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

### EMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT during March showed a substantial and general improvement. The passing of the severe weather in the first week of the month led at once to a great reduction in the numbers of workpeople unemployed in the industries which had been adversely affected in the previous three or four weeks. In other industries, the improvement which was apparent during February continued throughout March. The increase in the number of workpeople in employment was relatively greatest in the building trade and public works contracting, in brick and tile, artificial stone and cement manufacture, and in the mining group of industries. In coal mining, there was a further decrease both in the numbers wholly unemployed and in the numbers temporarily stopped.

The other principal industries which shared in the improvement included pottery, iron and steel manufacture (including pig iron), general and marine engineering and the motor vehicle industry, shipbuilding and ship repairing, the textile trades (except jute manufacture), the clothing trades, and river, dock and harbour service.

There was a slight decline in the shipping service.

Among the workpeople, numbering approximately 11,880,000, insured against unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed in all industries taken together was 10.1 at 25th March, 1929, as compared with 12.2 at 25th February, 1929, and 9.5 at 26th March, 1928. The percentage wholly unemployed at 25th March, 1929, was 8.4, as compared with 9.8 at 25th February, 1929; while the percentage temporarily stopped was 1.7 as compared with 2.4. The total number of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 25th March, 1929, was approximately 1,168,000, of whom 918,000 were men and 190,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls. At 25th February, 1929, it was 1,430,000, of whom 1,137,000 were men and 218,000 were women; and at 26th March, 1928, it was 1,063,000 of whom 858,000 were men and 146,000 were women.

### WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation during March resulted in a reduction of about £3,850 in the weekly full-time wages of 60,000 workpeople, and in an increase of £400 in those of 6,800 workpeople.

There were reductions in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts for certain classes of workpeople employed in the boot and shoe repairing and brush and broom making trades in Great Britain. Other groups of workpeople whose wages were reduced included commercial road transport workers in certain

towns in Lancashire, and furniture trade operatives in the Manchester district. Workpeople whose wages were increased included certain classes of adult timeworkers employed in the textile bleaching, dyeing, etc., industries in Scotland, and blastfurnace workers in Cumberland.

During the first three months of 1929 the changes reported to the Department in the industries for which statistics have been compiled have resulted in net increases of £3,950 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 141,000 workpeople, and net reductions of £15,300 in those of over 243,000 workpeople. In the corresponding period of 1928 there were net increases of £12,150 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 207,000 workpeople, and net reductions of £109,000 in those of 971,000 workpeople.

### COST OF LIVING.

At 2nd April the average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and miscellaneous items) was approximately 62 per cent. above that of July, 1914, as compared with 66 per cent. a month ago and 64 per cent. a year ago. For food alone the corresponding figures were 50, 57 and 55.

The fall in the level of prices since a month ago is due largely to the disappearance of the severe weather conditions and to the operation of the seasonal influences usual at this period of the year.

These statistics are designed to indicate the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families, and accordingly, in making the calculations, the changes in the prices of the various articles included are combined in proportions corresponding with the relative importance of those items in pre-war working-class family expenditure, no allowance being made for any changes in the standard of living.

### TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in March, was 28. In addition, 12 disputes which began before March were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in March (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 19,100, and the aggregate duration of all disputes during March was about 133,000 working days. These figures compare with totals of 9,100 workpeople involved and 78,000 working days lost in the previous month, and with 38,000 workpeople involved and 168,000 days lost in March, 1928.

The aggregate duration of all disputes in progress in the first three months of 1929 was about 314,000 working days, and the total number of workpeople involved in these disputes was about 32,000. The figures for the corresponding period of 1928 were 325,000 days and 58,000 workpeople, respectively.









CHANGES IN COST OF LIVING: STATISTICS FOR 2nd APRIL.\*

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included ... 62%
Food only ... 50%

FOOD.

At 2nd April the average level of the retail prices of the principal articles of food showed a marked decline as compared with a month earlier.

Eggs were cheaper by nearly 1d. each, and butter was nearly 1 1/2d. per lb. cheaper on the average; while in about half of the localities from which returns were received the price of milk was 1d. per quart lower at the later date.

As a net result of all the changes recorded, the average increase compared with July, 1914, in the retail prices (in Great Britain and Northern Ireland) of the articles of food included in these statistics was about 50 per cent. at 2nd April, 1929, as compared with 57 per cent. a month ago and 55 per cent. a year ago.

In the following Table is given a comparison of retail prices of these articles of food in July, 1914, and at 1st March and 2nd April, 1929:—

Table with columns: Article, Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated—to the nearest 1/4d.), Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) at 2nd April, 1929, as compared with July, 1914, 1st March, 1929, 2nd April, 1929.

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

Table with columns: Article, Average Percentage Increase at 2nd April, 1929, as compared with July, 1914, Large Towns (Populations over 50,000), Small Towns and Villages, General Average, Corresponding General Average for 1st Mar., 1929.

\* As 1st April was a Bank Holiday, the statistics relate to 2nd April.
† If this kind is seldom dealt with in a locality, the returns quote the price of another kind locally representative.
‡ The description of cheese specified for quotation is Canadian or American, but where such cheese is seldom sold in a locality the returns quote the price of another kind locally representative.

RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT.

As regards rents, inquiries which have been made into the changes which have taken effect under the Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Acts indicate that the average increase in the controlled rents (including rates) of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 2nd April, 1929, was approximately 50 per cent.

As regards clothing, owing to the wide range of quotations, both now and before the war, to changes in qualities and in stocks held by retailers, and to variations in the extent to which different articles and qualities have been affected by price changes, it is impossible to make an exact calculation of the increase in prices; but information as to the movements of prices of men's suits and overcoats, underclothing and hosiery, textile materials and boots, received from retailers in the principal towns, indicates that at 2nd April the level of retail prices of articles in this group, taking goods of the kinds purchased by the working classes and so far as possible the same qualities of goods at each date, averaged approximately 120 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

In the fuel and light group the prices of coal at 2nd April averaged about the same as a month earlier, and about 80 per cent. above the level of July, 1914. The average price of gas also remained unchanged, at between 45 and 50 per cent. above the pre-war level.

ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance in pre-war working-class family expenditure, allowance being also made for the increase in the prices of soap, soda, domestic ironmongery, brushware and pottery, tobacco, fares and newspapers (averaging about 80 per cent.), the resultant general average increase for 2nd April is, approximately, 62 per cent.† over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 66 per cent. at 1st March, 1929, and 64 per cent. at 31st March, 1928.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken in 1929 as in 1914) is to show the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families (i.e., the standard actually prevailing in working-class families before the war, irrespective of whether such standard was adequate or not). Owing to the variations in the amounts of increase in the prices of different commodities it is probable that economies or readjustments in expenditure have been effected in many families, especially in those cases where incomes have not increased so much as prices. On the other hand, it is probable that the standard of living has been raised in those families in which wages have been increased in greater proportion than prices. No allowance is made in the figures for any such alterations in the standard of living, as to which trustworthy statistics are not available.

SUMMARY TABLE: 1919 TO 1929.

The following Table shows the average percentage increase, as compared with July, 1914, for all the items included in the statistics, at the beginning of each month, 1919 to 1929:—

Table with columns: Month (beginning of), 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929.

NOTE.

A brief Statement of the method of compiling these statistics was given on page 236 of the July, 1923, issue of this GAZETTE. A more detailed account was given in the issue of February, 1921.

\* See footnote \* in previous column.
† If allowance is made for the changes in taxation since July, 1914, on the commodities included in these statistics, the average increase is about 2 per cent. less.

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

EMPLOYMENT during March showed a substantial and general improvement. The passing of the severe weather in the first week of the month led at once to a great reduction in the numbers of workpeople unemployed in the industries which had been adversely affected in the previous three or four weeks.

The other principal industries which shared in the improvement included pottery, iron and steel manufacture (including pig iron), general and marine engineering and the motor vehicle industry, shipbuilding and ship repairing, the textile trades (except jute manufacture), the clothing trades, and river, dock and harbour service. There was a slight decline in the shipping service.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Among workpeople numbering approximately 11,880,000, insured against unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and working in practically every industry except agriculture and private domestic service, the percentage unemployed at 25th March, 1929, (including those temporarily stopped as well as those wholly unemployed), was 10.1, as compared with 12.2 at 25th February, 1929, and 9.5 at 26th March, 1928.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

Mining and Quarrying.—In the coal mining industry the marked improvement reported in February continued throughout March. The total number of wage earners on the colliery books at 23rd March, 1929, showed an increase of 1.7 per cent. as compared with 23rd February, 1929, but a decrease of 1.8 per cent. as compared with 24th March, 1928.

In the iron-mining industry employment continued slack, but showed an improvement as compared with the previous month. At the West Lothian shale mines there was an increase of 0.4 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed at the mines from which returns were received as compared with February.

Manufacture of Pig Iron, Iron and Steel, and Tinplate.—In the pig-iron industry employment showed an improvement as compared with the previous month. Of 424 furnaces, the number in blast at the end of March, 1929, was 145, as compared with 140 at the end of February, 1929, and with 150 at the end of March, 1928.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Industries.—In engineering employment was quiet, on the whole, but showed a general improvement, which was most pronounced in the motor vehicle, cycle and aircraft section, where employment was very fair.

In the other metal trades employment continued moderate to fair on the whole. It was fairly good in the sheet metal, tube,

\* Revised figure.

hollow-ware, nut and bolt, and lock, latch and key trades; fair in the brass-work, file and wire manufacture trades; moderate in the metallic bedstead and needle and fishing tackle trades; and slack or bad in the cutlery, jewellery and plated ware, chain and anchor, and stove and grate trades.

Textile Industries.—In the cotton industry employment showed a slight improvement on the whole, but was still very slack. In the Egyptian spinning section the production of yarn in the Bolton district was curtailed by 33 1/2 per cent. throughout March, and spinners have been recommended to continue the curtailment for another month from 13th April.

In the wool textile industry employment was still bad both in the worsted and in the woollen sections, but there was a slight improvement in all the main sections of the industry and in practically all the principal districts. In the carpet section employment improved and was fairly good.

In the hosiery industry employment continued fair, on the whole, and showed a further slight improvement; in the silk and artificial silk trades there was also a further slight improvement; in the lace trade employment improved and was moderate; in the linen trade employment showed little change; in textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc., it continued slack, with much short-time working, but, on the whole, was rather better than in February.

Clothing Industries.—Employment in the retail bespoke and ready-made and wholesale bespoke branches of the tailoring trade, and also in the dressmaking and millinery trades, showed a marked seasonal improvement, and was fairly good on the whole; in some districts it was reported as good, with a shortage of skilled machinists. In the shirt and collar and in the corset trades employment continued fairly good in most districts. In felt hat manufacture employment showed a further improvement and was fairly good. In the boot and shoe industry employment showed some improvement, due to the approach of Easter, but continued slack, on the whole.

Leather Trades.—Employment in the leather trades showed a slight improvement as compared with February. In the tanning and currying sections it continued slack; but in the portmanteau, trunk and fancy leather sections it remained moderate.

Building, Woodworking, etc.—Employment in the building trades improved considerably during March owing to the break up of the frost and to the ordinary seasonal activity; with skilled workers at the end of the month it was moderate to fair, but with unskilled workers it was generally slack. As regards individual occupations employment was moderate to fair, on the whole, with bricklayers, masons, carpenters and joiners, plasterers and painters. Employment improved with slaters but was generally very slack; it remained good at most centres with plumbers. It was slack, on the whole, with tradesmen's labourers. In brick manufacture employment showed a marked improvement as compared with February, and at Peterborough it continued to be good.

Employment in the furnishing trades and in coachbuilding was fairly good, and better than in the previous month; an improvement was also reported in sawmilling, though employment was still only moderate.

Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.—With paper makers employment continued fairly good on the whole. With letterpress printers employment showed a further general improvement, and was good in London and in most of the principal provincial centres; with electrotypers and stereotypers it continued good generally. With lithographic printers employment improved in most districts outside the London area, and was fair; in London it was only moderate, and at Liverpool and Sheffield it was slack. With bookbinders employment continued fair on the whole, and was better than in February.

Pottery and Glass.—In the pottery industry employment showed a marked improvement as compared with February, but much short-time working was still reported. In the sanitary, electrical accessories, and encaustic tile branches employment was good. In the glass trade an improvement was reported, but employment still continued bad in the bottle-making section.

Agriculture and Fishing.—In agriculture cultivation was retarded in the early part of March by the severity of the weather, but in the later weeks of the month conditions became almost ideal for agricultural work, and by the end of the month arrears of field work were being rapidly overtaken. The supply of labour generally proved sufficient for all requirements. With fishermen employment improved, but was still slack on the whole.

Dock Labourers and Seamen.—With dock labourers employment remained slack, but was rather better than in February. With seamen employment continued quiet on the whole, and the supply of seamen was more than adequate for requirements at most ports.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

In Tables which appear on subsequent pages of this GAZETTE detailed statistics bearing on the state of employment during March are given, based on information obtained from employers or employers' associations, in certain industries. In the following Tables some of the principal features of these statistics are briefly



According to returns received by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, 145 furnaces were in operation at the end of March, compared with 140 at the end of February, and 150 at the end of March, 1928.

Returns received from 79 firms, employing 18,921 workpeople at the end of March, showed an increase of 3.7 per cent. compared with February, and an increase of 0.3 per cent. as compared with March, 1928.

The following Table shows the number of furnaces in operation at the end of March, 1929, February, 1929, and March, 1928:—

Table showing the number of furnaces in operation at the end of March, 1929, February, 1929, and March, 1928, categorized by district and total.

The production of pig iron in March amounted to 590,500 tons, as compared with 519,600 tons in February, and 592,600 tons in March, 1928.

IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE.

EMPLOYMENT in March was still bad, but showed an improvement as compared with the previous month; it was better than a year ago. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the number of unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 17.6 on 25th March, 1929, as compared with 19.8 on 25th February, 1929, and 20.3 on 26th March, 1928.

According to returns received from firms employing 67,181 workpeople in the week ended 23rd March, 1929, the volume of employment in that week (as indicated by the number of workpeople employed, combined with the number of shifts during which work was carried on in each department) was the same as in February, 1929, but increased by 5.3 per cent. as compared with March, 1928. The average number of shifts\* during which the works were open was 5.5 in March, 1929, the same as in February, 1929, as compared with 5.4 in March, 1928.

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

Large table summarizing information received from employers who furnished returns for the three periods, including departments and districts.

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

The production of steel ingots and castings, as shown in returns received from the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 859,900 tons in March, 1929, as compared with 774,900 tons in February, 1929, and 793,300 tons in March, 1928.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET INDUSTRIES.

In the tinplate industry the arrangement for stabilising prices and regulating output, whereby provision was made for each works to stop three weeks out of every thirteen, terminated at the end of March. In the week ended 23rd March, 1929, 368 tinplate mills were in operation at works for which information is available, as compared with 375\* in the week ended 2nd March, 1929, and with 363 in the week ended 31st March, 1928. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 23.7 at 25th March, 1929, as compared with 22.2 at 25th February, 1929, and 16.8 at 26th March, 1928. In steel sheet manufacture, employment continued fair generally. In the week ended 23rd March, 1929, 126 mills were in operation, as compared with 128 in the week ended 2nd March, 1929, and 121 at the end of March, 1928.

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

Table showing the number of mills in operation at works covered by the returns, categorized by works and total.

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in March, 1929, amounted to 114,999 tons, or 3,040 tons more than in February, 1929, but 8,753 tons less than in March, 1928.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT in March was quiet on the whole, but showed a general improvement. The improvement was most pronounced in the motor vehicle, cycle and aircraft section, in which employment was very fair. In electrical engineering, employment remained fairly good; in marine and in constructional engineering it continued bad, but in each case showed a slight improvement; while in textile machinery works much short time remained in operation.

Compared with a year ago employment was rather better in general and marine engineering and on motor vehicle work, but showed a falling off in constructional engineering, and no change in electrical engineering.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 25th March, 1929, and the increase or decrease as compared with a month before and a year before:—

Table showing the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 25th March, 1929, categorized by division and total.

\* The figure for February has been revised since its publication in the March issue of this GAZETTE.

On the North-East Coast employment was bad in general and marine engineering, slack in electrical engineering, and fair on motor vehicle work; but conditions improved in all these sections. In Yorkshire and Lincolnshire employment remained moderate but showed an improvement, notably in the textile machinery section.

In Lancashire and Cheshire employment was still bad, though continuing to improve, much short time being worked in the textile machinery section. Conditions on motor vehicle and electrical work were fair.

In the Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry district employment continued fair in general and motor engineering, and good on electrical work, and exhibited improvement in all those sections. In the Nottingham, Derby and Leicester district conditions remained fair.

In London and the Southern Counties conditions remained good in electrical engineering and fairly good in general engineering and on motor vehicle work, and showed an all-round improvement on the previous month.

In Scotland employment was still bad, but improved in all sections. In Wales it continued bad, but showed appreciable improvement. In Northern Ireland employment remained bad and showed little change on the whole.

SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING.

EMPLOYMENT was still very bad on the whole during March, but showed an improvement in most districts compared with the previous month. The figures for the North-Eastern Division and for Scotland have now shown a steady improvement for several months. In Wales, however, the large decrease in the percentage unemployed in March followed an increase in the previous month. All the remaining divisions showed some improvement, excepting London and the North-Western Division, which showed a decline. In the South-Eastern and South-Western Divisions employment continued fair.

Compared with a year ago there was a considerable decline in employment on the North-East Coast, in Scotland and in Wales. In Northern Ireland, however, there was a considerable improvement, and a slight improvement was shown in most of the remaining districts.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 25th March, 1929, and the increase or decrease as compared with 25th February, 1929, and with 26th March, 1928:—

Table showing the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 25th March, 1929, categorized by divisions and total.

SHIPBUILDING IN THE QUARTER ENDED 31st MARCH, 1929.

According to Lloyd's Register Quarterly Shipbuilding Returns the gross tonnage of merchant vessels under construction in Great Britain and Ireland at the end of March, 1929, amounted to 1,357,375 tons, as compared with 1,242,794 tons at the end of December, 1928, and 1,440,842 tons at the end of March, 1928. Of the tonnage in hand in March, 1929, about 200,000 tons were intended for the British Dominions, and about 188,000 tons were for sale or for foreign shipowners. During the last six completed years—1913 to 1928 inclusive—the annual average tonnage under construction has amounted to about 1,220,000 tons, as compared with an average of over 2 million tons for 1913—the record pre-war year.

The tonnage of motor ships building at the end of March, 1929, amounted to 39.6 per cent. of the total tonnage under construction.

The tonnage commenced during the quarter amounted to 362,358 tons, i.e., a decrease of 69,400 tons as compared with the previous quarter. The tonnage launched during the quarter under review amounted to 289,834 tons, as compared with 245,875 tons in the previous three months.

The total horse-power of marine engines building or being installed on board vessels in Great Britain and Ireland at the end of March, 1929, amounted to 1,017,298 h.p., as compared with 894,323 h.p. in the previous quarter.

The above figures are exclusive of warships and of merchant vessels of under 100 tons.

WOOL TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during March was still bad in both the worsted and woollen sections, and was appreciably below the level of a year ago; there was, however, some improvement in all the main sections of the industry and in practically all the principal districts as compared with the previous month. In the carpet section employment improved and was fairly good.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed (including those temporarily stopped), as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 11.2 on 25th March, 1929, as compared with 13.1 on 25th February, 1929, and with 6.7 on 26th March, 1928.

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

Large table summarizing information received from employers who furnished returns for the three periods, including departments and districts.

Worsted Section.—The employment position showed a slight improvement, but was still bad. The returns received from employers showed that in the week ended 23rd March, nearly 27½ per cent. of the operatives in the worsted section, taken as a whole, worked short time, losing 9½ hours each on the average; on the other hand, approximately 7 per cent. were reported to be working overtime to the extent of about 6 hours each.

In the wool-sorting, preparing and combing departments, the position generally was much the same as in February; a decline in employment was, however, reported at Halifax in the combing department. In the week ended 23rd March, about 32 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns lost, on an average,

\* The percentages of change between January and February and therefore the index numbers published in the March issue of the GAZETTE have been revised in some cases.

† Most of the districts are indicated by the names of their principal towns, but neighbouring towns and areas are included in each case.

‡ The figures given in this article as to short time do not take into account, in the case of the weaving sections, other forms of under-employment, such as "playing for warps," and tending one instead of two looms.











UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

DETERMINATION OF CLAIMS TO UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT.

The following Table gives, for the period 12th February to 11th March, 1929, inclusive, the number of claims to benefit made at Employment Exchanges and Juvenile Employment Bureaux, the average number of claims current at all Local Offices in Great Britain during that period, and an analysis of the decisions by the Insurance Officers, of the recommendations of Courts of Referees, and decisions by the Umpire, on claims considered by them:—

Table with columns: Males, Females, Total. Rows: Fresh and Renewal claims made, Average number of claims current.

B.—Disallowances by Insurance Officers.

Table with columns: Males, Females, Total. Rows: Permanent provisions, Transitional provisions, Total claims disallowed.

C.—Recommendations of Courts of Referees.†

Table with columns: Males, Females, Total. Rows: (1) Ordinary Benefit Appeals, (2) 78-Day Review Cases, Total recommended for disallowance.

D.—Decisions by Umpire.‡

Table with columns: Allowed, Disallowed. Rows: Cases referred by Insurance Officer, Appeals by Associations, Appeals by Claimants, Total.

\* This condition at present operates only in the case of juveniles under 18 years of age. † Section 11 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, as amended by the Fourth Schedule to the Unemployment Insurance Act of 1927, provides that when an insured contributor has, during a prescribed period (since fixed at six months), received benefit amounting in the aggregate to 78 days, the claim shall be reviewed by a Court of Referees. ‡ The recommendations of Courts of Referees and decisions by the Umpire on trade dispute disallowances refer largely to test cases. The total number of individuals affected by such decisions is considerably in excess of the figures shown in the Table.

It should be noted that the disallowances by Insurance Officers, the recommendations of Courts of Referees, and the decisions by the Umpire are those recorded during the period, and relate in a proportion of cases to claims made earlier.

During the period 19th April, 1928, to 11th March, 1929, 582,370 applications for benefit were disallowed by Insurance Officers, and 195,741 ordinary benefit appeals were considered by Courts of Referees, of which 121,264 (or 62.0 per cent.) were recommended for disallowance. The 78-day review cases considered by Courts of Referees numbered 1,134,677 of which 46,001 (or 4.1 per cent.) were recommended for disallowance. During the same period decisions were given by the Umpire on 6,238 claims, of which 4,236 (or 68.1 per cent.) were disallowed.

These figures relate to claims for benefit, and not to separate individuals.

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.

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

Table with columns: Five weeks ended 30th March, 1929, Four weeks ended 23rd February, 1929, Five weeks ended 31st March, 1928. Rows: Contributions received from Employers, Employed Persons, Exchequer, Unemployment Benefit, Cost of Administration, Interest accrued on Treasury Advances, Other Items, Treasury Advances outstanding, Other Liabilities (net) including accrued Interest and Deposits.

A detailed account of the Fund is presented to Parliament annually. (See House of Commons Paper No. 28 of 1928, for the period ending 31st March, 1928).

NUMBERS OF INSURED WORKPEOPLE UNEMPLOYED.

PROPORTIONS IN VARIOUS INDUSTRY GROUPS.

In the following Table the numbers of insured workpeople recorded as wholly unemployed and as temporarily stopped from the service of their employers in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 25th March, 1929, are analysed so as to show for various industry groups the proportion of the total numbers unemployed classified as belonging to each such group:—

Table with columns: Industry Group, Males (Number Wholly Unemployed, Percentage of Total, Number Temporarily Stopped, Percentage of Total), Females (Number Wholly Unemployed, Percentage of Total, Number Temporarily Stopped, Percentage of Total).

COMPOSITION OF UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

On page 136 an explanation is given of the unemployment statistics published weekly in the Press, and monthly in this GAZETTE. The following Table gives figures relating to the 25th March, 1929, for the total of each group included in these statistics. Lines 2 to 4 make up the number of persons on the register; while, by omitting the uninsured persons (line 4) and including lines 1 and 5, the number of books lodged, or, in other words, the number of insured persons recorded as unemployed, is obtained:—

Table with columns: Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total. Rows: 1. Unemployed—Special Schemes, 2. Claims admitted or under consideration, 3. Insured non-claimants and claimants disqualified, but maintaining registration, 4. Uninsured persons on Register, 5. Two months' file, Persons on Register (lines 2-4), Books Lodged (lines 1-3 and 5).

NUMBERS ON REGISTERS OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES AND VACANCIES NOTIFIED AND FILLED.

The number of persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the last Monday in February, 1929, and on each Monday in March are given in the following Table:—

Table with columns: Date, Great Britain, Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Rows: 25th February, 1929, 4th March, 1929, 11th, 18th, 25th, Average (4 weeks).

The figures for 25th March are analysed below:—

Table with columns: 25th March, 1929, 25th Feb., 1929. Rows: Persons normally in regular employment, Wholly Unemployed, Temporarily Stopped, Persons normally in casual employment, Total, Great Britain, Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Men, Boys, Women, Girls.

The following Table gives particulars relating to the work of Employment Exchanges\* in Great Britain and Northern Ireland in filling vacancies for employment during the four weeks ended 25th March, 1929. Of the 133,523 vacancies filled, 77,932 were for men, 32,236 for women and 23,355 for juveniles:—

Table with columns: Week ended, Applications from Employers (During Week, At end of Week), Vacancies Filled. Rows: 25th Feb., 1929, 4th March, 1929, 11th, 18th, 25th, Average (4 weeks).

\* The term "Employment Exchange" as used in this connection, includes Ministry of Labour Employment Exchanges and Branch Employment Offices, and also Juvenile Employment Bureaux under the control of Local Education Authorities which are exercising powers under Sec. 107 of the Education Act, 1921, and Sec. 6 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1923.

† "Vacancies filled" include certain types of cases (described as Class B placings) in which the work of the Exchanges was limited; for instance, obtaining for an employer former employees, or placing the same men in relief works on alternate weeks. During the five weeks ended 25th February 1929, the average number of such placings in Great Britain was 5,062 per week. The average number of placings of casual workers during the four weeks ended 25th March, 1929, was 475 per week.

PERSONS ON THE REGISTERS AT PRINCIPAL TOWNS.

The following Table shows for each of the Employment Exchange administrative areas, and for the principal towns therein, the number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 25th March, 1929. In certain cases (e.g., Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield, Liverpool, Glasgow, etc.) the figures cover more than one Exchange area.

Table with columns: Area, Number of Persons on Register at 25th March, 1929 (Men, Women, Juveniles, Total), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 25th Feb., 1929. Rows: London Division, South-Eastern Division, South-Western Division, Midlands Division, North-Eastern Division, North-Western Division, Scotland Division, Wales Division, Northern Ireland.

[Percentage rates of unemployment, for each of 652 towns in Great Britain, are given in the monthly "Local Unemployment Index."]





BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

RETURNS have been received from 141 Local Authorities in Great Britain giving the estimated cost of buildings for which plans were passed during the first quarter of 1929. The summarised figures for the quarter are given in the Table below, together with similar figures as to plans passed by the same Authorities during the corresponding quarter of 1928.

Table with columns for District and Aggregate Population, Estimated Cost of Buildings (Dwellings, Factories, Shops, Churches, Other), and Total. Includes sub-tables for (a) First Quarter of 1929 and (b) First Quarter of 1928.

Table with columns for District and Aggregate Population, Estimated Cost of Buildings (Dwellings, Factories, Shops, Churches, Other), and Total. Includes sub-tables for (a) First Quarter of 1929 and (b) First Quarter of 1928.

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

THE following statistics relate to assisted passages from Great Britain and Northern Ireland in connection with agreed schemes under the Empire Settlement Act. The figures include both applicants and dependants. Approvals subsequently cancelled have been excluded.

Table with columns for Destination, Applications Approved in March 1929, Total Applications Approved, Departures in March 1929, and Total Departures. Includes sub-tables for 1922 and 1929.

\* Particulars are not available for the London County Council area. † The excess of "Departures" over "Approvals" to Canada during the period 1922-28 is accounted for by the fact that some settlers under the Family Settlement Schemes engage in work apart from the scheme after arrival in Canada. The approval certificate is consequently cancelled.

POOR-LAW RELIEF.

(Data supplied by the Ministry of Health in England and Wales and by the Department of Health in Scotland.)

THE number of persons\* relieved on one day† in March 1929, in the poor-law areas in the thirty-one selected urban areas named below was 673,240, or 8.0 per cent. less than in the previous month, and 10.1 per cent. less than in March, 1928. The numbers relieved at these three dates were equivalent, respectively to rates of 377, 409, and 419 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

In the twenty-five selected areas in England and Wales, the number of persons relieved in March, 1929, was 550,833, a decrease of 9.5 per cent. as compared with February, 1929, and of 10.5 per cent. as compared with a year ago. In the six areas in Scotland, the number relieved was 122,407, a decrease of 1.1 per cent. as compared with February, and of 8.2 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Recipients of indoor relief in the thirty-one areas in March, numbered 130,081, or 4.5 per cent. less than in the previous month and 1.3 per cent. less than in March, 1928. Recipients of outdoor relief numbered 543,159, or 8.8 per cent. less than in the previous month, and 12.0 per cent. less than a year ago.

Of the thirty-one areas, all except Barnsley showed decreases in the number per 10,000 relieved in March, as compared with the previous month, the most noteworthy being Nottingham (63 per 10,000), South London (61 per 10,000) and East London (59 per 10,000). Compared with March, 1928, twenty-seven areas showed decreases, including East London (196 per 10,000), Paisley and Greenock (164 per 10,000), Stockton and Tees (126 per 10,000) and West Ham (104 per 10,000); while four areas showed small increases.

Table with columns for Selected Urban Areas, Number of persons\* in receipt of Poor Law Relief on one day† in March 1929, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a Month ago, and Year ago.

Table with columns for District, Indoor, Outdoor, Total, Rate per 10,000 of Population, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a Month ago, and Year ago. Includes sub-tables for England and Wales, Scotland, and Total.

\* The figures include dependants, but exclude casuals, lunatics in asylums, registered hospital and licensed houses, and persons receiving out-door medical relief only. † 30th March in England and Wales and 15th March in Scotland. ‡ These urban areas include more than one poor-law union in the case of England and Wales, except in the Leeds, Leicester, Birmingham, Sheffield and West Ham districts; and more than one parish in the case of Scotland, except in the Aberdeen and Edinburgh districts. § Includes 293 not included in district figures.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

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

I.—FOOD

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

Table with columns for Country, Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914 (July 1925, July 1926, July 1927, July 1928), and Latest figures available (Rise, Date). Includes sub-tables for Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Foreign Countries, and British Dominions, &c.

II.—ALL ITEMS.

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

Table with columns for Country, Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914 (July 1925, July 1926, July 1927, July 1928), and Latest figures available (Rise, Date). Includes sub-tables for Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Foreign Countries, and British Dominions, &c.

\* Exceptions to this are: France (other towns), August, 1914; The Hague, January to July, 1914; Rome and Milan, January to June, 1914; Switzerland and Luxembourg, June, 1914; Spain, South Africa, France (Paris, all items), Greece, average, 1914; Germany, average, 1913-1914; Amsterdam, 1911-1913; Belgium, April, 1914; Italy (food), United States (all items), Canada, 1913; Australia (all items), November, 1914; Poland, January, 1914. † Fuel and light are also included in these figures. ‡ Figure for August. § Figure for June. || A = Food; B = House-Rent; C = Clothing; D = Fuel and light; E = Other or Miscellaneous Items. \* Figure for 3rd Quarter. \*\* Corrected figure.

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—The following paragraphs include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment abroad, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in the various countries are, however, not the same as those of the statistics relating to this country; and therefore the figures quoted below cannot properly be used with those on pp. 127-128 to compare the actual level of employment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland with that of other countries. For details of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries, reference should be made to the Reports on Statistics of Unemployment issued by the International Labour Office (Studies and Reports, Series C., No. 7, and Series N., No. 7).]

GERMANY.\*

Reichsarbeitsblatt, the journal of the Federal Ministry of Labour, states that in February, contrary to the experience of past years, employment became worse, the number of persons recorded as available and seeking work reaching at the end of the month a total of 3,229,000, as against 3,003,000 at the end of January, an increase of 7.4 per cent. This decline in employment was very largely attributable to the adverse effect of the severe winter, combined with the general economic depression, on the labour market and, in particular, on conditions in the seasonal industries, to which group 58.1 per cent. of the unemployed belonged, as against 56.9 per cent. in January. (In February, 1927, 22.4 per cent. and in February, 1928, 29.6 per cent. of the total number of persons recorded as available and seeking work belonged to the seasonal industries.) In absolute figures, the number of seasonal workers recorded as available and seeking work rose from 486,000 in October, 1928, to 1,874,000 in February, 1929.

On 15th February, the total number of insured persons in receipt of unemployment benefit was 2,510,112, of whom 1,551,140 received ordinary benefit, 804,683 the special benefit for seasonal workers, and 154,289 emergency benefit. On 28th February, the estimated number of insured persons in receipt of unemployment benefit was approximately 2,620,000, or an increase in the second half of the month of about 4.4 per cent.

Returns were received relating to 4,548,946 members of trade unions. Of these, 1,015,843, or 22.3 per cent. were unemployed on 23rd February, as compared with 19.4 per cent. at the end of January. In addition, 407,128, or 8.9 per cent., were on short time, as against 8.7 per cent. at the end of January. The following Table gives particulars of total unemployment and short time among the groups of trades represented in these totals:—

Table with columns for Groups of Trades, Membership reported on at end of February, 1929, Percentage Wholly Unemployed and on Short Time at end of month (Feb. 1929, Jan. 1929, Feb. 1929, Jan. 1929). Includes sub-tables for Mining, Quarrying, etc., Engineering and metal, Chemical, Textile, Paper, Leather, Wood, Food, tobacco, etc., Clothing, boots and shoes, Building, Printing, Transport, Horticultural, etc., Hairdressing, Miscellaneous, and All Unions making Returns.

FRANCE.†

There was a reduction in unemployment in March. Offers of employment continued to exceed the demand. The total number of unemployed persons remaining on the "live register" of the Exchanges on 30th March was 8,597 (5,365 men and 3,232 women). At the end of February (2nd March), the corresponding total was 12,988. The total number of vacancies remaining unfilled on the same date was 17,238 (11,474 for men and 5,764 for women), as compared with 13,367 at the end of February (2nd March). During the last week of March, the Exchanges succeeded in placing 27,286 persons in situations, including 9,776 dock workers at seaports, and in addition found employment for 1,472 foreign immigrants.

HOLLAND.‡

There was a fairly considerable increase in unemployment during January. The preliminary figures in the journal of the Dutch Statistical Office, compiled by the State Department of Unemployment Insurance and Employment Exchanges, show that out of 327,960 members of subsidised unemployment funds making returns for the week ended 26th January, 1929, 50,665 (15.4 per cent.) were unemployed during the whole week, and 10,404 (3.2 per cent.) for less than six days. In the corresponding week of the preceding month (ended 29th December) the percentages were 10.3 and 2.7 respectively.

\* Reichsarbeitsblatt, 25th March, 1929. Berlin. † Bulletin du Marché du Travail, 5th April, 1929. Paris. ‡ Maandchrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek, 28th February, 1929. The Hague.









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