positive step to present himself and to make it clear that he was presenting himself for work (alternative to his usual work) which was available to him he has not discharged this onus. For a claimant to plead that



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he was not aware that alternative suitable work was available for him when he did not take adequate steps to ascertain whether such work was available is, in the submission of the insurance officer, insufficient to enable the claimant to secure relief from disqualification under the provisions of paragraph (a) of the proviso to subsection (1) of section 13 of the Act.

"In support of this contention the insurance officer refers to a decision of the Umpire under the Unemployment Insurance Acts (now repealed) namely Umpire's Decision 4329/37 (not reported). The claimant in that case did not present himself for work as word had wrongly got round that there was no work for him. As in the present case, no positive step had been taken to present himself for work. The Umpire held that the onus that the claimant was not participating in the trade dispute had not been discharged. In the submission of the insurance officer the claimant, by refraining from offering his labour, participated in the dispute and, thereby, incurred disqualification so long as the stoppage continued. In the result the insurance officer submits that the claimant should be disqualified for receiving unemployment benefit from 7th February, 1955, to 15th February, 1955, inclusive.

"I agree with the submission of the insurance officer. In my view the claimant has failed to satisfy the onus of proof, which is upon him, of showing that neither he nor any member of his grade or class were participating in the trade dispute and, therefore, I allow the appeal of the insurance officer. The claimant must therefore be disqualified for receiving unemployment benefit for the period shown in paragraph one of my decision."

Decision No. R(U) 25/55 (21st September)

The employment of a plasterer who normally worked a six-day week was regulated by a guaranteed wage agreement including a provision for payment of the full guaranteed minimum in the event of his employment being terminated by the tendering of two hours' notice expiring at the normal finishing time on a Friday. His employment was so terminated because of inclement weather but on the understanding that he would be taken on again, if available, when conditions allowed, the employers describing this as a suspension. Held that claimant was discharged in the sense of the guaranteed wage agreement on the Friday, and, therefore, in accordance with Decision R(U) 13/51, was not to be regarded as continuing to receive wages for the Saturday.

Decision of the Commissioner

"My decision is that the claimant is entitled to unemployment benefit in respect of 26th February, 1955.

"The claimant worked as a plasterer in the employment of a certain firm from May, 1954, to 25th February, 1955. The 25th February, 1955, was a Friday. On the evening of that day he ceased work in the circumstances to be explained later. His claim for unemployment benefit in respect of Saturday, 26th February, 1955, was disallowed by the local insurance officer, but allowed, on appeal, by the local tribunal. The present appeal is taken by the insurance officer against the tribunal's decision, which is dated 21st April, 1955. The case is taken as a test case affecting 18 other workmen who became idle in similar circumstances to the claimant.

"The claimant's employment is regulated by an agreement between the Scottish National Building Trades' Federation (Employers) and other Employers' Associations connected with the Building Trade in Scotland and The National Federation of Building Trades Operatives who are signatories to the agreement. Among the relevant terms of agreement are the following:—
(a) The normal working week is of 44 hours, extending from Monday to Saturday inclusive. (b) The pay week is from midnight Sunday to midnight Sunday. (c) Termination of the employment (after the first six days thereof) is upon the tendering of two hours' notice by either the employer or the workman, such notice to expire at the normal finishing time on Fridays. There are, in addition, provisions designed to ensure a guaranteed minimum wage equivalent to 32 times the hourly wage rate. This leading provision is subject to modification as follows: 'Where an operative is prevented by sickness or other causes beyond his control from being available for work throughout the normal working hours of each day of a pay week, or is in the employer's employment for only a part of the pay week, or is absent on a (recognised) holiday, he shall be entitled only to such proportion of the guaranteed weekly wage as is represented by the time he was 'available for work' compared with the total normal working hours of that week. Where, however, an operative who would otherwise qualify for the full guaranteed wage is discharged on a Friday and for that reason only cannot be available for work on the next (Saturday) morning, the guarantee shall not thereby be rendered 'proportionate' and he shall be entitled to the full guaranteed wage."

"The effect—in relation to title to unemployment benefit—of a guaranteed minimum wage agreement has been repeatedly considered both by the Umpire under the old Unemployment Insurance Acts and by the Commissioner under the present National Insurance Acts. In Umpire's decision No. 215/47, quoted with approval in Commissioner's decision C.U. 137/49 (reported), the principle is stated as follows: 'Where a minimum wage is paid in respect of any week in which work is done it has always been held that the recipient of that wage is not unemployed during that week, on the ground that the wage is a payment made in respect of each and all the days of the week, and is a payment for the whole week.'

"In the present case the claimant worked from Monday, 21st, to Friday, 25th February, 1955, a total of 40 hours, and was paid for 40 hours' work. *Prima facie*, in accordance with the principle quoted above, and having regard to the fact that his normal pay week ran from Sunday to Sunday, the conclusion would follow that he had been paid for the whole week, and in particular for Saturday, 26th February, 1955; and that accordingly he could not be regarded as being unemployed on that day. But the special feature of the present case which must still be considered is the effect of the employer's action in giving notice to the claimant on the Friday, having regard to the modification of the guaranteed minimum wage provisions of the agreement as quoted above.

"At the oral hearing before me, there was some discussion as to whether the claimant was 'discharged' or 'suspended.' It appears that in answer to the first enquiries made, the employers described their action as one of 'discharge' of the workmen. In later and more detailed answer, they tended to describe their action rather as one of 'suspending' the workmen. The reason for their act—however it be described—was inclement weather. In the claimant's case—which is no doubt typical—there was no occasion, at the time when notice was in fact given on the Friday—for the employer's foreman to employ any specific form of words. The claimant was 'given his books'; and it was clearly understood on both sides that (a) he need not present himself again for work until weather conditions improved; (b) he was at liberty to seek work with another employer; and (c) he would be welcomed back by the old employer when work again became available, if the workman was available to take it.

"I agree that the distinction between 'discharge' and 'suspension' may for certain purposes be vital. But for purposes of the present case, the relevant question (to my mind) is whether the claimant was discharged in the sense in which that word is used in the agreement. If he was discharged in that sense, then the provisions of the agreement relating to such discharge come into effect, and their effect must be considered. The evidence in the present case leaves me in no doubt that the notice given to the claimant on the Friday in question represented his discharge within the meaning of, and by virtue of, the provisions of the agreement. It is not necessary or appropriate to consider whether this so-called 'discharge' might in other contexts be fairly regarded as a mere suspension.

"Turning back to the terms of the agreement, it is plain that if there is no 'discharge,' the earning of a wage at least equal to the amount of the full guaranteed wage would fall to be regarded as the earning of a wage in respect of the whole week. The effect of a modifying clause, which in certain circumstances reduces the amount of the guaranteed wage to a proportion of the normal guaranteed figure was considered in Commissioner's decision R(U) 13/51. As I understand it, the view of the Commissioner (who was dealing with a clause in no material respect different from that in the present case) was that 'the reduced guarantee is given in respect of the reduced working week . . . the remaining hours of the normal working week are not subject to the guarantee at all and no work or wages are guaranteed in respect of them.' The Commissioner then went on to consider the effect of a specific provision relating to discharge of the workman on a Friday (*i.e.*, at a time before the normal working week had been completed). Having come to the conclusion that where the working week was prematurely terminated, the guarantee did not cover the balance of the working week, the Commissioner went on to say that a provision which provided that there should be no reduction in the guaranteed minimum if the operative is discharged on a Friday 'affords no logical grounds for the inference that in the event of such discharge a proportion of the minimum is paid in respect of a day on which the claimant is not in the employer's employment.' These words seem to me to cover precisely the present case, and, with respect, I see no reason to doubt their soundness. The result must follow that, since the present claimant was discharged, in the sense of the agreement the guarantee had no effect on his position on Saturday, 26th February, 1955, and the guarantee affords no ground for saying that he continued to receive wages in respect of that day.

"The representative of the claimant's association who attended the oral hearing offered certain criticisms of the way in which employers operate the agreement in question. It would not be proper for me to express any views on this matter. For purposes of this appeal I must take the agreement in accordance with its terms, interpret it as best I can, and come to a conclusion as to its effects when operated as it was in fact operated, in relation to the claim for unemployment benefit which is before me.

"In my judgment—although I have found the case difficult—the tribunal reached a correct decision, and I uphold it. The appeal of the insurance officer is dismissed."

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

Since last month's issue of this GAZETTE was prepared, the under-mentioned Statutory Instruments,* relating to matters with which the Ministry of Labour and National Service are concerned, either directly or indirectly, have been published in the series of *Statutory Instruments*. The list also includes certain regulations, etc., published in the series of *Statutory Rules and Orders of Northern Ireland*, additional to those contained in the lists appearing in previous issues of the GAZETTE. The prices shown are net; those in brackets include postage. Where no price is shown, the instrument costs 2d. net (3½d. including postage).

The Retail Bespoke Tailoring Wages Council (Scotland) Wages Regulation (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1955 (S.I. 1955 No. 1887), dated 14th December; *The Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Wages Council (England and Wales) Wages Regulation (Amendment) Order, 1955 (S.I. 1955 No. 1938)*; price 3d. (4½d.), dated 20th December; *The Hat, Cap and Millinery Wages Council (England and Wales) Wages Regulation (Amendment) Order, 1955 (S.I. 1955 No. 1969)*; price 3d. (4½d.), dated 22nd December. These Orders were made by the Minister of Labour and National Service under the Wages Councils Act, 1945.—See page 36.

The Probation (No. 2) Rules, 1955 (S.I. 1955 No. 1800 (L.15)), made on 29th November by the Secretary of State for the Home Department under the Criminal Justice Act, 1948. By the Probation Rules, 1949, as previously amended (see the issue of this GAZETTE for June, 1955, page 233) the pay of whole-time women probation officers was to be increased on 1st May in each year

* See footnote* in first column on page 39.

will it equalled the pay of male probation officers. The Rules now made alter the date to 1st January in each year.

(i) *The Fire Services (Conditions of Service) (No. 3) Regulations, 1955 (S.I. 1955 No. 1826*; price 6d. (7½d.)), dated 1st December; (ii) *The Fire Services (Conditions of Service) (Scotland) Amendment No. 2 Regulations, 1955 (S.I. 1955 No. 1828 (S.143)*; price 6d. (7½d.)), dated 2nd December. These Regulations came into operation on 9th December and were made (i) by the Secretary of State for the Home Department and (ii) by the Secretary of State for Scotland, under the Fire Services Act, 1947. The Regulations amend the Fire Services (Conditions of Service) Regulations, 1954, and the Fire Services (Conditions of Service) (Scotland) No. 2 Regulations, 1954. The principal amendments relate to the compulsory retirement of a pensionable fireman who is incapacitated; to normal weekly hours of duty; to time off in respect of periods of overtime or an allowance in lieu; and to extra duty allowances where the normal weekly hours of duty exceed 60.

The Police (No. 2) Regulations, 1955 (S.I. 1955 No. 1913; price 3d. (4½d.)), made on 16th December by the Secretary of State for the Home Department under the Police Act, 1919. These Regulations, which came into operation on 16th December, amend the Police Regulations, 1952, and provide for increased rates of overtime allowance; increased rates of detective duty allowance; and increased scales of pay for inspectors, sergeants and constables.

(The National Assistance (Determination of Need) Amendment Regulations, 1955 (S.I. 1955 No. 1905), made on 16th December by the Minister of Pensions and National Insurance under the National Assistance Act, 1941.—See page 11.

The Supplies and Services (Continuance) Order, 1955 (S.I. 1955 No. 1810), made on 1st December by Her Majesty in Council under the Supplies and Services (Transitional Powers) Act, 1945.—See page 9.

(i) *The Registered Designs (Extension of Period of Emergency) Order, 1955 (S.I. 1955 No. 1811)*; (ii) *The Patents (Extension of Period of Emergency) Order, 1955 (S.I. 1955 No. 1812)*. These Orders were made on 1st December by Her Majesty in Council (i) under the Registered Designs Act, 1949, and (ii) under the Patents Act, 1949.—See page 9.

(i) *The Emergency Laws (Continuance) Order, 1955 (S.I. 1955 No. 1813)*; (ii) *The Emergency Laws (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Colonies, etc.) Order in Council, 1955 (S.I. 1955 No. 1814)*. These Orders were made on 1st December by Her Majesty in Council (i) under the Emergency Laws (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1947, and (ii) under the Emergency Laws (Transitional Provisions) Act, 1946, as amended by subsequent legislation.—See page 9.

The Shirtmaking Wages Council (Northern Ireland) Wages Regulation Order, 1955 (S.R. & O. of Northern Ireland 1955 No. 177; price 4d. (5½d.)), dated 15th November; *The Readymade and Wholesale Bespoke Tailoring Wages Council (Northern Ireland) Wages Regulation (Amendment) Order, 1955 (S.R. & O. 1955 No. 178*; price 4d. (5½d.)), dated 15th November; *The Wholesale Mantle and Costume Wages Council (Northern Ireland) Wages Regulation (Amendment) Order, 1955 (S.R. & O. 1955 No. 179*; price 4d. (5½d.)), dated 10th November; *The Aerated Waters Wages Council (Northern Ireland) Wages Regulation (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1955 (S.R. & O. 1955 No. 185*; price 3d. (4½d.)), dated 28th November; *The Linen and Cotton Handkerchiefs and Household Goods and Linen Piece Goods Wages Council (Northern Ireland) Wages Regulation (Holidays) (Amendment) Order, 1955 (S.R. & O. 1955 No. 186*; price 3d. (4½d.)), dated 23rd November. These Orders were made by the Ministry of Labour and National Insurance under the Wages Councils Act (Northern Ireland), 1945 (see the issue of this GAZETTE for December, page 451).

The Royal Ulster Constabulary Pay (Amending) Order, 1955 (S.R. & O. 1955 No. 180), dated 29th November. This Order was made by the Minister of Home Affairs for Northern Ireland under the Constabulary and Police (Ireland) Act, 1919, as applied by the Constabulary Act (Northern Ireland), 1922. It prescribes the rates of pay, effective from 1st February, 1954, of men in specified senior grades of the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

The Census of Production (Exemption) Order (Northern Ireland), 1955 (S.R. & O. 1955 No. 188), made on 9th December by the Ministry of Commerce under the Statistics of Trade Act (Northern Ireland), 1949. The Order prescribes that an undertaking employing not more than ten persons shall be exempt from any requirement to furnish a return in respect of the Census of Production for the year 1955, and also exempts entirely from the scope of the census the following operations: (a) flax scutching, (b) mining and quarrying, (c) tea blending and coffee roasting, and (d) laundry, cleaning, and carpet beating.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED*

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

Careers.—Choice of Careers, New Series. (i) *No. 4. Librarian-ship*. 3rd Edition, 1955. Price 9d. (10½d.). (ii) *No. 6. Pottery*. 2nd Edition, 1955. Price 1s. 3d. (1s. 4½d.). (iii) *No. 20. Foundry Craftsman. Moulder*. 2nd Edition, 1955. Price 1s. (1s. 1½d.). (iv) *No. 65. Office Worker*. Price 1s. (1s. 1½d.). Ministry of Labour and National Service.

Census of Production for 1951.—Reports. (i) *Volume 2, Trade N, Mineral Oil Refining*. (ii) *Volume 10, Trade J, Newspaper and Periodical Printing and Publishing*. Price 1s. 6d. each (1s. 7½d.). (iii) *Volume 4, Trade B, Marine Engineering*. (iv) *Volume 7, Trade*

* Copies of official publications (including Orders, Regulations, etc.) referred to in this GAZETTE may be purchased from H.M. Stationery Office at any of the addresses shown opposite or through any bookseller.

D. Leather (Tanning and Dressing). Price 2s. each (2s. 1½d.). Board of Trade.

Coal Mining.—Quarterly Statistical Statement of the Costs of Production, Proceeds and Profit or Loss of Collieries for the third quarter of 1955. National Coal Board. Price 5d. (6½d.).—See page 9.

Disabled Persons.—Statement showing the Numbers of Registered Disabled Persons in Government Employment in Great Britain on 1st October, 1955. Cmd. 9659. Price 3d. (4½d.).—See page 9.

Emergency Legislation.—Continuance of Emergency Legislation. Explanatory Memorandum. Cmd. 9615. Price 4d. (5½d.).—See page 9.

Industrial Diseases.—Digest of Pneumoconiosis Statistics, 1954. Ministry of Fuel and Power. Price 2s. 6d. (2s. 7½d.).—See page 11.

International Labour Office.—Year Book of Labour Statistics, 1955. Published in the United Kingdom for the International Labour Office by Staples Press Limited, 14 Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1. Price £1 10s.—See page 13.

Mines.—H.M. Chief Inspector of Mines Report for 1953. Ministry of Fuel and Power. Price 3s. (3s. 2d.).—See page 10.

National Assistance.—Explanatory Memorandum on the Draft National Assistance (Determination of Need) Amendment Regulations, 1955. Cmd. 9635. Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance. Price 4d. (5½d.).—See page 11.

FACTORY FORMS

The undermentioned Factory Forms have been issued or reprinted since the previous list was published in the October, 1955, issue of this GAZETTE (page 375) and may be purchased at the prices shown. The prices in brackets include postage.

No.	Title and Price
43a	Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948. Notice of Accident or Dangerous Occurrence. March, 1955. Price 4s. (4s. 6d.).
294	Safety of Machine Tools and Other Plant No. 4. Guillotines and Shears. April, 1952. (Reprinted, 1955.) Price 1s. 3d. (1s. 4½d.).
385	Cyanide Poisoning. June, 1953. (Reprinted, 1955.) Price 6d. (7½d.).
395	Dangers from Gassing and Burns. Official Cautionary Notice. Sept., 1955. Price 9d. (10½d.).
848	Memorandum on Precautions in the Use of Nitrate Salt Baths. Revised March, 1948. (Reprinted, 1955.) Price 1s. (1s. 1½d.).
928	Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948. Memorandum by the Senior Electrical Inspector of Factories on the Electricity Regulations. 4th Edition, 1951. (Reprinted, 1955.) Price 4s. (4s. 1½d.).
932	Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning. Cautionary Notice. Sept. 1955. Price 9d. (10½d.).
938	Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948. Docks Regulations, 1934 (as amended by the First Aid Regulations, 1937). May, 1950. (Reprinted, 1955.) Price 9d. (10½d.).
1831	Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948. Safety Precautions in the Installation and Use of Laundry Machines and Plant. Oct. 1955. Price 3d. (4½d.).
1868	Memorandum on Precautions in the Handling, Storage and Use of Liquid Chlorine. 2nd Edition, July, 1939. (Reprinted, 1955.) Price 6d. (7½d.).
1946	Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948. Docks Regulations, 1934. Regulation 19(b). Prescribed form of Certificate of Annealing of Chains, Rings, Hooks, Shackles and Swivels. Nov. 1948. (Reprinted, 1955.) Price 2d. each (3½d.); 50, 3s. (3s. 3d.).

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