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EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, COST OF LIVING, AND TRADE DISPUTES IN NOVEMBER.

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

THERE was little change, on the whole, in the state of employment in November.

Among workpeople, aged 16-64, insured against unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed was 14.6 at 25th November, 1935, as compared with 14.6 at 21st October, 1935, and 16.3 at 26th November, 1934. For males alone the percentage at 25th November, 1935, was 16.6, and for females 9.3. At 21st October, 1935, the corresponding percentages were 16.6 and 9.0, and at 26th November, 1934, they were 18.7 and 10.0.

Insured Persons in work in Great Britain.—It is estimated that at 25th November, 1935, there were approximately 10,537,000 insured persons, aged 16-64, in employment in Great Britain. This was 45,000 more than at 21st October, 1935, and 315,000 more than at 26th November, 1934. The increase since 21st October was due largely to a substantial reduction in the numbers of workpeople directly involved in industrial disputes, who are excluded from the figures relating to the estimated numbers in employment.

Numbers Unemployed (excluding Persons normally in Casual Employment).—At 25th November, 1935, there were 1,617,237 persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain who were out of a situation. This was 21,548 more than at 21st October, 1935, but 112,601 less than at 26th November, 1934. The total on 25th November, 1935, included 1,301,334 men, 56,342 boys, 211,403 women, and 48,158 girls. It was made up of 593,519 insured persons with claims for insurance benefit, 700,412 applicants for unemployment allowances, 192,926 other insured persons (including 22,706 insured juveniles under 16 years of age) not in receipt of benefit or unemployment allowances, and 130,380 uninsured persons.

Numbers Temporarily Stopped.—At 25th November, 1935, there were registered as unemployed in Great Britain 144,838 men, 2,528 boys, 70,915 women, and 3,162 girls who were on short time or otherwise suspended from work on the understanding that they were shortly to return to their former employment. The total of 221,443 was 17,423 less than at 21st October, 1935, and 88,200 less than at 26th November, 1934. It included 200,606 persons with claims for insurance benefit, 10,439 applicants for unemployment allowances, and 10,398 persons not in receipt of benefit or unemployment allowances.

Numbers Unemployed normally in Casual Employment.—At 25th November, 1935, there were on the registers in Great Britain 78,104 men, 149 boys, 1,617 women, and 12 girls, who normally seek a livelihood by means of jobs of short duration; these are largely employed in dock and harbour service. The total of 79,882 was 1,953 less than at 21st October, 1935, and 1,422 less than

at 26th November, 1934. It included 57,569 persons with claims for insurance benefit, 21,487 applicants for unemployment allowances, and 826 persons not in receipt of benefit or unemployment allowances.

Industries in which Principal Variations occurred.—There was a further improvement in employment, between 21st October and 25th November, in coal-mining, the cotton and linen industries, iron and steel manufacture, engineering, shipbuilding and ship-repairing, and dock and harbour service. On the other hand, employment continued to decline in building and public works contracting, shipping service, and hotel, boarding-house, etc., service; there was also some decline in tailoring, dress-making, the hat and cap industry, pottery manufacture, the motor vehicle, cycle, etc., industry, and electrical apparatus manufacture.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in November are estimated to have resulted in an increase of about £3,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 61,000 workpeople. No reductions in rates of wages were reported, during November, in these industries.

The principal increases affected coal miners in Warwickshire, workpeople engaged in tinplate manufacture in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and inspectors, drivers and conductors employed on trams and trolley buses in London.

The changes so far reported in the eleven completed months of 1935 are estimated to have resulted in a net increase of about £175,000 per week in the full-time rates of wages of about 2,207,000 workpeople, and in a net decrease of £7,250 in those of 67,000 workpeople. In the corresponding period of 1934 there were net increases of nearly £67,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 1,147,000 workpeople and net decreases of £4,000 in those of 86,000 workpeople.

COST OF LIVING.

At 30th November the average level of retail prices of the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and miscellaneous items) was approximately 47 per cent. above the level of July, 1914; for food alone the percentage increase was 31. These percentages were the same as at 1st November. At 1st December, 1934, the corresponding figures were 44 for all items included and 27 for food only.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work reported to the Department as beginning in November was 52. In addition, 17 disputes which began before November were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in the disputes (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred) was about 26,600, and the aggregate duration of the disputes, in November, was about 210,000 working days.

various other industries :-

(a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL INDUSTRIES.

Table with columns: Industry, Workpeople included in the Returns for November, 1935, November, 1935, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before, Year before.

(b) OTHER INDUSTRIES.

Table with columns: Industry, Number of Workpeople Employed, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before, Year before.

UNEMPLOYMENT SUMMARY BY DISTRICTS.

The following Table shows, for the main areas into which the country is divided for the purposes of the administration of the Unemployment Insurance Act...

Table with columns: Division, Males, Females, Total, Percentages unemployed amongst Insured Workpeople aged 16-64 at 25th November, 1935, Unemployed Persons on Registers of Employment Exchanges at 25th November, 1935, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month before, a year before.

UNEMPLOYMENT DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

The following Table shows, month by month from November, 1934, the percentages unemployed among insured persons aged 16-64...

Table with columns: Date, Males, Females, Total, Insured Persons, 16-64: Percentages Unemployed, Number of Unemployed Persons (Insured and Uninsured) registered at Employment Exchanges, etc.

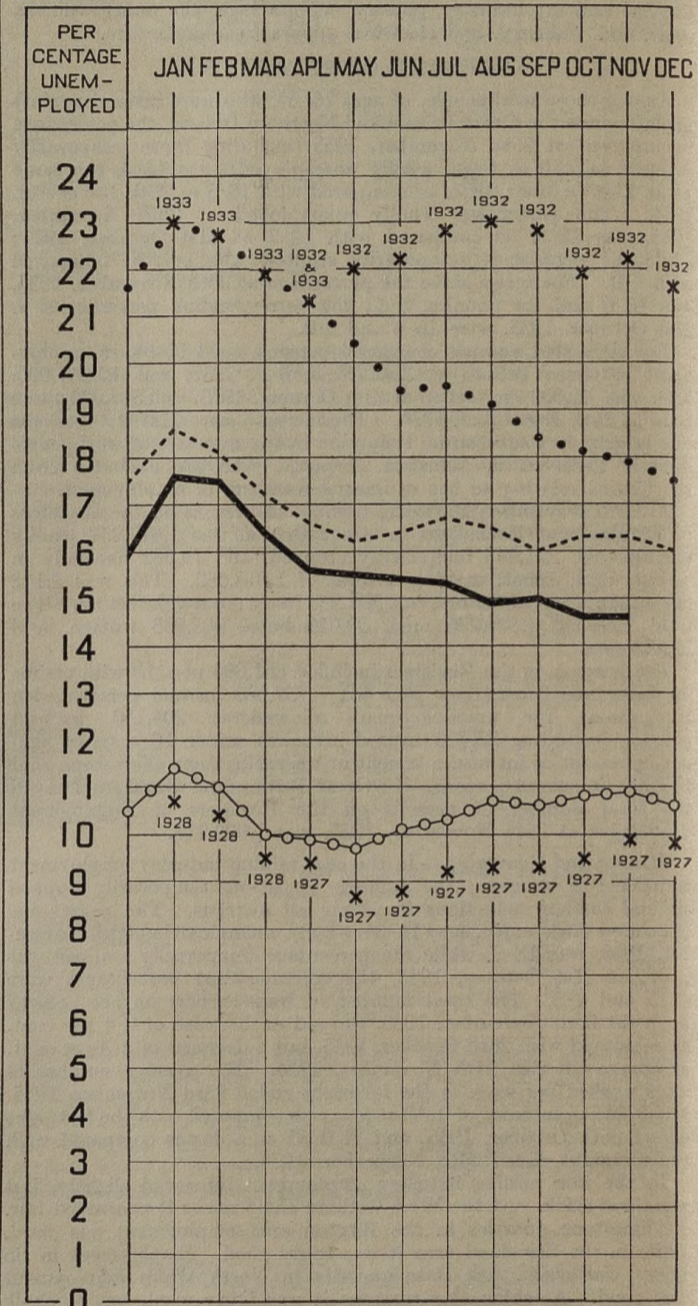
* Comparison of earnings is affected by changes in rates of wages. † Up to and including June, 1935, these percentages, and those used for the purpose of the chart in the next column, are revised figures calculated on the basis of the estimated numbers insured at the dates referred to...

UNEMPLOYMENT CHART.*

PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED AMONG PERSONS AGED 16-64 INSURED AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT IN GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND :-

Plain Curve - - - - - = 1935. Broken Curve - - - - - = 1934. Dotted Curve - - - - - = 1933. Chain Curve - - - - - = Mean for 1924-29†

* The crosses indicate the minimum and maximum monthly percentages unemployed during the years 1924-1934.



NEW ENTRANTS INTO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE. NOVEMBER, 1935.

Table with columns: Area, Men aged 18-64, Boys, Women aged 18-64, Girls, Total †

* See footnote † in previous column. † Excluding the period April, 1926, to March, 1927. ‡ These totals include juveniles under 16 years of age, who were not included in the figures given in the corresponding Tables in issues of this GAZETTE prior to February, 1935.

DETAILED REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

NOTE.—The numbers of workpeople employed given in the following Tables represent the numbers covered by the returns received and not the total numbers employed in the various industries. In the comparisons of numbers employed and wages paid at different dates the figures relate to the same firms at each date...

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT continued to improve during November; the number of persons temporarily stopped showed a further reduction in nearly all districts.

The percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, was 20.2 at 25th November, 1935, as compared with 23.3 at 21st October, 1935, and 25.6 at 26th November, 1934.

The total number of wage earners on the colliery books at 23rd November, 1935, showed an increase of 0.4 per cent. as compared with 26th October, 1935, but a decrease of 2.3 per cent. as compared with 24th November, 1934.

The average number of days worked per week* in the fortnight ended 23rd November, 1935, was 5.26, an increase of 0.48 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 26th October, 1935, and of 0.33 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 24th November, 1934.

The following Table shows, for the principal coal mining districts, the total number of wage earners on the colliery books at 23rd November, 1935, and the average number of days worked per week* during the preceding fortnight, as shown by returns obtained by the Mines Department.

Table with columns: Districts, Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books, Average Number of Days worked per week* at the Mines, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before, Year before, Fort-night ended 23rd Nov., 1935, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before, Year before.

The average number of coal-winding days lost in Great Britain during the fortnight ended 23rd November, 1935, was 0.54 of a day per week, of which 0.39 of a day was due to want of trade.

The output of coal in Great Britain for the four weeks ended 23rd November, 1935, was reported to the Mines Department as 19,130,700 tons, as compared with 17,684,100 tons in the four weeks ended 26th October, 1935, and 18,108,700 tons in the four weeks ended 24th November, 1934.

The numbers and percentages unemployed among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, in the respective areas at 25th November, 1935, and the increases or decreases as compared with 21st October, 1935, and 26th November, 1934, are shown in the following Table :-

* The figures in this and the following article show the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short time) on which coal, iron, etc., were got from the mines included in the returns. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons worked every day the mines were open. Mines not working are omitted in computing the average number of days worked. † Including Cannon Chase.

Table with columns: Area, Insured Persons aged 16-64 recorded as Unemployed at 25th Nov., 1935, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Total Percentages as compared with a Month before, Year before, Wholly Unemployed (including Casuals), Temporary Stoppages, Total, Month before, Year before.

The exports of coal, including that shipped for the use of steamers engaged in the foreign trade and the coal equivalent of coke and manufactured fuel, amounted to 5,057,500 tons in November, 1935, as compared with 4,829,100 tons in October, 1935, and with 4,823,900 tons in November, 1934.

IRON AND SHALE MINING. IRON MINING.

EMPLOYMENT during November showed a slight improvement but remained slack. The percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, in the iron ore and ironstone mining industry, was 20.1 at 25th November, 1935, as compared with 21.7 at 21st October, 1935, and 24.3 at 26th November, 1934.

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

Table with columns: Districts, Number of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns, Average No. of Days worked per week at the Mines, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before, Year before, Fort-night ended 23rd Nov., 1935, Month before, Year before.

SHALE MINING.

The number of workpeople employed at the West Lothian mines during the fortnight ended 23rd November, 1935, by firms making returns, was 1,954, a decrease of 0.5 per cent. as compared with October, 1935, and of 5.2 per cent. as compared with November, 1934.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during November showed little change. The percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, was 18.5 at 25th November, 1935, as compared with 19.0 at 21st October, 1935, and 22.1 at 26th November, 1934.

* See footnote * in previous column.

numbers employed, compared with October, 1935, but an increase of 1.8 per cent. compared with November, 1934.

The number of furnaces in operation at the end of November, 1935, was 102, compared with 99 at the end of October, 1935, and 96 at the end of November, 1934. The figures are analysed below:—

Table showing Total number of Furnaces in Blast by Districts and time periods (Nov. 1935, Oct. 1935, Nov. 1934).

The production of pig iron in November, 1935, amounted to 525,100 tons, compared with 544,300 tons in October, 1935, and 507,600 tons in November, 1934.

IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE.

EMPLOYMENT showed a further improvement during November. The percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, was 19.0 at 25th November, 1935, as compared with 20.1 at 21st October, 1935, and 23.6 at 26th November, 1934.

At certain firms, employing 64,940 workpeople, from which returns were received for the week ended 23rd November, 1935, the volume of employment in that week (as indicated by the number of shifts* during which work was carried on in each department) increased by 1.9 per cent. as compared with the week ended 26th October, 1935, and by 10.3 per cent. as compared with 24th November, 1934. The average number of shifts* during which the works were open was 5.6 in the week ended 23rd November, 1935, the same as in October, 1935, compared with 5.5 in November, 1934.

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

Table summarising information received from employers for three periods, including DEPARTMENTS and DISTRICTS with columns for No. of Workpeople, Aggregate number of Shifts, and percentages.

The production of steel ingots and castings, as shown in returns from the British Iron and Steel Federation, amounted to 903,300 tons in November, 1935, as compared with 907,300 tons in October, 1935, and 766,000 tons in November, 1934.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET INDUSTRIES.

In the tinplate industry employment showed little change on the whole, and remained very bad. The percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, was 34.9 at 25th November, 1935, as compared with 34.5 at 21st October, 1935, and 31.2 at 26th November, 1934.

* 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 following Table shows the number of mills in operation at those works in respect of which returns were received for the week ended 23rd November, 1935, and a month and a year before:—

Table showing Number of Works Open and Number of Mills in Operation by Works, Week ended 23rd Nov. 1935, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month or year before.

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in November, 1935, amounted to 55,266 tons, or 2,373 tons less than in October, 1935, and 12,868 tons less than in November, 1934.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT during November showed a slight improvement on the whole and was moderate to fair. It was fairly good in electrical engineering, fair in motor vehicle manufacture, moderate in general engineering, slack in constructional engineering, and bad in marine engineering.

Compared with a year ago employment was better in all sections of the industry and in all administrative divisions.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, at 25th November, 1935, and the increase or decrease as compared with a month before and a year before:—

Table showing Numbers of Insured Workpeople aged 16-64 Unemployed at 25th November, 1935, by Divisions, and Percentages unemployed at 25th November, 1935, including DEPARTMENTS and DISTRICTS.

On the North-East Coast employment improved in marine engineering but was still bad; it was still slack in general engineering in that area, and in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. In Lancashire and Cheshire employment improved in general engineering, but in this section, and in textile engineering, it remained slack; it also improved in motor vehicle manufacture and was moderate. In Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry employment continued fair in motor vehicle manufacture, it was good in electrical engineering, fairly good in general engineering and moderate in constructional engineering.

In the Nottingham, Derby and Leicester district employment remained fair. In London and the Southern Counties, apart from a slight decline in motor vehicle manufacture in the South-Western Division, employment was fairly good on the whole; it continued good at the principal centres of aircraft manufacture.

In Scotland employment improved in marine engineering and general engineering, but remained bad in the former and slack in the latter section. Employment again improved in Northern Ireland but was slack; it was a little better in Wales but was still bad.

SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING.

EMPLOYMENT improved in most districts during November, but continued very bad on the whole.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, at 25th November, 1935, and the increase or decrease as compared with 21st October, 1935, and 26th November, 1934. In considering the comparisons with a year ago, given in the Table, it is necessary to bear in mind that there was a slight reduction between 1934 and 1935 in the total number of insured workpeople in the shipbuilding and ship-repairing classification. Notwithstanding

the fall in the numbers insured, there was a general increase in the numbers employed between November, 1934, and November, 1935.

Table showing Insured Workpeople aged 16-64 Unemployed at 25th Nov. 1935, by Division, including Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers Unemployed as compared with a month or year before, and Percentage Unemployed at 25th November, 1935.

COTTON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT showed a further general improvement, and was better than a year ago.

The percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, in the industry as a whole was 17.5 at 25th November, 1935, as compared with 19.2 at 21st October, 1935, and with 21.7 at 26th November, 1934. In the preparing and spinning departments the corresponding percentages were 16.1, 17.4 and 20.4; and in the manufacturing department, 18.8, 21.0 and 22.9, respectively.

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

Table summarising information received from employers, including DEPARTMENTS, DISTRICTS, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, and Total Unemployed, Temporarily Stopped, and Total.

Returns from firms employing about 64,200 workpeople in the week ended 23rd November showed that 5 1/4 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time in that week, losing 13 hours each on the average. These figures do not take account of other forms of under-employment, e.g., reductions in the number of looms worked by individual operatives.

At Ashton-under-Lyne much short time was still worked. At Stockport, Stalybridge, and Hyde the improvement reported last month was maintained. At Oldham employment showed a further improvement, and was better than in November of last year. In the spinning department the improvement was most marked in the section spinning the coarser counts of yarn; a scarcity of labour was reported in the ring spinning section; in the manufacturing department employment improved but was still poor in the sheeting and fustian section; it was fairly good in the section producing calicoes, fancies, and heavy goods.

At Bolton employment was reported as slack with cardroom workers and bad with spinners; it improved and was fair with weavers, winders, and warpers. At Leigh there was a further general improvement, and employment with spinners was reported as good. At Bury and at Heywood the improvement reported last month continued; while at Rochdale employment was described as good.

At Preston the improvement reported last month was maintained, and it was estimated that about 80 per cent. of the machinery was running. At Chorley there was a general improvement. At Blackburn the improvement continued both in spinning and in weaving, although many weavers were still not fully employed. At Accrington there was an improvement in the weaving department. At Darwen

* Comparison of earnings is affected by changes in rates of wages.

there was a further improvement, but employment was still described as very depressed. At Great Harwood there was a marked improvement with weavers. At Burnley a further slight improvement was reported, and employment was stated to be better than it had been since the end of July. At Padiham a considerable improvement was reported, although there was still a good deal of under-employment. At Colne employment was considerably better than in October. At Nelson more looms which had been idle were re-started. In the Rossendale Valley employment continued bad, but was slightly better than in October.

In Yorkshire employment continued to improve, but a good deal of short time was still worked in the cardroom and spinning departments. A shortage of skilled women reelers and winders was reported. At Todmorden the improvement reported last month continued, and most of the spinning mills were reported to be working full time; in the weaving department, however, there was still some under-employment.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of 56 Employment Exchanges in the principal cotton trade centres in Lancashire and Cheshire at 25th November, 1935:—

Table showing Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Registers at 25th Nov. 1935, by Department, including Wholly Unemployed, Temporarily Stopped, and Total.

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 21st October, 1935:—

Table showing increases and decreases as compared with 21st October, 1935, by Department, including Wholly Unemployed, Temporarily Stopped, and Total.

The imports (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton linters) were 165,637,600 lbs. in November, 1935, compared with 135,102,000 lbs. in October, 1935, and with 100,059,500 lbs. in November, 1934. The exports of cotton yarn were 12,413,300 lbs. in November, 1935, compared with 12,576,700 lbs. in October, 1935, and with 10,641,500 lbs. in November, 1934. The exports of cotton piece-goods in November, 1935, were 158,489,000 square yards, compared with 161,095,000 square yards in the previous month, and 172,397,000 square yards in November, 1934.

WOOL TEXTILE INDUSTRY

EMPLOYMENT was good, or fairly good, in November in nearly all departments and in most of the principal districts, and was considerably better than a year ago. Overtime much exceeded short time both in the worsted and in the woollen sections, and a shortage of operatives, especially juvenile workers, was reported at several centres. Compared with a year ago there was a considerable improvement.

The percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, in the woollen and worsted industry was 8.2 at 25th November, 1935, the same as at 21st October, 1935, and compared with 13.2 at 26th November, 1934. In the carpet section the corresponding percentages were 5.2, 5.4, and 4.8.

Worsted Section.—Employment continued good, and was better than a year ago. Returns from employers for the week ended 23rd November showed that in the worsted section only 7 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns were on short time* in that week, losing about 10 hours each on the average, while 37 per cent. were on overtime for 6 hours each on the average.

At Bradford, wool-combers, spinners and manufacturers continued to be well employed; in the manufacturing department employment was better than in October. Overtime and night shifts were largely worked. At Shipley there was a further improvement in the wool-combing department, and employment was well maintained in all other departments. At Halifax employment remained good and

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

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

THE statistics here presented show, industry by industry, the estimated number of persons aged 16-64, insured against unemployment, at July, 1935, the number and percentage of such persons unemployed on 25th November, 1935, and the increase or decrease at that date in the total percentages unemployed compared with a month earlier, a year before, and two years before, respectively.

The Unemployment Insurance Act provides, subject to certain exceptions, for the compulsory insurance against unemployment of substantially all employed persons. The principal classes of persons excepted from such compulsory insurance are persons aged 65 and over, persons employed otherwise than by way of manual labour at a rate of remuneration exceeding in value £250 per annum, persons employed in agriculture and private domestic service, and outworkers. Persons employed by local public authorities, railways and certain other public utility undertakings, members of the police forces, and persons with rights under a statutory superannuation scheme may, in certain circumstances, also be excepted. Prior to September, 1934, juveniles under 16 years of age were also excepted, and they are excluded from the statistics in these Tables.

An unemployment book, on which is recorded, inter alia, the industry in which he is employed, is issued to every insured person, and this book must be lodged at an Employment Exchange whenever the insured person to whom it relates makes a claim for unemployment benefit, or, without claiming benefit, ceases to be employed in an insured trade. The book must be removed and deposited with the employer for stamping as soon as employment in an insured trade is resumed.

The files of "lodged" books at the Employment Exchanges thus furnish for each industrial group a record of the unemployment of insured persons. In arriving at this figure the books of those persons who are known to be working in an uninsured trade, or to be sick or deceased, or who are known to have emigrated or gone abroad, are of course excluded. In cases where information on

these points is lacking the books remain in the "lodged" files, and are included in the statistics of unemployment, for a period of two months from the date on which the insured person was last in touch with the Employment Exchange.

The numbers unemployed given in the following Table relate only to persons aged 16-64, insured against unemployment. They include insured persons of those ages maintaining registration at Employment Exchanges, together with those whose unemployment books remain lodged in the "two months" file referred to above. The figures given on page 480 relating to persons registered at Employment Exchanges include uninsured as well as insured persons who are maintaining registration for employment, but not insured persons whose books are in the two months file. A Table showing the composition of the two series of figures is given on page 480.

Insured persons who are disqualified for the receipt of unemployment benefit under the trade dispute disqualification are not included in the numbers unemployed, unless they are definitely maintaining registration for other employment.

The estimated numbers of insured persons in each industry are computed once a year, in November, on the basis of information obtained at the annual exchange of unemployment books. The figures relate to the beginning of July, and similar statistics are not available for other dates in the year. In considering the comparative percentage figures for individual industries* given in the following Table, and in the articles on specific industries on earlier pages of this GAZETTE, it should be borne in mind that the percentage rates of unemployment at October and November, 1935 have been calculated on the basis of the estimated numbers of insured persons at the beginning of July, 1935; while the figures for November, 1934, and 1933, are calculated on the basis of the estimated numbers insured at July, 1934, and 1933, respectively. In an industry in which a relatively large change occurs during one or more years in the estimated number of insured workpeople, this change may have an important effect on the relative percentage rates of unemployment.

INSURED PERSONS, AGED 16-64, RECORDED AS UNEMPLOYED AT 25th NOVEMBER, 1935.

Table with 13 columns: INDUSTRY, WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals) - Males, Females, Total, TEMPORARY STOPPAGES - Males, Females, Total, TOTAL - Males, Females, Total, GREAT BRITAIN ONLY - Males, Females, Total.

* See, however, footnote † on page 477 as to the general percentages for all industries combined.

Table with 13 columns: INDUSTRY, WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals) - Males, Females, Total, TEMPORARY STOPPAGES - Males, Females, Total, TOTAL - Males, Females, Total, GREAT BRITAIN ONLY - Males, Females, Total.

* Including 82,132 casuals (males, 80,474; females, 1,658).

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, AGED 16-64, AT JULY, 1935. (Males, Females, Total), PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED AT 25TH NOVEMBER, 1935. (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total), INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH (21st Oct. 1935, 26th Nov. 1934, 20th Nov. 1933), GREAT BRITAIN ONLY, TOTAL PERCENTAGES AT 25TH NOV., 1935.

* For notes see page 477.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS, AGED 16-64, AT JULY, 1935. (Males, Females, Total), PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED AT 25TH NOVEMBER, 1935. (Wholly Unemployed, Temporary Stoppages, Total), INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH (21st Oct. 1935, 26th Nov. 1934, 20th Nov. 1933), GREAT BRITAIN ONLY, TOTAL PERCENTAGES AT 25TH NOV., 1935.

* See last paragraph of text on page 474.
† For 26th November, 1934, and 20th November, 1933, separate figures for each of the two sections are not available.
‡ The percentages for all industries and services combined for November, 1934, and November, 1935, are the revised figures based on the estimated numbers insured at those dates—see the issue of this Gazette for November, 1935, page 414. The percentages given for October and November, 1935, are based on the numbers insured at July, 1935.

INSURED PERSONS UNEMPLOYED AT 25th NOVEMBER, 1935. PROPORTIONS IN VARIOUS INDUSTRY GROUPS.

Table with columns: Industry Groups, Males, aged 16-64, Females, aged 16-64, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers recorded as Unemployed at 25th November, 1935, as compared with 21st October, 1935.

The following Table indicates for Great Britain and Northern Ireland the industries in which the numbers of insured persons aged 16-64 recorded as unemployed at 25th November, 1935, differed from the figures for 21st October, 1935, to the extent of 1,000 or more:—

Table with columns: Industry, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers recorded as Unemployed at 25th November, 1935, as compared with 21st October, 1935. (Males, Females, Total).

CHANGES BETWEEN JUNE, 1923, AND JUNE, 1935, IN THE ESTIMATED NUMBERS OF INSURED WORKPEOPLE* IN EMPLOYMENT IN CERTAIN INDUSTRIES IN GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

(See Special Article on pages 456 to 459.)

Table with columns: Industry, Estimated Number of Insured Persons aged 16 and over in employment at June, 1923, June, 1927, June, 1935, and Index Numbers (June, 1923 = 100) for years 1924-1935.

* Excluding juveniles under 16 years of age, who became insurable as from September, 1934. † For note, see end of this Table on page 479.

Table with columns: Industry, Estimated Number of Insured Persons aged 16 and over in employment at June, 1927, June, 1935, and Index Numbers (June, 1923 = 100) for years 1924-1935.

* For the years 1928-1935 the available information relates only to persons aged 16-64. Although the figures annually collected for earlier years were in respect of persons aged 16 and over, information which was available as to the proportion of insured workers aged 65 years and over enabled estimates with those for later years on a comparable basis. As, however, figures are not available showing the number of persons aged 65 or over who retired from each industry on obtaining old age pensions in 1927, it should not be assumed that the index numbers given necessarily represent the changes in the total number of workers, insured and uninsured, employed in any industry.

TRADE DISPUTES IN NOVEMBER.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of disputes involving stoppages of work reported to the Department as beginning in November in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 52, as compared with 58 in the previous month, and 35 in November, 1934. In these 52 new disputes about 20,000 workpeople were directly involved and 1,800 workpeople indirectly involved (i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes). In addition, about 4,800 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 17 disputes which began before November and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 69, involving 26,600 workpeople, and resulting in a loss, during November, estimated at about 210,000 working days. In the following Table is given an analysis, by industries, of the disputes in progress in November :—

Table with 5 columns: Industry Group, Started before beginning of month, Started in month, Total, Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in month, Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in month. Rows include Mining and Quarrying, Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding, Textile, Building etc., Transport, and Other.

Causes.—Of the 52 disputes beginning in November, 3, directly involving 700 workpeople, arose out of demands for advances in wages, 3, directly involving 200 workpeople, out of proposed wage reductions, and 8, directly involving 1,100 workpeople, on other wage questions; 18, directly involving 5,200 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; 15, directly involving 7,300 workpeople, on other questions respecting working arrangements; and 2, directly involving 400 workpeople, on questions of trade union principle. Three stoppages, directly involving 5,100 workpeople, were due to sympathetic action.

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING NOVEMBER.

Table with 5 columns: Occupations and Locality, Approximate Number of Workpeople Involved (Directly, Indirectly), Date when Dispute Began/Ended, Cause or Object, Result. Rows include Coal Mining (one firm, near Doncaster), Colliery workpeople near Chester-le-Street, Colliery workpeople Pontefract, Colliery workpeople Treherbert, Metal Industries (workpeople in electric cable), Plate and pattern moulders, Transport (tram and omnibus drivers), Dock labourers and maintenance staff.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration (i.e., number of workpeople multiplied by number of working days, allowing for workpeople replaced by others, etc.) exceeded 100 days. † About 12,000 coal miners were involved (a) in disputes beginning before October, but in progress during October; and (b) in further disputes at the same collieries beginning in October. They are thus counted twice in the total figures for the month. ‡ In making up these totals the figures have been amended in accordance with the most recent information. Workpeople involved in more than one dispute are counted more than once in the totals: the amount of such duplication is slight except in coal mining, in which the net number of workpeople involved was approximately 141,000 in 1935, and 49,000 in 1934. § The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople indirectly involved, i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these workpeople. ¶ There was an intermittent return to work after 28th November, when provisional terms of settlement were arrived at. The final decision to resume work was made on 3rd December. †† The stoppage began on the night shift of the previous day. ††† Work was resumed on 25th November.

Results.—Final settlements of disputes which terminated during November have been effected in the case of 43 new disputes, directly involving 13,800 workpeople, and 7 old disputes, directly involving 300 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 15, directly involving 2,900 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 21, directly involving 6,600 workpeople, were settled in favour of the employers; and 14, directly involving 4,600 workpeople, resulted in a compromise. In the case of 2 other disputes, directly involving 100 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

TOTALS FOR JANUARY TO NOVEMBER, 1935 AND 1934.† The following Table summarises the figures for Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the eleven completed months of 1935, as compared with the corresponding period of 1934 :—

Table comparing January to November 1935 and 1934. Columns: Industry Group, January to November 1935 (No. of Disputes beginning in period, Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress, Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress), January to November 1934 (No. of Disputes beginning in period, Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress, Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress).

CHANGES IN COST OF LIVING: STATISTICS FOR 30th NOVEMBER.*

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

Table showing average increases since July 1914: All items included ... 47%, Food only ... 31%.

FOOD.

At 30th November the average level of the retail prices of food in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was practically the same as at 1st November. The chief movements during the month were reductions in the average prices of butter and bacon, and a slight increase in the average price of eggs. As a net result of all the changes recorded, the average increase over the level of July, 1914, in the retail prices of the articles of food included in these statistics was 31 per cent. at 30th November, 1935, as compared with 31 per cent. at 1st November, 1935, and 27 per cent. at 1st December, 1934.

In the following Table is given a comparison of retail prices in July, 1914, and at 1st November, 1935, and 30th November, 1935 :—

Table comparing retail prices of various food items (Beef, Mutton, Flour, Bread, Tea, Sugar, Milk, Butter, Cheeset, Margarine, Eggs, Potatoes) across different dates (July 1914, 1st Nov 1935, 30th Nov 1935) with percentage changes (+ or -).

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

Table showing average percentage increase or decrease of retail prices since July 1914 for various food items (Beef, Mutton, Flour, Bread, Tea, Sugar, Milk, Butter, Cheeset, Margarine, Eggs, Potatoes) for Large Towns (Population over 50,000), Small Towns and Villages, and General Average.

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 30th November, 1935, was approximately 50 per cent. When decontrolled rents are also included, the combined average increase, as compared with July, 1914, in controlled and decontrolled working-class rents (including rates) is approximately 58 per cent. This latter figure has been utilised in calculating the final percentage increase shown below for "all items."

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, woollen and cotton materials, underclothing and hosiery, boots and shoes, received from retailers in the principal towns, indicates that at 30th November 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, was about 85 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

In the fuel and light group the prices of coal at 30th November were on the average about 80 per cent. above the level of July, 1914. The average price of gas was about 45 per cent. above the pre-war level. For the fuel and light group as a whole (including coal, gas, oil, candles and matches) the average increase at 30th November as compared with July, 1914, was about 70 per cent.

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 70 per cent.), the resultant general average increase for 30th November, 1935, is approximately 47 per cent. over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 47 per cent. at 1st November, 1935, and 44 per cent. at 1st December, 1934.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken now as in 1914) is to show the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families (i.e., the standard actually prevailing in working-class families before the war, irrespective of whether such standard was adequate or not). In view of the variations in the amounts of increase in the prices of different commodities it is probable that economies or readjustments in expenditure have been effected in many families, especially in those cases where incomes have not increased so much as prices. On the other hand, the standard of living has doubtless risen in many cases in which wages have been increased in greater proportion than prices. 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: 1920 to 1935.

The following Table shows the average percentage increase, as compared with July, 1914, for all the items included in the statistics, at the beginning of each month, 1920 to 1935 :—

Average Percentage Increase since July, 1914—All Items. (Food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, etc.)

Summary Table showing average percentage increase in living costs from 1920 to 1935 for various months (Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, June, July, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec).

NOTE.

A detailed account of the method of compilation of these statistics, "The Cost of Living Index Number: Method of Compilation," is obtainable, price 3d. net (3½d. post free), from H.M. Stationery Office, at any of the addresses shown on the cover of this GAZETTE.

* As 1st December fell on a Sunday, the statistics relate to the day previous in accordance with the usual practice.

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

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