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

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT continued to improve in most industries during December.

Among workpeople insured against unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed in all industries taken together was 20·9 at 21st December, 1931, as compared with 21·4 at 23rd November, 1931, and 20·2 at 22nd December, 1930. For males alone the percentage at 21st December, 1931, was 23·2, and for females 15·0. At 23rd November, 1931, the corresponding percentages were 23·6 and 15·9.

Insured Persons in work in Great Britain.—It is estimated that on 21st December, 1931, there were approximately 9,592,600 insured persons aged 16 to 64 in work in Great Britain. This was 82,000 more than a month before, and 118,000 more than a year before.

Numbers Unemployed (excluding Persons normally in Casual Employment).—At 21st December, 1931, there were 2,002,464 persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain who were out of a situation. This was 67,978 less than a month before, but 321,318 more than a year before. The total on 21st December, 1931, included 1,611,749 men, 52,206 boys, 302,919 women and 35,590 girls. It was made up approximately of 941,059 insured persons with claims for insurance benefit, 777,645 applicants for transitional payments, 177,873 other insured persons not in receipt of insurance benefit or transitional payments, and 105,887 uninsured persons.

Numbers Temporarily Stopped.—At 21st December, 1931, there were registered as unemployed in Great Britain 291,723 men, 7,407 boys, 98,913 women and 5,389 girls, who were on short time or were otherwise suspended from work on the definite understanding that they were shortly to return to their former employment. The total of 403,432 was 32,273 less than a month before, and 223,296 less than a year before. It included 345,591 insured persons with claims for insurance benefit, 35,171 applicants for transitional payments, and 22,670 persons not in receipt of insurance benefit or transitional payments.

Numbers Unemployed normally in Casual Employment.—At 21st December, 1931, there were on the Registers in Great Britain 102,338 men, 170 boys, 1,508 women and 9 girls, who normally seek a livelihood by means of jobs of short duration; these are mainly employed in dock, harbour, river and canal service. The total of 104,025 was 4,943 less than a month before, but 3,528 more than a year before. It included 75,734 insured persons with claims for insurance benefit, 27,228 applicants for transitional payments, and 1,063 persons not in receipt of insurance benefit or transitional payments.

Industries in which Principal Variations occurred.—Employment improved in coal mining and in general engineering, in glass and glass bottle manufacture, in most of the metal trades, in all the textile industries except hosiery manufacture, in the tailoring, paper,

entertainment, and distributive trades, and in dock and harbour, road transport, and hotel and boarding-house services. On the other hand employment declined in the pottery, pig iron, tinplate, and boot and shoe industries, in marine engineering, and in the building industry.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st January 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, as compared with 48 per cent. a month earlier and 53 per cent. a year earlier. For food alone the corresponding figures were 31, 32 and 38.

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. Accordingly, the changes in the prices of the various articles included are combined proportionately to 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.

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 December resulted in a decrease of £4,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 53,000 workpeople, and in an increase of £2,375 in those of 34,500 workpeople. The greater part of the increases took effect as the result of the operation of cost-of-living sliding scales.

The largest bodies of workpeople affected by decreases included iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen in the Midlands, men and boys employed in the paint, colour, and varnish industry, and workpeople employed in the dyeing and dry cleaning industry. Those affected by increases included coal miners in Warwickshire, electrical cable makers and chain makers.

The changes so far reported as having come into operation during 1931 have resulted in total net decreases of nearly £405,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 3,000,000 workpeople, and in net increases of £5,000 in those of 46,000 workpeople.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes, involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in December was 16. In addition, 10 disputes which began before December were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in December (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 6,100, and the aggregate duration of all disputes in December was about 52,000 working days.

The aggregate duration of all disputes in progress in 1931 was about 6,985,000 working days, and the total number of workpeople involved in these disputes was about 492,000. The figures for 1930 were 4,399,000 days and 309,000 workpeople, respectively.

According to information received from the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, 70 furnaces were in operation at the end of December, 1931, the same number as at the end of November, 1931, compared with 76 at the end of December, 1930.

In the case of 68 firms employing 9,673 workpeople at the end of December, 1931, the returns showed an increase of 0·2 per cent. in the numbers employed compared with November, 1931, but a decrease of 17·1 per cent. compared with December, 1930.

The following Table shows the number of furnaces in operation at the end of December, 1931, November, 1931, and December, 1930:—

| Districts. | Total Number of Furnaces. | Number of Furnaces in Blast. | | | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a | |
|---|---------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| | | Dec., 1931. | Nov., 1931. | Dec., 1930. | Month before. | Year before. |
| ENGLAND AND WALES. | | | | | | |
| Durham and Cleveland | 87 | 17 | 18 | 24 | - 1 | - 7 |
| Cumberland and W. Lancs. | 36 | 5 | 5 | 6 | ... | - 1 |
| Part of Lancs. and Yorks. (including Sheffield) and North Wales ... | 25 | 4 | 4 | 4 | ... | ... |
| Derby, Leicester, Notts. and Northants ... | 43 | 22 | 23 | 22 | - 1 | ... |
| Lincolnshire ... | 23 | 6 | 6 | 7 | ... | - 1 |
| Staffs., Shropshire, Worcester and Warwick ... | 38 | 7 | 6 | 6 | + 1 | + 1 |
| South Wales and Monmouthshire ... | 21 | 4 | 3 | 2 | + 1 | + 2 |
| England and Wales | 273 | 65 | 65 | 71 | ... | - 6 |
| SCOTLAND ... | 83 | 5 | 5 | 5 | ... | ... |
| GREAT BRITAIN ... | 356 | 70 | 70 | 76 | ... | - 6 |

The production of pig iron in December, 1931, amounted to 330,600 tons, compared with 296,400 tons in November, 1931, and 349,800 tons in December, 1930.

IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE.

EMPLOYMENT during December showed little change, and continued very bad. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 45·4 at 21st December, 1931, as compared with 45·5 at 23rd November, 1931, and 50·6 at 22nd December, 1930.

At certain firms, employing 49,208 workpeople, from which returns were received for the week ended 19th December, 1931, 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 4·8 per cent. as compared with the week ended 28th November, 1931, but decreased by 5·9 per cent. as compared with December, 1930. The average number of shifts during which the works were open was 5·2 in the week ended 19th December, 1931, as compared with 5·2 in November, 1931, and 5·0 in December, 1930.

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

| | No. of Workpeople employed by Firms making returns. | | Aggregate number of Shifts.* | | | |
|--|---|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|--------------|
| | Week ended 19th Dec., 1931. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month before. | Per cent. | Week ended 19th Dec., 1931. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a | |
| | | | | | Month before. | Year before. |
| DEPARTMENTS. | | | | | | |
| Open Hearth Melting Furnaces ... | 4,214 | + 2·6 | - 7·6 | 24,177 | + 3·6 | - 6·3 |
| Puddling Forges ... | 1,099 | + 5·0 | - 39·3 | 4,793 | + 22·3 | - 30·0 |
| Rolling Mills ... | 19,583 | + 10·0 | - 1·5 | 96,010 | + 12·3 | + 7·6 |
| Forging & Pressing | 1,268 | + 1·1 | - 33·6 | 5,794 | + 2·9 | - 37·6 |
| Founding ... | 5,948 | + 2·2 | - 14·7 | 32,795 | + 2·1 | - 14·4 |
| Other Departments | 6,843 | + 0·7 | - 12·6 | 37,389 | + 2·7 | - 9·1 |
| Mechanics, Labourers ... | 10,553 | - 0·4 | - 10·0 | 57,231 | - 1·4 | - 10·2 |
| TOTAL | 49,208 | + 3·8 | - 9·5 | 258,189 | + 4·8 | - 5·9 |
| DISTRICTS. | | | | | | |
| Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland ... | 10,219 | - 0·6 | - 4·9 | 54,868 | - 1·2 | - 2·1 |
| Sheffield & Rotherham ... | 15,049 | + 5·4 | - 7·0 | 80,197 | + 7·3 | - 4·8 |
| Leeds, Bradford, etc. | 405 | + 5·7 | - 17·8 | 1,833 | + 17·5 | - 19·8 |
| Cumberland, Lancs. and Cheshire ... | 3,080 | - 17·5 | - 31·1 | 15,853 | - 20·8 | - 22·9 |
| Staffordshire | 4,584 | + 0·5 | + 4·8 | 24,683 | + 1·3 | + 11·6 |
| Other Midland Counties | 2,778 | - 7·5 | - 7·4 | 14,853 | - 7·1 | - 4·4 |
| Wales and Monmouth ... | 5,919 | + 13·0 | - 0·9 | 31,528 | + 15·3 | + 2·8 |
| Total, England and Wales ... | 42,034 | + 1·4 | - 7·1 | 223,815 | + 1·9 | - 3·3 |
| Scotland ... | 7,174 | + 21·2 | - 21·4 | 34,374 | + 28·6 | - 19·8 |
| TOTAL | 49,208 | + 3·8 | - 9·5 | 258,189 | + 4·8 | - 5·9 |

* 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 422,400 tons in December, 1931, as compared with 459,200 tons in November, 1931, and 337,200 tons in December, 1930.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET INDUSTRIES.

In the tinplate industry employment still remained very slack. In the week ended 19th December, 1931, 348 mills were in operation at works for which information is available, as compared with 331 in the week ended 28th November, 1931, and with 282 in the week ended 20th December, 1930.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 36·5 at 21st December, 1931, as compared with 29·2 at 23rd November, 1931, and with 70·2 at 22nd December, 1930.

In steel sheet manufacture employment declined slightly and remained bad. In the week ended 19th December, 1931, 88 mills were in operation at works for which information is available, as compared with 92 in the week ended 28th November, 1931, and with 64 in the week ended 20th December, 1930.

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

| Works. | Number of Works Open. | | Number of Mills in Operation. | | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| | Week ended 19th Dec., 1931. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before. | Year before. | Week ended 19th Dec., 1931. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a | |
| | | | | | Month before. | Year before. |
| Tinplate ... | 63 | + 5 | + 8 | 348 | + 17* | + 66 |
| Steel Sheet | 11 | ... | + 5 | 88 | - 4 | + 24 |
| TOTAL | 74 | + 5 | + 13 | 436 | + 13* | + 90 |

The exports of tinned and galvanised plates and sheets in December, 1931, amounted to 71,389 tons, or 4,010 tons more than in November, 1931, and 21,246 tons more than in December, 1930.

SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING.

EMPLOYMENT remained very bad during December. In the two principal districts (the North-Eastern division and Scotland) the percentage of insured workpeople recorded as unemployed was still over 70. In Scotland there was a considerable increase in the numbers wholly unemployed, but the numbers temporarily stopped showed a decline. In the ship-repairing industry in South Wales employment showed an improvement, but in Northern Ireland there was a further decline.

Compared with a year ago there was a decline in all the principal districts. The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, at 21st December, 1931, and the increase or decrease as compared with 23rd November, 1931, and 22nd December, 1930:—

| Divisions. | Total Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 21st Dec., 1931. | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Numbers Unemployed as compared with a | | Percentage Unemployed at 21st Dec., 1931. | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage Unemployed as compared with a | |
|---|---|---|-----------------|---|--|---------------|
| | | Month before. | Year before. | | Month before. | Year before. |
| | | | | | | |
| South-Eastern ... | 1,318 | - 21 | + 231 | 19·1 | - 0·3 | + 4·6 |
| South-Western ... | 6,064 | + 382 | + 2,209 | 28·8 | + 1·8 | + 10·7 |
| Midlands ... | 41,361 | + 39 | + 7,638 | 72·9 | - 10·3 | - 5·2 |
| North-Eastern ... | 15,311 | + 514 | + 2,348 | 54·5 | - 1·8 | + 9·5 |
| North-Western ... | 38,973 | + 146 | + 11,579 | 71·8 | + 0·2 | + 23·2 |
| Scotland ... | 3,757 | - 500 | - 1,048 | 54·1 | - 7·2 | - 11·0 |
| Wales ... | 6,810 | + 485 | + 1,880 | 58·7 | + 4·2 | + 19·0 |
| Northern Ireland | | | | | | |
| GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND | 117,410 | - 162 | + 25,092 | 60·1 | - 0·1 | + 15·0 |

SHIPBUILDING IN THE QUARTER ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1931.

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 December, 1931, amounted to 400,505 tons, as compared with 417,385 tons at the end of September, 1931, and with 908,902 tons at the end of December, 1930. There was thus a decrease of 16,880 tons in the work in hand as compared with the figures at the end of September, 1931, and a decrease of 508,397 tons as compared with the tonnage which was being built at the end of December, 1930. The present total is the lowest recorded since September, 1887, and includes about 154,000 tons on which work has been suspended.

The tonnage commenced during the quarter amounted to 104,784 tons, showing an increase of 66,109 tons over the corresponding figures for the previous quarter. These increased figures are, however, still much below the quarterly average reached during recent years.

The tonnage launched during the quarter under review amounted to 70,707 tons, as compared with 80,340 tons in the previous three months.

* Revised figures.

The total horse-power of marine engines either under construction at the works or being installed on board vessels in Great Britain and Ireland at the end of December, 1931, amounted to 402,728 h.p., as compared with 469,155 h.p. in the previous quarter.

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

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT in December remained bad, though improving slightly in some sections. The improvement was most noticeable in textile engineering, but employment in that section was still slack. There was also some improvement, on the whole, in general engineering and motor vehicle manufacture, but employment continued very bad in both sections. In marine engineering it continued to decline and was extremely depressed. In constructional and electrical engineering it showed little change, and remained very bad in the former and slack in the latter.

Compared with a year ago employment was worse in all sections and in all areas, though in the North-Western Division and in Wales the net decline during the year was very small.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, at 21st December, 1931, and the increase or decrease as compared with a month before and a year before:—

| Division. | Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 21st December, 1931. | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|---|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| | General Engineering; Engines, Iron and Steel Founding. | Electrical Engineering. | Marine Engineering, etc. | Constructional Engineering. | Motor Vehicles, Cycles, and Aircraft. | TOTAL. | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a | | | |
| | | | | | | | Month before. | Year before. | Month before. | Year before. |
| London ... | 10,439 | 1,607 | 226 | 633 | 5,942 | 18,847 | - 1,475 | + 6,223 | | |
| South-Eastern ... | 7,268 | 996 | 583 | 175 | 4,552 | 13,574 | - 295 | + 3,839 | | |
| South-Western ... | 5,040 | 273 | 897 | 107 | 4,378 | 10,695 | - 60 | + 3,690 | | |
| Midlands ... | 17,840 | 4,201 | 2,691 | 1,823 | 28,696 | 52,829 | - 1,572 | + 11,968 | | |
| North-Eastern ... | 37,737 | 1,612 | 12,040 | 2,227 | 2,526 | 56,142 | - 1,717 | + 4,631 | | |
| North-Western ... | 44,578 | 4,139 | 3,401 | 1,117 | 5,984 | 56,158 | + 2,026 | + 110 | | |
| Scotland ... | 27,591 | 993 | 10,557 | 2,289 | 2,474 | 43,904 | + 1,811 | + 6,350 | | |
| Wales ... | 1,794 | 77 | 48 | 242 | 689 | 2,850 | + 21 | + 174 | | |
| Northern Ireland | 2,408 | 65 | 3,350 | 75 | 432 | 6,330 | + 97 | + 2,296 | | |
| GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND | 154,695 | 13,963 | 28,310 | 8,688 | 55,673 | 261,329 | - 5,258 | + 39,281 | | |

| Divisions. | Percentages Unemployed at 21st December, 1931. | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| | General Engineering; Engines, Iron and Steel Founding. | Electrical Engineering. | Marine Engineering, etc. | Constructional Engineering. | Motor Vehicles, Cycles, and Aircraft. | TOTAL. | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a | | | |
| | | | | | | | Month before. | Year before. | Month before. | Year before. |
| London ... | 12·5 | 10·9 | 33·7 | 16·0 | 14·8 | 13·2 | - 1·0 | + 4·5 | | |
| South-Eastern ... | 16·5 | 13·1 | 26·6 | 19·4 | 15·5 | 16·1 | - 0·4 | + 5·0 | | |
| South-Western ... | 14·1 | 7·4 | 13·3 | 20·6 | 15·2 | 14·2 | - 0·1 | + 4·8 | | |
| Midlands ... | 20·2 | 13·9 | 18·7 | 24·9 | 29·0 | 23·4 | - 0·7 | + 5·3 | | |
| North-Eastern ... | 34·0 | 16·3 | 59·0 | 30·0 | 17·3 | 34·6 | - 0·8 | + 3·9 | | |
| North-Western ... | 35·8 | 18·9 | 41·5 | 37·0 | 25·7 | 32·3 | - 1·2 | + 0·4 | | |
| Scotland ... | 35·9 | 29·0 | 58·8 | 42·1 | 21·9 | 38·2 | + 1·6 | + 5·5 | | |
| Wales ... | 31·9 | 18·3 | 34·3 | 29·2 | 28·5 | 30·2 | - 0·2 | + 0·3 | | |
| Northern Ireland | 35·3 | 8·9 | 68·6 | 44·1 | 18·4 | 42·3 | + 0·6 | + 16·9 | | |
| GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND | 26·8 | 15·1 | 51·2 | 29·4 | 22·2 | 26·0 | - 0·5 | + 4·2 | | |
| <i>Idio, Nov. 1931</i> | <i>27·6</i> | <i>14·9</i> | <i>50·0</i> | <i>30·0</i> | <i>22·6</i> | <i>26·5</i> | ... | ... | | |
| <i>Idio, Dec. 1930</i> | <i>24·7</i> | <i>11·1</i> | <i>32·3</i> | <i>23·9</i> | <i>16·2</i> | <i>21·8</i> | ... | ... | | |

On the North-East Coast employment in marine and general engineering remained very bad. In Yorkshire there was again some improvement in textile engineering, but in the other sections in that county and in Lincolnshire employment remained bad. In Lancashire and Cheshire also there was a further improvement in textile engineering, but employment generally was still very bad.

In the Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry district employment in the general and motor vehicle sections remained bad, but in electrical engineering it showed an improvement and was moderate. In the Nottingham, Derby and Leicester district employment remained slack, though showing some improvement. In London and the Southern Counties employment, on the whole, remained quiet. There was some improvement in general engineering, and in London there was also an improvement in the motor vehicle industry; but in the South-Western division employment showed a decline in that section.

In Scotland employment in general and marine engineering declined and was very bad; and it also remained very bad, with little general change, in Wales and Northern Ireland.

COTTON INDUSTRY.

In this industry the improvement previously reported continued in all sections up to the Christmas holidays; but some signs of falling off were recorded at the end of the month, particularly in the section spinning American cotton. Employment generally was considerably better than a year ago.

The percentage of insured workpeople recorded as unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 27·4 at 21st December, 1931, as compared with 29·3 at 23rd November, 1931, and with 47·4 at 22nd December, 1930.

At Ashton-under-Lyne there was a further improvement in all sections, and employment generally was much better than a year ago. At Glossop, Hyde and Stalybridge employment was better than in November; at Stockport there was little change.

At Oldham employment in the spinning section continued bad, but was much better than a year ago; production during December

was estimated at about two-thirds of full capacity. In the manufacturing section also employment continued bad generally, but was better than a year ago; there was an improvement in employment in the velvet section.

At Bolton employment was described as bad with spinners and with weavers, and as slack with card-room workers; the proportion of operative spinners working less than half time remained at about 28 or 29 per cent. throughout the month. In the weaving section there was still considerable under-employment. At Leigh employment in the spinning section was moderate, and slightly better than in November. At Bury the position continued to improve. At Rochdale the recent improvement was maintained, but employment was still very slack.

At Preston the improvement reported last month was maintained until the latter part of December, although employment was still very slack with firms engaged in the Indian trade. At Chorley there was little change; under-employment was reported in the weaving section with those engaged on plain medium cloths.

At Blackburn there was a further improvement in the weaving mills; many mills already partially occupied were better employed, and in addition, six mills were re-opened during the month; the number of mills closed at the end of the month was 66, as compared with 70 at the end of November. At Accrington weavers were re-absorbed to a considerable extent during the month; most firms were on full time, although in some cases the full complement of looms was not in operation. At Darwen employment still remained very bad; there was, however, a slight improvement during the month; an additional 300 looms resumed work, and at some of the other mills operatives were working with a larger number of looms; irregular short time continued in the preparation departments. At Great Harwood an improvement was reported in the weaving section, but employment generally was still very bad. At Burnley the improvement reported during the last two months was maintained; at Padiham employment continued fair. At Nelson the weaving mills were busy during December; but at Colne, in spite of a slight improvement, employment was described as bad with weavers. In the Rossendale Valley employment continued bad. In Yorkshire there was a further improvement, and employment generally was much better than a year ago; some overtime was worked in the Calder Valley.

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

| DEPARTMENTS. | Number of Workpeople. | | Total Wages paid to all Workpeople. | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|--------|
| | Week ended 19th Dec., 1931. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before. | Week ended 19th Dec., 1931. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a | | |
| | | | | Month before. | Year before. | |
| | | | £ | Per cent. | Per cent. | |
| Preparing ... | 12,828 | + 3·0 | + 29·8 | 20,567 | + 2·6 | + 43·4 |
| Spinning ... | 25,078 | + 2·8 | + 27·9 | 39,298 | + 1·3 | + 46·7 |
| Weaving ... | 28,677 | + 3·9 | + 14·8 | 47,537 | + 2·9 | + 20·8 |
| Other ... | 8,152 | + 1·5 | + 9·8 | 18,482 | + 1·7 | + 14·3 |
| TOTAL | 74,735 | + 3·1 | + 20·7 | 125,974 | | |

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 23rd November, 1931:—

| Department. | Wholly Unemployed. | | | Temporarily Stopped. | | | Total. |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|------------|------------|---------------|
| | Men. | Women. | Total. | Men. | Women. | Total. | |
| Card and Blowing Room ... | 136 | 1,985 | 2,121 | 272 | 901 | 1,173 | 948 |
| Spinning ... | 347 | 1,897 | 2,244 | 1,103 | 281 | 1,384 | 860 |
| Beaming, Winding and Warping ... | 266 | 2,038 | 2,304 | 121 | 135 | 14 | 2,290 |
| Weaving ... | 1571 | 7,655 | 9,226 | 659 | 2,046 | 2,705 | 11,931 |
| Other Processes ... | 4 | 65 | 61 | 122 | 66 | 56 | 117 |
| Total ... | 2316 | 13,640 | 15,956 | 473 | 663 | 190 | 16,146 |

The imports (less re-exports) of raw cotton (including cotton inters) were 196,878,100 lbs. in December, 1931, compared with 168,464,500 lbs. in November, 1931, and with 190,383,300 lbs. in December, 1930.

The exports of cotton yarn were 14,923,700 lbs. in December, 1931, compared with 11,808,900 lbs. in November, 1931, and with 11,646,500 lbs. in December, 1930.

The exports of cotton piece-goods in December, 1931, were 149,699,900 square yards, compared with 125,990,500 square yards in the previous month, and 130,154,200 square yards in December, 1930.

WOOL TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

The improvement previously reported continued in the woollen, worsted, and carpet sections, but was much less marked than in the two previous months. Employment was much better than a year ago.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the woollen and worsted industries, including those temporarily stopped, was 16·6 at 21st December, 1931, as compared with 17·9 at 23rd November, 1931, and with 27·7 at 22nd December, 1930.

Worst Section.—Employment showed a further slight improvement. At Bradford employment in the combing and spinning departments continued brisk; several mills in these sections were working extra shifts. In the manufacturing department at Bradford there was a definite shortage of experienced burlers and menders, and several firms were considering the training of plain weavers to do fancy weaving. At Huddersfield employment in the fine worsted (men's wear) section remained quiet, with much short time. At Keighley the improved position was maintained; several firms were working two shifts. At Halifax and Leeds there was a further slight improvement. In the worsted section as a whole, returns from employers for the week ended 19th December showed that 15½ per cent. were on short time,* losing nearly 13 hours each on the average; 32 per cent. worked overtime, to the extent of 6½ hours each on the average.

With wool sorters employment continued good, and was better than a year ago. In the wool combing department the merino section was running full time, and in some cases overtime was worked; the improvement in the crossbred (carding) and preparing sections was maintained, but in these two sections there was still a considerable amount of short time. About 13 per cent. of the operatives in the sorting, combing, and preparing departments lost, on an average, nearly 15½ hours each in short time in the week ended 19th December; about 23 per cent. were on overtime to the extent of 9 hours each on the average.

In the worsted spinning department the improvement recorded last month was maintained in Yorkshire, and much overtime was again reported. In Scotland, on the other hand, some short time was worked. Taking the department as a whole, about 9 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns worked short time, to the extent of 10 hours each on an average in the week ended 19th December; while overtime was worked by 41 per cent. to the extent of 6 hours each on the average.

Employment showed a further improvement with worsted weavers. About 26 per cent. of the operatives covered by the employers' returns worked short time in the week ended 19th December, losing about 12½ hours each on the average*; overtime was worked by 24 per cent. to the extent of 6 hours each on the average.

Woollen Section.—In this section also there was some further improvement. Employers' returns for the week ended 19th December showed that 20 per cent. of the workers in the spinning department and 28 per cent. of those in the weaving department* worked short time, losing about 10 to 10½ hours each on the average. Overtime was worked by 25 per cent. of the workers in the spinning section to the extent of 8½ hours each, and by 16½ per cent. of those in the weaving section, to the extent of 5 hours each. In the woollen section as a whole, 24 per cent. of the operatives lost, on an average, about 11 hours each in short time* in the week ended 19th December, and 20 per cent. worked overtime, to the extent of 7 hours each on the average.

At Huddersfield employment continued fairly good, and in the Colne Valley it was good; a good deal of overtime was worked, and a few firms were running night and day. In the Heavy Woollen District (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) and in the Leeds and Halifax districts, there was little general change. In the rag and shoddy

trade employment was reported as fair, and showed a slight improvement. In the rug and blanket trade employment was reported as good in Yorkshire, and better than a year ago. In the Stockport district employment with woollen workers was described as good, and better than for some time past. At Rochdale most flannel manufacturers still had part of their machinery idle.

In the West of England an improvement was reported at Trowbridge, at Frome, and at Buckfastleigh. In Wales employment showed little change. In Scotland employment on the whole showed a decline; there was much short time, and nearly all the mills were working far below their full capacity.

Carpet Section.—Employment showed an improvement as compared with the previous month, and was much better than a year ago. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 11·0 at 21st December, 1931, as compared with 14·1 at 23rd November, 1931, and with 20·0 at 22nd December, 1930.

At Kidderminster employment was described as fair, and as better than a year ago; in the Wilton section irregular time was reported, but full time in the other sections, with some overtime in the Axminster section. In Yorkshire employment continued fair, and was about the same as in November.

In Scotland there was on the whole some improvement, but employment was described as poor at Johnstone.

In the carpet section as a whole, 14 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the employers' returns were on short time in the week ended 19th December, losing 18 hours each on an average; 25 per cent. were on overtime, to the extent of 6½ hours each on the average.

The following Table summarises the returns received from employers:—

| | Number of Workpeople. | | | Total Wages paid to all Workpeople. | | |
|--|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| | Week ended 19th Dec., 1931. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before. | Index figure. (Jan., 1926 = 100.) | Week ended 19th Dec., 1931. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a month before. | Index figure. (Jan., 1926 = 100.) |
| Departments: | | | | £ | Per Cent. | |
| WORSTED SECTION: | | | | | | |
| Wool Sorting and Combing ... | 11,779 | - 0·3 | 92·8 | 26,881 | - 1·3 | 83·4 |
| Spinning ... | 38,060 | + 1·8 | 92·1 | 59,974 | + 0·9 | 86·4 |
| Weaving ... | 19,046 | + 2·3 | 90·5 | 33,888 | + 3·3 | 77·8 |
| Other Depts. ... | 9,634 | + 1·1 | 94·9 | 21,433 | + 1·7 | 79·4 |
| Not specified ... | 1,776 | - 2·4 | 99·6 | 3,176 | + 0·4 | 71·1 |
| Total—Worsted | 80,295 | + 1·4 | 91·9 | 141,352 | + 1·2 | 82·5 |
| WOOLEN SECTION: | | | | | | |
| Wool Sorting ... | 915 | + ... | 72·6 | 1,934 | - 4·6 | 71·1 |
| Spinning ... | 12,828 | + 0·5 | 88·1 | 26,819 | - 0·5 | 93·8 |
| Weaving ... | 22,226 | + 0·5 | 93·7 | 38,391 | - 2·3 | 92·3 |
| Other Depts. ... | 16,106 | - 0·2 | 90·7 | 34,813 | - 0·9 | 89·7 |
| Not specified ... | 2,480 | + 0·2 | 84·8 | 5,059 | - 1·5 | 90·2 |
| Total—Woollen | 54,555 | + 0·3 | 90·7 | 107,016 | - 1·4 | 91·1 |
| CARPET SECTION ... | 10,252 | + 1·1 | 107·5 | 19,267 | - 0·8 | 108·2 |
| Total—Wool Textile Industry ... | 145,102 | + 1·0 | 92·2 | 267,635 | - 0·0 | 87·4 |

| Districts: | WORSTED SECTION: | | | WOOLEN SECTION: | | |
|--|------------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|
| | Men. | Women. | Total. | Men. | Women. | Total. |
| Bradford ... | 35,318 | + 1·1 | 89·3 | 65,855 | - 0·3 | 78·1 |
| Huddersfield ... | 8,729 | + 3·9 | 97·0 | 15,043 | + 4·2 | 77·6 |
| Halifax ... | 8,702 | + 1·6 | 88·2 | 14,047 | + 2·9 | 78·3 |
| Leeds ... | 8,507 | + 1·9 | 97·0 | 14,082 | + 3·0 | 90·3 |
| Keighley ... | 8,109 | + 1·0 | 93·5 | 13,952 | + 2·1 | 93·0 |
| Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ... | 3,595 | + 1·6 | 103·9 | 5,459 | + 0·8 | 105·1 |
| Total, West Riding ... | 72,960 | + 1·6 | 91·7 | 128,438 | + 1·2 | 81·3 |
| West of England and Midlands ... | 4,832 | + 0·1 | 89·1 | 8,699 | + 0·9 | 83·2 |
| Lancashire ... | 396 | + 1·5 | 135·8 | 771 | + 8·9 | 134·7 |
| Scotland ... | 2,107 | - 0·0 | 101·0 | 3,444 | - 2·5 | 133·8 |
| Total—Worsted | 80,295 | + 1·4 | 91·9 | 141,352 | + 1·2 | 82·5 |

| Districts: | WORSTED SECTION: | | | WOOLEN SECTION: | | |
|--|------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Men. | Women. | Total. | Men. | Women. | Total. |
| Huddersfield ... | 12,366 | + 1·8 | 89·2 | 27,796 | - 1·0 | 88·0 |
| Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ... | 10,712 | - 0·5 | 89·9 | 21,307 | - 0·9 | 99·8 |
| Leeds ... | 7,055 | + 0·8 | 96·8 | 14,580 | + 0·4 | 98·7 |
| Halifax and Calder Vale ... | 2,407 | + 0·2 | 88·3 | 5,057 | - 2·1 | 80·4 |
| Bradford ... | 1,278 | + 0·5 | 100·2 | 2,342 | - 2·9 | 77·2 |
| Total, West Riding ... | 33,828 | + 0·7 | 92·4 | 71,082 | - 0·8 | 94·7 |
| Lancashire ... | 4,836 | - 0·1 | 89·5 | 9,376 | + 2·3 | 89·7 |
| West of England and Midlands ... | 3,819 | + 1·6 | 93·4 | 6,519 | + 0·6 | 97·8 |
| Scotland ... | 11,903 | - 1·1 | 85·6 | 19,816 | - 5·7 | 78·9 |
| Wales ... | 169 | - 2·3 | 132·1 | 223 | - 0·9 | 125·6 |
| Total—Woollen | 54,555 | + 0·3 | 90·7 | 107,016 | - 1·4 | 91·1 |
| CARPET SECTION ... | 10,252 | + 1·1 | 107·5 | 19,267 | - 0·8 | 108·2 |
| Total—Wool Textile Industry ... | 145,102 | + 1·0 | 92·2 | 267,635 | - 0·0 | 87·4 |

* Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages which have been made by certain firms at various dates since February, 1929.

† 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 other forms of under-employment, such as "playing for warps," and tending one instead of two looms.

The following Tables show, by districts and by departments, the percentage increases and decreases in the numbers employed in the week ended 19th December, 1931, by those firms who supplied returns for the purpose of the foregoing Table (excluding the carpet section), as compared with the week ended 28th November, 1931:—

| | Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in numbers employed as compared with previous month. (—without a figure, signifies "few or no workpeople returned.") | | | | |
|--|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| | Wool Sorting and Combing. | Spinning. | Weaving. | Other Depts. | All Depts. (including not specified). |
| WORSTED SECTION: | | | | | |
| Bradford ... | - 0·3 | + 1·8 | + 1·5 | + 0·7 | + 1·1 |
| Huddersfield ... | - 0·7 | + 1·8 | + 6·6 | + 6·9 | + 3·9 |
| Halifax ... | - 0·5 | + 1·7 | + 1·3 | + 0·3 | + 1·6 |
| Leeds ... | - | + 3·0 | + 1·6 | + 0·8 | + 1·9 |
| Keighley ... | - 2·5 | + 2·0 | + 0·9 | - 2·0 | + 1·0 |
| Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ... | - | + 1·6 | - | + 1·5 | + 1·6 |
| Total, West Riding ... | - 0·4 | + 2·0 | + 2·6 | + 1·7 | + 1·6 |
| West of England and Midlands ... | + 1·2 | + 0·8 | + 0·1 | - 1·0 | + 0·1 |
| Lancashire ... | + 1·4 | - | - | - | + 1·5 |
| Scotland ... | + 4·0 | - 0·3 | - | - 0·8 | + 0·0 |
| TOTAL ... | - 0·3 | + 1·8 | + 2·3 | + 1·1 | + 1·4 |

| | Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in numbers employed as compared with previous month. (... signifies "no change.") | | | |
|--|---|--------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| | Spinning. | Weaving. | Other Depts. | All Depts. (including not specified). |
| WOOLEN SECTION: | | | | |
| Huddersfield ... | + 1·2 | + 2·9 | + 0·7 | + 1·8 |
| Heavy Woollen (Dewsbury, Batley, etc.) ... | + 1·7 | - 2·4 | - 0·2 | - 0·5 |
| Leeds ... | + 1·3 | + 0·5 | + 1·2 | + 0·8 |
| Halifax and Calder Vale ... | + 1·0 | + 0·1 | - 0·2 | + 0·2 |
| Bradford ... | + 3·6 | - 1·2 | + 0·2 | + 0·5 |
| Total, West Riding ... | + 1·4 | + 0·5 | + 0·4 | + 0·7 |
| Lancashire ... | - 0·1 | + 2·1 | - 3·1 | - 0·1 |
| West of England and Midlands ... | + 1·3 | + 3·6 | + 1·1 | + 1·6 |
| Scotland ... | - 2·7 | 0·8 | - 0·9 | - 1·1 |
| Wales ... | - | - 2·9 | - 3·6 | - 2·3 |
| TOTAL ... | + 0·5 | + 0·5 | - 0·2 | + 0·3 |

The following Table shows the numbers of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of 17 Employment Exchanges in the principal wool textile trade centres at 21st December, 1931:—

| Department. | Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Registers at 21st December, 1931. | | | | | | Total. |
|--------------------------------|--|--------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| | Wholly Unemployed. | | | Temporarily Stopped. | | | |
| | Men. | Women. | Total. | Men. | Women. | Total. | |
| Wool Sorting ... | 173 | 3 | 176 | 182 | 5 | 187 | 363 |
| Wool Washing and Preparing ... | 677 | 576 | 1,253 | 308 | 196 | 504 | 1,757 |
| Wool Combing ... | 406 | 271 | 677 | 377 | 253 | 630 | 1,307 |
| Wool Carding ... | 580 | 143 | 723 | 389 | 70 | 459 | 1,182 |
| Woolen Spinning ... | 449 | 139 | 588 | 280 | 152 | 432 | 1,020 |
| Worst Drawing and Spinning ... | 693 | 1,260 | 1,953 | 241 | 629 | 870 | 2,823 |
| Wool Winding and Warping ... | 126 | 34 | 160 | 251 | 42 | 293 | 453 |
| Worst Drawing and Warping ... | 152 | 190 | 342 | 287 | 195 | 482 | 824 |
| Woolen Weaving ... | 207 | 795 | 1,002 | 307 | 2,177 | 2,484 | 3,486 |
| Worst Weaving ... | 229 | 473 | 702 | 106 | 1,845 | 1,951 | 2,653 |
| Other Processes ... | 1,361 | 119 | 1,480 | 866 | 95 | 961 | 2,441 |
| TOTAL ... | 5,053 | 4,003 | 9,056 | 3,594 | 5,659 | 9,253 | 18,309 |

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 23rd November, 1931:—

| Department. | Wholly Unemployed. | | | Temporarily Stopped. | | | Total. |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| | Men. | Women. | Total. | Men. | Women. | Total. | |
| Wool Sorting ... | - 13 | - 1 | - 14 | + 18 | + 1 | + 19 | + 5 |
| Wool Washing and Preparing ... | - 2 | - 98 | - 100 | + 31 | - 28 | + 3 | - 97 |
| Wool Combing ... | - 36 | + 75 | + 39 | - 9 | + 83 | + 74 | + 113 |
| Wool Carding ... | - 26 | - 27 | - 53 | + 51 | + 10 | + 61 | + 8 |
| Woolen Spinning ... | + 49 | + 40 | + 89 | + 28 | + 23 | + 51 | + 60 |
| Worst Drawing and Spinning ... | - 53 | - 814 | - 867 | + 57 | - 161 | - 104 | - 971 |
| Wool Winding and Warping ... | - 6 | - 5 | - 11 | - 50 | + 20 | - 30 | - 41 |
| Worst Drawing and Warping ... | - 37 | - 129 | - 166 | + 13 | - 69 | - 56 | - 222 |
| Woolen Weaving ... | - 9 | - 322 | - 331 | - 57 | + 623 | + 566 | + 235 |
| Worst Weaving ... | - 17 | - 420 | - 437 | - 94 | + 119 | + 25 | - 412 |
| Other Processes ... | - 169 | - 23 | - 192 | - 76 | - 7 | - 83 | - 275 |
| TOTAL ... | - 319 | - 1,804 | - 2,123 | - 88 | + 614 | + 526 | - 1,597 |

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

The imports (less re-exports) of raw wool (sheep's or lambs') were 75,975,200 lbs. in December, 1931, compared with 42,604,100 lbs. in the previous month and 57,552,200 lbs. in December, 1930.

The exports of woollen and worsted yarns in December, 1931, were 3,040,300 lbs., compared with 3,417,900 lbs. in November, 1931, and with 2,825,100 lbs. in December, 1930.

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues in December, 1931, were 7,502,800 square yards, compared with 6,350,400 square yards in the previous month, and with 7,525,200 square yards in December, 1930.

The exports of blankets were 22,297 pairs, 24,436 pairs, and 38,056 pairs in December, 1931, November

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of 53 Employment Exchanges in the principal centres of the boot and shoe industry at 21st December, 1931:—

| Department. | Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Registers at 21st December, 1931. | | | | | | Total. |
|------------------------------|--|--------|--------|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| | Wholly Unemployed. | | | Temporarily Stopped. | | | |
| | Men. | Women. | Total. | Men. | Women. | Total. | |
| Boot and Shoe Manufacturing: | | | | | | | |
| Preparing Department | 204 | 43 | 247 | 157 | 42 | 199 | 446 |
| Rough Stuff Department | 375 | 25 | 400 | 307 | 27 | 334 | 734 |
| Clicking Department | 901 | 16 | 917 | 1,617 | 24 | 1,641 | 2,558 |
| Closing Department | 26 | 898 | 924 | 18 | 2,117 | 2,135 | 3,059 |
| Making Department | 2,450 | 42 | 2,492 | 2,569 | 98 | 2,667 | 5,159 |
| Finishing Department | 1,696 | 410 | 2,106 | 1,476 | 465 | 1,941 | 4,047 |
| Slipper Making | 368 | 136 | 504 | 482 | 362 | 844 | 1,348 |
| Clog Making | 15 | 3 | 18 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 20 |
| Repairing and Hand Sewn Work | 649 | 9 | 658 | 51 | ... | 51 | 709 |
| TOTAL | 6,684 | 1,582 | 8,266 | 6,678 | 3,136 | 9,814 | 18,080 |

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 23rd November, 1931:—

| Department. | Wholly Unemployed. | | | Temporarily Stopped. | | | Total. |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------|--------|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| | Men. | Women. | Total. | Men. | Women. | Total. | |
| | Boot and Shoe Manufacturing: | | | | | | |
| Preparing Department | -46 | +3 | -43 | +44 | +9 | +53 | +10 |
| Rough Stuff Department | -52 | -5 | -57 | +71 | ... | +71 | +14 |
| Clicking Department | -17 | -7 | -24 | +184 | -23 | +161 | +137 |
| Closing Department | -2 | -183 | -185 | +3 | +676 | +679 | +494 |
| Making Department | -144 | +9 | -135 | +888 | +30 | +918 | +783 |
| Finishing Department | -43 | -100 | -143 | +565 | +142 | +707 | +564 |
| Slipper Making | -1 | +12 | +11 | +161 | +136 | +297 | +308 |
| Clog Making | -1 | ... | -1 | ... | +1 | +1 | ... |
| Repairing and Hand Sewn Work | -63 | +4 | -59 | +11 | ... | +11 | -48 |
| TOTAL | -369 | -267 | -636 | +1,927 | +971 | +2,898 | +2,262 |

The exports of boots and shoes in December, 1931, amounted to 65,614 dozen pairs, or 6,880 dozen pairs less than in November, 1931, and 3,946 dozen pairs less than in December, 1930.

BRICK INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during December showed a further slight decline, and continued slack on the whole.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 20.1 at 21st December, 1931, as compared with 19.9 at 23rd November, 1931, and 18.3 at 22nd December, 1930.

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

| Districts. | Number of Workpeople. | | Total Wages paid to all Workpeople. | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|--------------|--------------|
| | Week ended 19th Dec., 1931. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before. | Week ended 19th Dec., 1931. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before. | Year before. | Year before. |
| | | Per cent. | £ | Per cent. | Per cent. | Per cent. |
| | | | | | | |
| Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire | 1,726 | -0.5 + 3.9 | 3,950 | -4.7 | + 3.3 | |
| Midlands and Eastern Counties | 5,842 | -7.8 - 7.1 | 15,161 | -9.0 | - 7.9 | |
| South and South-West Counties and Wales | 1,906 | -2.0 + 0.1 | 4,296 | -0.6 | - 2.8 | |
| Scotland | 170 | -0.6 - 6.1 | 398 | +1.0 | -10.2 | |
| TOTAL | 9,644 | -5.3 - 3.9 | 23,805 | -6.7 | - 5.3 | |

Returns from employers relative to short-time working, exclusive of time lost on account of bad weather, showed that, of 8,950 workpeople employed by firms furnishing information, nearly 16 per cent. were working on an average about 9 hours less than full time in the week ended 19th December, 1931; the amount of overtime worked was very small.

BUILDING.

THERE was a slight decline during December and employment was generally very slack or bad, although it was reported as fair or fairly good at a few centres, including Lancaster, Burton-on-Trent, Reading, Plymouth and Edinburgh. Adverse weather conditions curtailed outside operations, with consequent short-time working, in a number of districts. As compared with December, 1930, employment showed little change in the North-Eastern Counties of England, was slightly worse in Scotland, and considerably worse in each of the other administrative divisions.

As regards individual occupations, employment declined and was very slack to bad with bricklayers, masons and tradesmen's labourers; it also declined with carpenters, plasterers, and plumbers, and was bad with these classes. Employment showed a further marked decline with painters and was very bad; it improved a little, but was still generally bad, with slaters. As compared with December, 1930, employment was much worse with each class of operative.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts who were recorded as unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, at 21st December, 1931, together with the increase or decrease as compared with the previous month and with December, 1930:—

| OCCUPATIONS. | Estimated Numbers of Insured Workpeople at 21st Dec., 1931. | Total Numbers Unemployed at 21st Dec., 1931. | Numbers included in Previous Column who were Temporarily Stopped. | Percentage Unemployed. | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage as compared with a | |
|-----------------------|---|--|---|------------------------|---|--------------|
| | | | | | Month before. | Year before. |
| Carpenters | 131,060 | 33,362 | 1,260 | 25.5 | + 1.8 | + 6.8 |
| Bricklayers | 79,010 | 17,936 | 1,115 | 22.7 | + 3.2 | + 5.8 |
| Masons | 21,620 | 4,654 | 484 | 21.5 | + 1.3 | + 5.7 |
| Slaters | 6,370 | 1,504 | 126 | 23.6 | - 0.7 | + 3.1 |
| Plasterers | 26,500 | 7,194 | 552 | 27.1 | + 2.1 | + 5.7 |
| Painters | 111,220 | 50,227 | 2,524 | 45.2 | + 4.4 | + 7.1 |
| Plumbers | 35,500 | 8,312 | 452 | 23.4 | + 1.3 | + 6.6 |
| Labourers to above | 245,110 | 64,896 | 2,299 | 26.5 | + 1.2 | + 5.1 |
| All other occupations | 201,780 | 57,588 | 1,727 | 28.5 | ... | + 6.0 |
| TOTAL | 858,170 | 245,673 | 10,539 | 28.6 | + 1.6 | + 5.9 |

| DIVISIONS. | Estimated Numbers of Insured Workpeople at 21st Dec., 1931. | Total Numbers Unemployed at 21st Dec., 1931. | Numbers included in Previous Column who were Temporarily Stopped. | Percentage Unemployed. | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage as compared with a | |
|------------------------------------|---|--|---|------------------------|---|--------------|
| | | | | | Month before. | Year before. |
| London | 182,790 | 51,731 | 99 | 28.3 | - 0.1 | + 9.9 |
| South-Eastern | 137,690 | 30,132 | 386 | 22.3 | + 2.0 | + 7.3 |
| South-Western | 105,180 | 25,654 | 452 | 24.4 | + 1.9 | + 7.2 |
| Midlands | 104,260 | 26,994 | 2,312 | 25.9 | + 2.7 | + 5.8 |
| North-Eastern | 101,780 | 32,595 | 3,169 | 32.0 | + 2.6 | + 0.4 |
| North-Western | 103,410 | 35,639 | 2,478 | 34.5 | + 2.1 | + 3.1 |
| Scotland | 78,430 | 23,022 | 1,289 | 29.4 | + 1.0 | + 2.1 |
| Wales | 26,780 | 12,111 | 340 | 45.2 | + 1.4 | + 5.2 |
| Northern Ireland | 17,850 | 7,195 | 14 | 40.3 | + 4.0 | +13.5 |
| Great Britain and Northern Ireland | 858,170 | 245,673 | 10,539 | 28.6 | + 1.6 | + 5.9 |

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

Returns from Local Authorities in 142 of the principal urban areas in Great Britain (except the London County Council area) with a total population of 17,080,000 show that in December, 1931, plans were passed for buildings of an estimated cost of £4,264,500, as compared with £4,012,600 in November, 1931, and £5,009,400 in December, 1930. Of the total for December, 1931, dwelling-houses accounted for £2,346,100; factories and workshops for £356,000; shops, offices, warehouses and other business premises for £348,000; and other buildings, and additions and alterations to existing buildings, for £1,214,400. For figures for the quarter ended December, 1931, in comparison with the corresponding quarter of 1930, see page 36.

POTTERY INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in North Staffordshire showed a decline, and continued bad on the whole, with much short-time working. At Worcester employment continued fair, but some short-time working was reported. At Derby and at Bristol employment was slack. In the stoneware section in Scotland employment was bad.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 39.7 at 21st December, 1931, as compared with 29.8 at 23rd November, 1931, and 41.9 at 22nd December, 1930.

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

| BRANCHES. | Number of Workpeople. | | Total Wages paid to all Workpeople. | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|--------------|--------------|
| | Week ended 19th Dec., 1931. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before. | Week ended 19th Dec., 1931. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before. | Year before. | Year before. |
| | | Per cent. | £ | Per cent. | Per cent. | Per cent. |
| | | | | | | |
| China Manufacture | 1,560 | -2.1 -13.4 | 2,853 | -7.1 | -16.7 | |
| Earthenware Manufacture | 6,393 | -3.4 -0.3 | 9,925 | -9.0 | -3.9 | |
| Other Branches (including unspecified) | 1,668 | -0.2 -5.9 | 3,041 | +8.1 | -11.7 | |
| TOTAL | 9,621 | -2.7 -3.7 | 15,819 | -5.8 | -8.0 | |

Returns from employers relative to short-time working showed that, of 9,050 workpeople employed by firms making returns, 3,960, or nearly 44 per cent., were working on an average about 14 hours less than full time in the week ended 19th December, 1931; the amount of overtime worked was very small.

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

PAPER MANUFACTURE, PRINTING, AND BOOKBINDING.

EMPLOYMENT during December in the paper-making industry continued fair generally. The improvement previously noted was maintained in most centres, full time being reported as operative in an increasing number of mills.

In the letterpress printing industry employment continued moderate, though there was generally a decline compared with November. Reports received from Leeds, Liverpool and Edinburgh described employment as slack; whilst in London and at Birmingham, Bristol and Glasgow, employment was reported as bad. Employment was again reported as fair in many of the smaller centres. With electrotypers and stereotypers employment was generally fair.

Employment in the lithographic printing industry continued slack on the whole. In London and at Birmingham and Glasgow employment was reported as bad, but at Bristol and some of the smaller towns it remained fair. Employment with lithographic artists was described as bad at Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds, and slack to moderate in most other centres from which reports were received.

In the bookbinding industry employment was slack on the whole, but showed a marked improvement compared with the previous month. The percentage unemployed among insured workpeople in the paper and paper-board industries was 10.0 at 21st December, 1931, compared with 11.2 at 23rd November, 1931, and 13.8 at 22nd December, 1930. In the printing and bookbinding industries the percentage was 10.8 at 21st December, 1931, compared with 11.1 at 23rd November, 1931, and 8.2 at 22nd December, 1930. In the cardboard box, paper bag and stationery industries the percentage was 9.4 at 21st December, 1931, compared with 9.5 at 23rd November, 1931, and 9.1 at 22nd December, 1930.

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

| No. of Members of Unions at end of December, 1931. | Percentage Unemployed at end of | | | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a | | |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|------|
| | Dec., 1931. | Nov., 1931. | Dec., 1930. | Month before. | Year before. | |
| Letterpress Printing: London | 33,312 | 9.6 | 9.0 | 6.2 | +0.6 | +3.4 |
| Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire | 13,985 | 8.5 | 7.7 | 6.8 | +0.8 | +1.7 |
| Midlands and Eastern Counties | 7,616 | 7.1 | 7.1 | 4.4 | ... | +2.7 |
| Scotland | 5,338 | 12.1 | 11.7 | 5.8 | +0.4 | +6.3 |
| Other Districts | 8,842 | 8.6 | 7.5 | 4.2 | +1.1 | +4.4 |
| Total | 69,093 | 9.2 | 8.5 | 5.9 | +0.7 | +3.3 |
| Lithographic Printing Bookbinding | 11,597 | 11.1 | 11.2 | 6.8 | -0.1 | +4.3 |
| Printing and Bookbinding (branches not distinguished) | 8,438 | 11.6 | 13.6 | 6.2 | -2.0 | +5.4 |
| Total | 25,464 | 5.6 | 5.1 | 3.0 | +0.5 | +2.6 |

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT during December was slack, but was slightly better on the average than in November. Among insured workpeople in the dock, harbour, river and canal service, 35.4 per cent. were unemployed at 21st December, 1931, as compared with 37.3 per cent. at 23rd November, 1931, and with 35.2 per cent. at 22nd December, 1930.

London.—Employment again showed an improvement. The following Table shows the average daily number of dock labourers employed at docks and wharves in respect of which returns were received:—

| Period. | Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London. | | | | | |
|---|---|----------------------|--------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| | In Docks. | | | At Wharves making Returns. | Total, Docks and Principal Wharves. | |
| | By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors. | By Ship-owners, etc. | Total. | | | |
| Week ended— | | | | | | |
| 5th Dec., 1931 | 4,798 | 1,746 | 6,544 | 8,070 | 14,614 | |
| 12th | 4,764 | 2,127 | 6,891 | 8,277 | 15,168 | |
| 19th | 4,507 | 1,766 | 6,273 | 8,067 | 14,340 | |
| 26th | 4,038 | 1,904 | 5,942 | 8,068 | 14,010 | |
| Average for 4 weeks ended 26th Dec., 1931 | 4,571 | 1,884 | 6,455 | 8,125 | 14,580 | |
| Average for Nov., 1931 | 4,535 | 1,554 | 6,089 | 8,193 | 14,282 | |
| Average for Dec., 1930 | 4,878 | 1,738 | 6,616 | 8,141 | 14,757 | |

Tilbury.—The average daily number of dock labourers employed during December was 1,043, compared with 864 in November, 1931, and with 997 in December, 1930.

East Coast.—Employment remained slack on the whole at the North-East Coast ports. It continued moderate at Hull, and fair at Yarmouth, Lowestoft, King's Lynn and Ipswich; but at Goole there was some improvement, mainly due to considerable importations of potatoes.

Liverpool.—Employment during December was moderate. The average weekly numbers of dock labourers registered at the clearing houses under the Liverpool Docks Scheme as employed in the five weeks ended 1st January, 1932, was 11,802, compared with 12,155 in November, 1931, and with 13,124 in December, 1930. The average weekly amount of wages paid to these men through the clearing houses was £26,138 in the five weeks ended 1st January, 1932, compared with £28,514 in November, 1931, and with £28,516 in December, 1930.

Other Ports in England and Wales.—Employment was fair at Manchester, but not so good as in the previous month. It continued slack in general at the South Wales ports. Conditions remained fair at Bristol but were slack at Avonmouth, as well as at Plymouth and other South-Western ports. At Southampton some improvement was reported.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—Employment was fair at Dundee, Leith and Grangemouth, but at Glasgow it declined and was bad. It remained fair at Belfast.

SEAMEN.

EMPLOYMENT during December was very slack on the whole. The aggregate number of seamen engaged was higher than the exceptionally low number engaged in November, 1931, but the demand was on a very low level and a surplus of ratings was reported at all ports.

Among insured workpeople in the shipping service, the percentage unemployed at 21st December, 1931, was 34.7, compared with 35.0 at 23rd November, 1931, and 33.0 at 22nd December, 1930.

The demand for men on the Thames was moderate early in the month but then became quieter until after the Christmas holiday, when more activity was noted. On the Tyne it improved during the first three weeks but became slacker towards the end of December; on the Tees the demand was slack generally; at the Hartlepoons, apart from some activity early in the month, the demand was dull. On the Wear it improved up to Christmas but declined thereafter. At Hull the demand was slack, except for a short period of increased activity in the middle of the month. At Southampton the demand improved during the first half of December but became slack thereafter. At Bristol the demand was quiet to moderate; at Avonmouth it fluctuated somewhat and at the end of the month was slack. At Newport it was quiet in the first half of the month but improved thereafter; at Cardiff, except for some slackness early in the month, the demand was moderate; at Swansea it improved during the first two weeks and, following a slack spell before Christmas, became brisker at the end of the month. On the Mersey the demand declined somewhat, but showed some improvement after the holiday. At Manchester, apart from some slackness in the week before Christmas, the demand was moderate to fair. On the Clyde it was very slack until late in the month when it became more active; at Leith it was dull, with slackness more marked in the last week. At Belfast the demand declined, and at the end of December was poor.

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

| Principal Ports. | Number of Seamen* shipped in | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|---------------------|-------------|
| | Dec., 1931. | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a | | Twelve Months ended | |
| | | Month before. | Year before. | Dec., 1931. | Dec., 1930. |
| ENGLAND AND WALES: | | | | | |
| Liverpool† | 9,104 | +1,560 | +532 | 109,762 | 138,727 |
| Manchester | 700 | +62 | +107 | 7,697 | 7,840 |
| London | 7,493 | +196 | -1,485 | 96,240 | 115,729 |
| Southampton | 6,109 | +948 | -224 | 95,321 | 111,439 |
| Tyne Ports | 2,479 | +229 | +439 | 25,763 | 26,008 |
| Sunderland | 262 | +18 | -34 | 2,967 | 2,939 |
| Middlesbrough | 244 | +69 | +5 | 2,694 | 3,861 |
| Hull | 877 | +190 | -213 | 10,382 | 12,280 |
| Bristol‡ | 813 | +246 | +124 | 11,374 | 10,822 |
| Newport, Mon. | 434 | +125 | -29 | 4,721 | 6,559 |
| Cardiff§ | 2,329 | +363 | +297 | 23,422 | 25,208 |
| Swansea | 432 | +231 | -143 | 6,292 | 8,762 |
| SCOTLAND: | | | | | |
| Leith | 146 | +25 | -70 | 2,803 | 3,155 |
| Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth | 341 | +66 | +166 | 4,407 | 4,763 |
| Glasgow | 1,879 | +278 | -1,051 | 30,092 | 40,224 |
| NORTHERN IRELAND: | | | | | |
| Belfast | | | | | |

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

THE statistics here presented show, industry by industry, the estimated number of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, the number and percentage of such persons who were unemployed on 21st December, 1931, 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 Acts provide, subject to certain exceptions, for the compulsory insurance against unemployment of substantially all employed persons. The principal classes of persons who are excepted from such compulsory insurance are juveniles under 16 years of age and (since 2nd January, 1928) 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.

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 insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts. They include insured persons who are 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 26 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 26.

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.

Under the provisions of the Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act, 1925, all persons aged 65 and over ceased to be insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts as from 2nd January, 1928. Such persons do not now appear in the statistics showing the estimated numbers of insured persons or the number of insured persons recorded as unemployed, and the figures for dates subsequent to 2nd January, 1928, are therefore not comparable with those for earlier dates. For all practical purposes, however, the *percentages* unemployed can be regarded as comparable with the corresponding figures published each month since July, 1923.

An article dealing with the effect on the unemployment figures of recent changes in the scheme of unemployment insurance appeared on page 457 of the issue for December, 1931. These changes have not yet affected the statistics of unemployment among insured persons on which the following Tables are based.

NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS RECORDED AS UNEMPLOYED AT 21st DECEMBER, 1931.

| INDUSTRY. | GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND. | | | | | | GREAT BRITAIN ONLY. | | | | | |
|--|--|----------|---------|----------------------|----------|--------|---------------------|----------|---------|--|----------|---------|
| | WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (Including Casuals). | | | TEMPORARY STOPPAGES. | | | TOTAL. | | | WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED, TEMPORARY STOPPAGES, AND CASUALS. | | |
| | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
| Fishing | 7,292 | 236 | 7,528 | 188 | 260 | 448 | 7,480 | 496 | 7,976 | 7,406 | 495 | 7,901 |
| Mining :— | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Coal Mining | 197,776 | 1,066 | 198,842 | 58,214 | 177 | 58,391 | 255,990 | 1,243 | 257,233 | 255,947 | 1,243 | 257,190 |
| Iron Ore and Ironstone Mining, etc. | 4,679 | 1 | 4,680 | 787 | 1 | 788 | 5,466 | 2 | 5,468 | 5,436 | 2 | 5,438 |
| Lead, Tin and Copper Mining ... | 3,193 | 12 | 3,205 | 75 | ... | 75 | 3,288 | 12 | 3,279 | 3,267 | 12 | 3,279 |
| Stone Quarrying and Mining ... | 7,733 | 19 | 7,752 | 2,879 | 3 | 2,882 | 10,612 | 22 | 10,634 | 9,955 | 21 | 9,976 |
| Slate Quarrying and Mining ... | 1,204 | 3 | 1,207 | 1,770 | 1 | 1,771 | 2,974 | 4 | 2,978 | 2,973 | 4 | 2,977 |
| Mining and Quarrying not separately specified | 2,940 | 220 | 3,160 | 483 | 4 | 487 | 3,423 | 224 | 3,647 | 3,305 | 224 | 3,529 |
| Clay, Sand, Gravel and Chalk Pits ... | 3,638 | 32 | 3,670 | 634 | ... | 634 | 4,272 | 32 | 4,304 | 4,194 | 32 | 4,226 |
| Non-Metalliferous Mining Products :— | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Coke Ovens and By-Product Works | 3,253 | 29 | 3,282 | 434 | 4 | 438 | 3,687 | 33 | 3,720 | 3,687 | 33 | 3,720 |
| Artificial Stone and Concrete ... | 3,913 | 172 | 4,085 | 860 | 9 | 869 | 4,773 | 181 | 4,954 | 4,731 | 181 | 4,912 |
| Cement, Limekilns and Whiting ... | 3,127 | 146 | 3,273 | 577 | 17 | 594 | 3,704 | 163 | 3,867 | 3,630 | 162 | 3,792 |
| Brick, Tile, Pipe, etc., Making ... | 13,032 | 1,577 | 14,609 | 2,644 | 322 | 2,966 | 15,676 | 1,899 | 17,575 | 15,333 | 1,899 | 17,232 |
| Pottery, Earthenware, etc. | 5,591 | 773 | 6,364 | 6,337 | 11,600 | 17,937 | 11,928 | 19,335 | 31,263 | 11,921 | 19,332 | 31,253 |
| Glass Trades :— | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Glass (excluding Bottles and Scientific Glass) | 3,809 | 908 | 4,717 | 856 | 85 | 941 | 4,665 | 993 | 5,658 | 4,650 | 993 | 5,643 |
| Glass Bottles | 3,116 | 335 | 3,451 | 817 | 18 | 835 | 3,933 | 353 | 4,286 | 3,933 | 353 | 4,286 |
| Chemicals, etc. :— | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chemicals | 14,904 | 1,979 | 16,883 | 1,035 | 173 | 1,208 | 15,939 | 2,152 | 18,091 | 15,836 | 2,150 | 17,986 |
| Explosives | 1,283 | 687 | 1,970 | 277 | 39 | 316 | 1,560 | 726 | 2,286 | 1,560 | 726 | 2,286 |
| Paint, Varnish, Red and White Leads | 1,593 | 490 | 2,083 | 137 | 28 | 165 | 1,730 | 518 | 2,248 | 1,727 | 518 | 2,245 |
| Oil, Glue, Soap, Ink, Matches, etc. | 6,667 | 1,986 | 8,653 | 806 | 157 | 963 | 7,473 | 2,143 | 9,616 | 7,426 | 2,121 | 9,547 |
| Metal Manufacture :— | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pig Iron (Blast Furnaces) | 6,994 | 32 | 7,026 | 1,155 | 4 | 1,159 | 8,149 | 36 | 8,185 | 8,145 | 36 | 8,181 |
| Steel Melting and Iron Puddling, Iron and Steel Rolling and Forging | 41,254 | 505 | 41,759 | 34,937 | 173 | 35,110 | 76,191 | 678 | 76,869 | 76,176 | 678 | 76,854 |
| Brass, Copper, Zinc, Tin, Lead, etc. | 6,994 | 489 | 7,483 | 1,906 | 29 | 1,935 | 8,900 | 518 | 9,418 | 8,848 | 516 | 9,364 |
| Tin Plates | 4,435 | 409 | 4,844 | 5,839 | 412 | 6,251 | 10,274 | 821 | 11,095 | 10,274 | 821 | 11,095 |
| Iron and Steel Tubes | 5,988 | 201 | 6,189 | 5,996 | 33 | 6,029 | 11,984 | 234 | 12,218 | 11,982 | 234 | 12,216 |
| Wire, Wire Netting, Wire Ropes ... | 2,740 | 576 | 3,316 | 2,309 | 94 | 2,403 | 5,049 | 670 | 5,719 | 5,049 | 669 | 5,718 |
| Engineering, etc. :— | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| General Engineering; Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding | 115,035 | 4,914 | 119,949 | 33,846 | 900 | 34,746 | 148,681 | 5,814 | 154,695 | 146,486 | 5,801 | 152,287 |
| Electrical Engineering | 9,442 | 1,998 | 11,440 | 2,655 | 265 | 2,920 | 11,700 | 2,263 | 13,963 | 11,636 | 2,262 | 13,898 |
| Marine Engineering, etc. | 24,456 | 149 | 24,605 | 3,637 | 68 | 3,705 | 28,093 | 217 | 28,310 | 24,743 | 217 | 24,960 |
| Constructional Engineering | 6,740 | 131 | 6,871 | 1,790 | 27 | 1,817 | 8,530 | 158 | 8,688 | 8,455 | 158 | 8,613 |
| Construction and Repair of Vehicles :— | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft Carriages, Carts, etc. | 39,373 | 3,053 | 42,426 | 12,490 | 757 | 13,247 | 51,863 | 3,810 | 55,673 | 51,443 | 3,798 | 55,241 |
| Railway Carriages, Wagons and Tramcars | 3,074 | 284 | 3,358 | 407 | 36 | 443 | 3,481 | 320 | 3,801 | 3,413 | 320 | 3,733 |
| | 9,767 | 141 | 9,908 | 1,894 | 29 | 1,923 | 11,661 | 170 | 11,831 | 11,649 | 170 | 11,819 |

* Including 106,410 Casuals (Males, 104,893; Females, 1,517).

| INDUSTRY. | GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND. | | | | | | | | | GREAT BRITAIN ONLY. | | |
|--|--|----------|---------|----------------------|----------|--------|---------|----------|---------|--|----------|---------|
| | WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (Including Casuals). | | | TEMPORARY STOPPAGES. | | | TOTAL. | | | WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED, TEMPORARY STOPPAGES, AND CASUALS. | | |
| | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
| Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing ... | 112,227 | 611 | 112,838 | 4,462 | 110 | 4,572 | 116,889 | 721 | 117,610 | 109,926 | 674 | 110,600 |
| Metal Trades :— | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Stove, Grate, Pipe, etc., and General Iron Founding | 15,355 | 1,328 | 16,683 | 5,445 | 414 | 5,859 | 20,800 | 1,742 | 22,542 | 20,703 | 1,742 | 22,445 |
| Electrical Wiring and Contracting ... | 3,112 | 60 | 3,172 | 215 | 1 | 216 | 3,327 | 61 | 3,388 | 3,281 | 60 | 3,341 |
| Electrical Cables, Wire and Lamps ... | 7,877 | 4,061 | 11,948 | 1,067 | 343 | 1,410 | 8,954 | 4,404 | 13,358 | 8,920 | 4,403 | 13,323 |
| Hand Tools, Cutlery, Saws, Files ... | 5,219 | 2,154 | 7,373 | 2,743 | 508 | 3,251 | 7,962 | 2,662 | 10,624 | 7,945 | 2,661 | 10,606 |
| Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Rivets, Nails, etc. | 2,551 | 2,620 | 5,171 | 1,367 | 336 | 1,703 | 3,918 | 2,956 | 6,874 | 3,917 | 2,956 | 6,873 |
| Brass and Altered Metal Wares ... | 3,020 | 1,759 | 4,779 | 780 | 254 | 1,034 | 3,800 | 1,993 | 5,793 | 3,786 | 1,993 | 5,779 |
| Heating and Ventilating Apparatus ... | 1,198 | 28 | 1,226 | 164 | 3 | 167 | 1,362 | 31 | 1,393 | 1,354 | 31 | 1,385 |
| Watches, Clocks, Plate, Jewellery, etc. | 3,073 | 2,611 | 5,684 | 1,328 | 858 | 2,186 | 4,401 | 3,469 | 7,870 | 4,384 | 3,469 | 7,853 |
| Metal Industries not separately specified | 20,835 | 11,726 | 32,562 | 5,950 | 2,139 | 8,089 | 26,786 | 13,865 | 40,651 | 26,585 | 13,859 | 40,444 |
| Textile Trades :— | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cotton | 38,254 | 78,907 | 117,161 | 13,205 | 20,191 | 33,396 | 51,459 | 99,098 | 150,557 | 51,452 | 99,069 | 150,521 |
| Woolen and Worsted | 10,205 | 12,496 | 22,702 | 7,433 | 9,505 | 16,938 | 17,639 | 22,001 | 39,640 | 17,488 | 21,882 | 39,370 |
| Silk Manufacture and Artificial Silk Weaving | 3,242 | 3,435 | 6,677 | 857 | 2,657 | 3,514 | 4,099 | 6,092 | 10,191 | 4,096 | 6,089 | 10,185 |
| Artificial Silk Yarn | 2,931 | 1,900 | 4,831 | 490 | 660 | 1,150 | 4,711 | 2,560 | 6,031 | 3,449 | 2,555 | 6,004 |
| Linen | 5,232 | 8,138 | 13,370 | 799 | 1,285 | 2,084 | 6,031 | 9,423 | 15,454 | 991 | 12,728 | 3,719 |
| Jute | 4,033 | 9,180 | 13,213 | 409 | 1,089 | 1,498 | 4,442 | 10,259 | 14,711 | 4,442 | 10,269 | 14,711 |
| Hemp, Rope, Cord, Twine, etc. ... | 1,334 | 2,353 | 3,687 | 228 | 680 | 908 | 1,562 | 3,033 | 4,595 | 1,562 | 3,033 | 4,595 |
| Hosiery | 1,482 | 5,816 | 7,298 | 1,184 | 3,473 | 4,657 | 2,666 | 9,295 | 11,961 | 2,664 | 9,299 | 11,975 |
| Lace | 652 | 843 | 1,495 | 453 | 514 | 967 | 1,111 | 1,357 | 2,468 | 1,109 | 1,357 | 2,466 |
| Carpet | 661 | 1,298 | 1,959 | 402 | 532 | 934 | 1,063 | 2,893 | 3,956 | 1,063 | 2,893 | 3,956 |
| Textiles not separately specified ... | 1,837 | 4,265 | 6,102 | 696 | 1,425 | 2,121 | 2,533 | 5,890 | 8,223 | 2,306 | 5,044 | 7,350 |
| Textile Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc. | 12,785 | 5,724 | 18,510 | 10,653 | 3,502 | 14,155 | 23,449 | 9,226 | 32,675 | 22,248 | 7,788 | 30,036 |
| Leather and Leather Goods :— | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tanning, Curry and Dressing ... | 4,070 | 1,374 | 5,444 | 896 | 218 | 1,114 | 4,966 | 1,592 | 6,558 | 4,958 | 1,592 | 6,550 |
| Leather Goods | 1,944 | 1,452 | 3,396 | 358 | 451 | 809 | 2,302 | 1,903 | 4,205 | 2,282 | 1,887 | 4,169 |
| Clothing Trades :— | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tailoring | 12,008 | 12,959 | 24,967 | 2,123 | 10,197 | 12,320 | 14,131 | 23,156 | 37,287 | 13,400 | 22,601 | 36,001 |
| Dress Making and Millinery ... | 1,285 | 8,947 | 10,232 | 98 | 3,025 | 3,123 | 1,383 | 11,972 | 13,355 | 1,349 | 11,609 | 12,958 |
| Hats and Caps (Including Straw Plait) ... | 1,797 | 2,933 | 4,730 | 975 | 1,713 | 2,688 | 2,772 | 4,846 | 7,418 | 2,771 | 4,644 | 7,415 |
| Shirts, Collars, Underclothing, etc. | 946 | 7,344 | 8,290 | 89 | 3,452 | 3,541 | 1,035 | 10,796 | 11,831 | 842 | 6,211 | 7,053 |
| Dress Industries not separately specified | 1,113 | 1,088 | 2,201 | 155 | 349 | 504 | 1,268 | 1,437 | 2,705 | 1,262 | 1,436 | 2,698 |
| Boots, Shoes, Slippers and Clogs ... | 10,352 | 3,935 | 14,287 | 8,443 | 4,139 | 12,582 | 16,795 | 8,074 | 26,869 | 18,593 | 8,066 | 26,659 |
| Food, Drink and Tobacco :— | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bread, Biscuits, Cakes, etc. | | | | | | | | | | | | |

NUMBERS INSURED AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.

Table with columns for Industry, Estimated Number of Insured Persons at July 1931, Percentage Unemployed at 21st December 1931, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Total Percentages as compared with 23rd Nov. 1931, 22nd Dec. 1930, and 16th Dec. 1929. Includes sub-sections for Fishing, Mining, Non-Metalliferous Mining Products, Brick, Tile, Pipe, etc., Making, Pottery, Earthenware, etc., Glass Trades, Chemicals, etc., Metal Manufacture, Engineering, etc., Construction and Repair of Vehicles, Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing, Metal Trades, Textile Trades, Leather and Leather Goods, Clothing Trades, Food, Drink and Tobacco, and Sawmilling, Furniture and Woodwork.

* For 16th December, 1929, separate figures for each of the two sections are not available.

Table for Great Britain and Northern Ireland showing numbers insured and percentages unemployed at 21st December 1931, categorized by industry. Includes sub-sections for Sawmilling, etc., Printing and Paper Trades, Building and Public Works Contracting, Other Manufacturing Industries, Gas, Water and Electricity Supply Industries, Transport and Communication, Commerce, Banking, Insurance and Finance, and Miscellaneous Trades and Services.

NUMBERS OF INSURED WORKPEOPLE UNEMPLOYED.

PROPORTIONS IN VARIOUS INDUSTRY GROUPS. In the following Table the numbers of insured workpeople recorded as unemployed in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 21st December, 1931, are analysed so as to show the proportion of the total unemployed classified as belonging to various industry groups:—

Table showing proportions of insured workpeople unemployed by industry group, categorized by Males and Females. Columns include Industry Group, Number Wholly Unemployed, Percentage of Total, Number Temporarily Unemployed, and Percentage of Total.

PRINCIPAL VARIATIONS IN NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED.

The following Table indicates for Great Britain and Northern Ireland the industries in which the numbers of insured persons recorded as unemployed at 21st December, 1931, differed from the figures for 23rd November, 1931, to the extent of 1,000 or more:—

Table showing principal variations in numbers unemployed between 21st December 1931 and 23rd November 1931, categorized by industry. Columns include Industry, Males, Females, and Total.

COMPOSITION OF UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

ON page 22 an explanation is given of the unemployment statistics published in the Press, and monthly in this GAZETTE. The following Table gives an analysis relating to the 21st December, 1931, of the composition of these statistics. Lines 1 to 4 make up the number of persons on the register; while, by omitting the uninsured persons (line 4) and including lines 5 and 6, the number of books lodged, or, in other words, the number of insured persons recorded as unemployed, is obtained:—

Table with 6 columns: Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total. Rows include Claims admitted, Uninsured persons on Register, etc.

NUMBERS ON THE REGISTERS OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.*

Table with 6 columns: Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total. Rows include 30th Nov. 1931, 7th Dec. 1931, 14th, 21st, Average (3 weeks).

Analysis of figures for 21st December, 1931.

Table with 6 columns: Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total. Rows include Persons normally in Regular Employment, Wholly Unemployed, etc.

VACANCIES NOTIFIED AND FILLED. (Great Britain and Northern Ireland.)

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

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

NUMBERS ON THE REGISTERS IN THE PRINCIPAL TOWNS.

THE following Table shows for each of the Employment Exchange administrative areas in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and for the principal towns therein, the number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges on 21st December, 1931. In certain cases (e.g., Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield, Liverpool, Glasgow, etc.) the figures cover more than one Exchange area.

Large table with 6 columns: Area, Men, Women, Juveniles, Total. Rows include London Division, South-Eastern Division, etc.

[Percentage rates of unemployment for each of 700 towns in Great Britain are given in the monthly "Local Unemployment Index."]

JUVENILE UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS.

NUMBERS OF JUVENILES AGED 14 AND UNDER 18 ON THE REGISTERS OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES AND JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX AT 21ST DECEMBER, 1931.

Table with 6 columns: Division, Insured 16 and under 18, Uninsured 14 and under 18, Total, etc.

JUVENILES PLACED IN EMPLOYMENT. FIVE WEEKS ENDED 7TH DECEMBER, 1931.

Table with 6 columns: Division, Number of Vacancies Filled, Juveniles placed in first situation since leaving School, etc.

PERCENTAGE RATES OF UNEMPLOYMENT* AMONG INSURED JUVENILES AGED 16 AND 17.

Table with 6 columns: Division, Estimated number insured at July, 1931, Percentage unemployed at 21st December, 1931, etc.

JUVENILES IN ATTENDANCE AT APPROVED COURSES OF INSTRUCTION.

Table with 6 columns: Division, Average daily attendance, week ended 16th December, 1931, Total No. of separate individuals who have attended since 1st April, 1931, etc.

There were 76 Junior Instruction Centres for boys, 26 for girls and 30 mixed Centres open in Great Britain during the week. In addition there were 19 Junior Instruction Classes for boys, 8 for girls and 4 mixed Classes. The number of other Institutions to which unemployed juveniles were admitted was 142 for boys, 112 for girls, 301 mixed. The attendances at these institutions are mainly in the evening.

* Based on the numbers of Juvenile Unemployment Books lodged at Local Offices, which exceed the numbers of Insured juveniles on the Register. † The figures relate to the period of three weeks ended 16th December, 1931.

DETERMINATION OF CLAIMS TO UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT IN GREAT BRITAIN.

10TH NOVEMBER TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1931.

THE following Table gives, for the period from 10th November to 31st December, 1931, inclusive, the number of claims to benefit made at local offices in Great Britain, the average number of claims current during that period, an analysis of the decisions of Courts of Referees and of the Empire, the number of cases disallowed by Insurance Officers under the trade dispute disqualification, and of the appeals against such disallowances dealt with by Courts of Referees.

Table with 4 columns: Men, Women, Juveniles, Total. Rows include Fresh and renewal claims made, Average number of claims current.

B.—Decisions of Courts of Referees.

Table with 4 columns: Benefit Allowed, Benefit Disallowed, Total. Rows include First Statutory Condition, Less than 8 contributions paid in past, etc.

* Class (a). Persons who habitually work for less than a full week, and by the practice of the trade in which they are employed nevertheless receive earnings or similar payments of an amount greater than the normal earnings for a full week of persons following the same occupation in the same district; Class (b). Persons whose normal employment is employment for portions of the year only in occupations which are of a seasonal nature; Class (c). Persons whose normal employment is employment in an occupation in which their services are not normally required for more than two days in the week or who owing to personal circumstances are not normally employed for more than two days in the week; Class (d). Married women who, since marriage or in any prescribed period subsequent to marriage, have had less than the prescribed number of contributions paid in respect of them. This class does not include married women whose husbands are incapacitated from work or are unemployed and not in receipt of benefit.

C.—Trade Dispute* Cases.

| | Benefit Allowed. | Benefit Dis-allowed. | Total. |
|--|------------------|----------------------|--------|
| Cases dealt with by Insurance Officers ... | 177 | 262 | 439 |
| Appeals against disallowances by Insurance Officers dealt with by Courts of Referees ... | Men ... | 57 | 81 |
| | Women ... | 4 | 24 |
| | Juveniles ... | | 2 |
| Total Appeals ... | 61 | 107 | 168 |

D.—Decisions by Umpire.*

| | Benefit Allowed. | Benefit Dis-allowed. | Total. |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|--------|
| Appeals by Insurance Officers ... | Men ... | 167 | 346 |
| | Women ... | 200 | 365 |
| | Juveniles ... | 4 | 7 |
| Total ... | 371 | 718 | 1,089 |
| Appeals by Associations ... | Men ... | 106 | 286 |
| | Women ... | 18 | 119 |
| | Juveniles ... | | 3 |
| Total ... | 124 | 408 | 532 |
| Appeals by Claimants ... | Men ... | 123 | 596 |
| | Women ... | 91 | 353 |
| | Juveniles ... | 3 | 9 |
| Total ... | 223 | 958 | 1,181 |
| Total ... | Men ... | 402 | 1,228 |
| | Women ... | 309 | 837 |
| | Juveniles ... | 7 | 19 |
| Grand Total ... | 718 | 2,084 | 2,802 |

This condition is satisfied, insured persons may receive insurance benefit, subject to the fulfilment of the statutory conditions, for not more than 156 days in a benefit year; but in cases where 156 days' benefit have been drawn in a benefit year ending on or after the 12th November, 1931, insurance benefit does not become payable until 10 contributions have been paid after the 156th day of benefit. In cases where 156 days of benefit have been received in a benefit year, or where the 10 contributions rule is not satisfied, and in all cases in which the First Statutory Condition is not fulfilled, adults, but not boys and girls, may make application for Transitional Payments, and if the special transitional conditions are fulfilled, all such applications are referred to Public Assistance Committees for determination of the amount of payment to be made having regard to the needs of the applicant.

In item 4 the term "insured non-claimants" includes all those adults on the register whose claims had been disallowed on the ground that they were not normally insurable and would not normally seek to obtain a livelihood by means of insurable employment, together with those who had not made claims for insurance benefit or transitional payments.

The Table shows that of the 1,579,399 wholly unemployed insured men on the Register at 21st December, 1931, there were 792,744 with claims to insurance benefit, and 689,059 with applications for transitional payments, while 97,596 were either not entitled to benefit or payments or had claims under consideration.

The corresponding figures for the 291,723 men temporarily stopped were 249,614, 26,211 and 15,898 respectively. Among the 275,230 wholly unemployed insured women, 127,273 had claims for insurance benefit, 88,586 were applicants for transitional payments and 59,371 were either not entitled to benefit or payments or had claims under consideration. The corresponding figures for the 98,913 women temporarily stopped were 84,767, 8,960 and 5,186 respectively.

ADULTS.

| | Section of Register. | Men. | Women. |
|---|---|-----------|---------|
| 1. Claims for Insurance Benefit | Wholly Unemployed | 792,744 | 127,273 |
| | Temporarily Stopped | 249,614 | 84,767 |
| | Casuals | 74,348 | 1,216 |
| Total | 1,116,706 | 213,256 | |
| 2. Applications for Transitional Payments. | Wholly Unemployed | 689,059 | 88,586 |
| | Temporarily Stopped | 26,211 | 8,960 |
| | Casuals | 26,952 | 276 |
| Total | 742,222 | 97,822 | |
| 3. Total applications for Transitional Payments:— | (a) Authorised for payment | 683,442 | 78,831 |
| | (b) Needs of applicants held by Local Authorities not to justify payment | 58,780 | 18,991 |
| Total | 742,222 | 97,822 | |
| 4. Insured Non-claimants ... | Wholly Unemployed | 67,193 | 52,612 |
| | | | |
| 5. Position under First Statutory Condition not determined. | Wholly Unemployed | 30,403 | 6,759 |
| | Temporarily Stopped | 15,898 | 5,186 |
| | Casuals | 1,038 | 16 |
| Total | 47,339 | 11,961 | |
| 6. Total Insured Adults on Register. | Wholly Unemployed | 1,579,399 | 275,230 |
| | Temporarily Stopped | 291,723 | 98,913 |
| | Casuals | 102,338 | 1,508 |
| Total | 1,973,460 | 375,651 | |

JUVENILES.

| | Section of Register. | Boys. | Girls. |
|---|--|--------|--------|
| 1. Claims for Insurance Benefit | Wholly Unemployed | 15,384 | 5,658 |
| | Temporarily Stopped | 6,589 | 4,621 |
| | Casuals | 163 | 7 |
| Total | 22,136 | 10,286 | |
| 2. Not entitled to Insurance Benefit:— | (a) First Statutory Condition not satisfied | 10,782 | 7,058 |
| | (b) First Statutory Condition satisfied | 1,472 | 360 |
| | Total | 12,254 | 7,418 |
| 3. Position under First Statutory Condition not determined. | Wholly Unemployed | 880 | 432 |
| | Temporarily Stopped | 766 | 749 |
| | Casuals | | 2 |
| Total | 1,646 | 1,183 | |
| 4. Total Insured Juveniles on Register. | Wholly Unemployed | 28,459 | 13,489 |
| | Temporarily Stopped | 7,407 | 5,389 |
| | Casuals | 170 | 9 |
| Total | 36,036 | 18,887 | |

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.

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

| | Four weeks ended 26th December, 1931. | Four weeks ended 28th November, 1931. | Four weeks ended 27th December, 1930. |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| I. Insurance Account. | | | |
| Contributions received from:— | £ | £ | £ |
| Employers | 1,405,000 | 1,615,000 | 1,095,000 |
| Employed persons | 1,370,000 | 1,580,000 | 940,000 |
| Exchequer ("Equal thirds") | 1,395,000 | 1,590,000 | 1,020,000 |
| Total Receipts | 4,170,000 | 4,785,000 | 3,055,000 |
| Insurance Benefit | 4,615,000 | 5,655,000 | 6,060,000 |
| Cost of Administration | 390,000 | 415,000 | 420,000 |
| Interest accrued on Treasury Advances | 400,000 | 395,000 | 215,000 |
| Other Items | 5,000 | ... | 5,000 |
| Total Expenditure | 5,410,000 | 6,465,000 | 6,700,000 |
| Treasury Advances outstanding ... | 110,320,000 | 109,470,000 | 59,990,000 |
| Other Liabilities (net), including accrued interest and deposits ... | 1,350,000 | 940,000 | 780,000 |
| II. Transitional Payments Account. | | | |
| Transitional Payments and Cost of Administration thereof | 3,175,000 | 2,715,000 | 1,720,000 |

A detailed account of the Fund is presented to Parliament annually. (See House of Commons Paper No. 25 of 1931 for the period ended 31st March, 1930.)

INSURED UNEMPLOYED.

POSITION UNDER PROVISIONS AS TO INSURANCE BENEFIT AND TRANSITIONAL PAYMENTS.

The following Table gives an analysis of the numbers of insured persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain at 21st December, 1931, relative to their position with regard to their title to Insurance Benefit and the provisions of the Unemployment Insurance (National Economy) (No. 2) Order, 1931, which deals with Transitional Payments.

The First Statutory Condition requires the payment of not less than 30 contributions in the preceding two years. In cases where

* The decisions on trade dispute disallowances refer largely to test cases. The total number of individuals affected by such decisions may be considerably in excess of the figures shown in the Table.

† The cost of transitional payments (including their administration) is repaid in full to the Fund by the Exchequer. The figure given in this line for the corresponding period of last year relates to transitional benefit (including administration).

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. 13-14 to compare the actual level of employment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland with that of other countries.]

GERMANY.*

Unemployment continued to increase during November, largely owing to seasonal causes.

The total number of persons reported by the Employment Exchanges as available for and seeking work, at the end of November, 1931, was 5,153,837 as compared with 4,722,801 at the end of October, 1931 and 3,763,408 at the end of November, 1930. At 31st December, 1931, the total was 5,745,726 (provisional figure).

The total number of persons reported by the Employment Exchanges as unemployed was 5,059,773 at the end of November, 1931, 4,623,480 at the end of October, 1931, and 3,698,946 at the end of November, 1930. At 31st December, 1931, the provisional total was 5,665,669.

On the last day of November, 1931, 1,365,532 persons were in receipt of standard unemployment benefit, and 1,406,453 in receipt of emergency benefit, giving a total of 2,771,985 as compared with 2,534,952 at the end of October, 1931, and 2,353,980 at the end of November, 1930. The number in receipt of standard and emergency benefit at 31st December, 1931, was 3,147,612 (provisional figure).

Among members of trade unions for which statistics are available 38.9 per cent. were unemployed at 28th November, 1931, as compared with 36.6 at 31st October, 1931, and 26.0 at 29th November, 1930. In addition 21.8 per cent. were working short time, as compared with 22.0 per cent. at the end of October, 1931, and 16.1 per cent. at the end of November, 1930. The following Table gives particulars for various groups of trade unions included:—

| Groups of Trade Unions. | Membership reported on end of November, 1931. | Percentage Wholly Unemployed and on Short Time at end of month. | | | |
|--|---|---|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| | | Wholly Unemployed. | | On Short Time. | |
| | | Nov., 1931. | Oct., 1931. | Nov., 1931. | Oct., 1931. |
| Mining | 154,300 | 15.7 | 15.0 | 29.9 | 27.4 |
| Quarrying, stone, brick, pottery, etc.:— | | | | | |
| Workers subject to seasonal influences ... | 120,800 | 70.0 | 62.9 | 6.9 | 8.3 |
| Other workers | 83,000 | 40.0 | 38.8 | 17.0 | 18.5 |
| Engineering and metal ... | 904,700 | 37.5 | 35.2 | 30.7 | 30.3 |
| Chemical | 104,700 | 29.1 | 27.1 | 33.7 | 35.4 |
| Textile | 313,700 | 25.6 | 24.4 | 38.3 | 41.5 |
| Paper | 108,100 | 27.5 | 27.2 | 28.7 | 33.3 |
| Leather | 53,500 | 37.6 | 36.3 | 21.2 | 21.3 |
| Wood | 278,600 | 53.4 | 51.9 | 11.4 | 11.0 |
| Food, tobacco, etc. | 268,900 | 24.9 | 23.9 | 31.5 | 32.2 |
| Clothing, boots and shoes ... | 144,300 | 37.4 | 34.5 | 29.4 | 34.1 |
| Building | 590,800 | 80.2 | 75.1 | 1.5 | 0.5 |
| Printing | 150,400 | 31.7 | 32.0 | 18.1 | 18.9 |
| Hairdressing | 3,400 | 23.5 | 21.3 | 23.3 | 24.7 |
| Miscellaneous | 768,700 | 18.3 | 17.5 | 18.4 | 17.7 |
| All Unions making Returns | 4,047,900 | 38.9 | 36.6 | 21.8 | 22.0 |

FRANCE.†

Unemployment showed a considerable increase during December. The total number of persons on the registers of the Employment Exchanges at the end of the last week of December was 186,450 (146,966 men and 39,484 women). At the end of November the corresponding total was 122,824 and at the end of December, 1930, 26,514.

At the beginning of December, the number of persons employed in mining, industrial, transport and commercial undertakings covered by the special official monthly investigation‡ showed a decline of 12.56 per cent. as compared with December, 1930; and the percentage of workpeople in these undertakings on short time to such an extent as to bring their weekly hours below 48 was 45.49, as compared with 6.39 at the beginning of December, 1930. At the later date 21.67 per cent. were working more than 40 and less than 48 hours and 23.82 per cent. 40 hours or less a week.

BELGIUM.§

Unemployment showed an increase during October. Provisional returns received by the Ministry of Industry, Labour and Social Welfare from 185 unemployment insurance societies, with a total membership of 730,343, show that 11.3 per cent. of these were totally unemployed at the end of the month; in the preceding month the percentage was 10.2 and in October, 1930, 4.3. In addition, 16.8 per cent. of the membership were employed intermittently during the month. In October, 1931, 15.0 per cent. of the aggregate possible working days were lost through unemployment; in the preceding month the percentage was 13.5 and in October, 1930, 6.37.

* Reichsarbeitsblatt, 25th December, 1931, and Reichsarbeitsmarkt-Anzeiger, 7th January, 1932. Berlin.
† Bulletin du Marché du Travail, 8th January, 1932. Paris.
‡ See the March, 1931, issue of this GAZETTE, page 111.
§ Revue du Travail, November, 1931. Brussels.

AUSTRIA.*

Unemployment showed a further increase during November. The total number of persons in receipt of benefit at the end of the month was 273,658 (96,898 in Vienna), as compared with 228,101 (85,388 in Vienna) at the end of October, 1931, and 237,745 (88,441 in Vienna) at the end of November, 1930.

HOLLAND.†

Unemployment showed an increase during October. According to figures compiled by the State Department of Unemployment Insurance and Employment Exchanges, out of 466,279 members of subsidised unemployment funds making returns for the week ended 31st October, 1931, 13.5 per cent. were unemployed during the whole week and 4.9 per cent. for less than six days. In the corresponding week of the preceding month the percentages were 11.2 and 4.2, and in the last week of October, 1930, 7.4 and 2.5 respectively. At the end of October, 1931, 177,100 applicants for employment were registered at public employment exchanges, of whom 153,100 were actually unemployed.

ITALY.‡

There was a further increase in the number unemployed during November. According to statistics furnished by the National Social Insurance Fund, 878,267 workpeople were recorded as unemployed at the end of the month, as compared with 799,744 at the end of October, 1931, and 534,356 at the end of November, 1930. In addition, 30,967 persons were partially unemployed at that date, as compared with 32,828 at the end of October and 22,125 at the end of November, 1930.

SWITZERLAND.§

Unemployment increased during November, partly owing to seasonal causes. At the end of the month 36,920 applications for employment (28.1 per thousand of the employed population according to the census of 1920) were registered at Employment Exchanges, as compared with 27,783 at the end of October, and 18,354 at the end of November, 1930. Offers of situations at the dates mentioned above numbered 1,329, 1,407, and 1,627 respectively.

SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES.

Denmark.||—Returns supplied to the Danish Statistical Department by the Central Employment Exchange and by Unemployment Insurance Funds show that 30.4 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns were unemployed at the end of December, 1931, as compared with 22.1 per cent. at the end of November and 25.1 per cent. at the end of December, 1930.

Sweden.¶—The percentage of members of trade unions making returns who were unemployed at 30th November, 1931, was 19.3, as compared with 16.4 at the end of October and 15.3 at the end of November, 1930.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA.**

Unemployment increased considerably during December. The total number of persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges at the end of November and with 240,000 at the end of December, 1930.

POLAND.††

Unemployment increased during December. According to the official journal of the Central Statistical Office of Poland, the number of unemployed registered at Employment Exchanges at 26th December, 1931, was 280,600 as compared with 259,600 at the end of November, and 287,300 at the end of December, 1930. At these dates the number of unemployed persons entitled to benefit was 125,100, 91,900 and 105,900 respectively.

UNITED STATES.‡‡

According to returns received by the Federal Bureau of Labour Statistics, covering 50,200 establishments in 15 principal industrial groups, these establishments employed 4,551,410 workpeople in November, 1931, showing a decrease of 2.4 per cent. as compared with the total employed in the preceding month. During the same period the aggregate earnings in these establishments decreased by 3.7 per cent. If the monthly average index number of employment in manufacturing industries alone in 1926 be taken as 100, the corresponding figure for November, 1931, is 65.4, as compared with 67.3 for October, and 76.5 for November, 1930.

CANADA.§§

Employment declined during November, largely owing to seasonal causes. Returns were received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from 7,813 firms with an aggregate of 901,854 workpeople on their payrolls at 1st December, 1931, as compared with 937,494 at 1st November. If the average employment of the reporting firms in the year 1926 be represented by 100, the index number of employment for December, 1931, is 99.1, as compared with 103.0 at the beginning of the preceding month and 108.5 at the beginning of December, 1930.

* Statistische Nachrichten, 27th December, 1931. Vienna.
† Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek. 30th November, 1931. The Hague.
‡ Bollettino Mensile di Statistica, December, 1931. Rome.
§ La Vie Economique, December, 1931. Bern.
¶ Statistiska Efterretninger, 6th January, 1932. Copenhagen.
|| Information supplied by the Department of Social Affairs. Stockholm.
** Prager Tagblatt, 9th January, 1932. Prague.
†† Wiadomości Statystyczne, 5th January, 1932. Warsaw.
‡‡ Trend of Employment and Labour Turnover, November, 1931. Washington.
§§ The December Employment Situation, 1931. Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa.

TRADE DISPUTES IN DECEMBER.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in December in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 16, as compared with 33 in the previous month and 30 in December, 1930.

In the following Table is given an analysis of the disputes in progress in December in Great Britain and Northern Ireland:—

Table with columns: Industry Group, Number of Disputes in progress in Month, Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in Month, Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in Month.

Causes.—Of the 16 disputes beginning in December, 10, directly involving 3,200 workpeople, arose out of wage questions; 4, directly involving 400 workpeople, on questions respecting working hours; and 2, directly involving 300 workpeople, on other questions respecting working arrangements.

Results.—Settlements were effected in the case of 10 new disputes, directly involving 900 workpeople, and 6 old disputes, directly involving 1,900 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 5, directly involving 500 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 5, directly involving 1,400 workpeople, were settled in favour of the employers; and 6, directly involving 900 workpeople, were compromised.

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING DECEMBER, 1931.

A dispute began on 7th December involving hosiery workers in a Leicestershire factory, and arising out of the proposed introduction of the Bedaux system of work measurement.

There were no other disputes involving large numbers of workpeople in December.

SUMMARY FOR 1931.

An annual review of statistics of disputes in 1931, with comparative statistics for 1930, is given on pages 6 and 7 of this issue.

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.

Table with columns: Destination, 1922 to 1930, and 1931 (Jan. to Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec., Total).

* 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.

† Figures for each month separately were given in the issues of this GAZETTE for February to September, 1931. The figures relating to departures in January—August, 1931, have been revised.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

THE number of workpeople, other than seamen, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, reported during December, 1931, as killed in the course of their employment was 149, as compared with 191 in the previous month and with 223* in December, 1930.

Table with columns: RAILWAY SERVICE, FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS (continued), MINES, QUARRIES OVER 20 feet deep, FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS, SEAMEN.

INDUSTRIAL DISEASES.

The total number of cases† of poisoning, anthrax, and epitheliomatous and chrome ulceration in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported during December, 1931, under the Factory and Workshop Act, or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, was 50; the total number of deaths† reported was 11.

Table with columns: I. Cases, I. Cases (continued), II. Deaths.

* The figures previously published for December, 1930, have been revised. † Cases include all attacks reported during the month, and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding 12 months. Deaths include all fatal cases reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not. ‡ The person affected in the pottery industry was a male.

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

Rates of Wages.

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics* the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in December in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate decrease of about £4,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 53,000 workpeople and in an increase of £2,375 in those of 34,500 workpeople.

The groups of industries principally affected were as shown below:—

Table with columns: Group of Industries, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by, Estimated Amount of Change in Weekly Wages (Increases, Decreases).

The principal change in the mining and quarrying group was an increase in the wages of coal miners in Warwickshire, where the percentage addition to basis rates was increased at the majority of the collieries by an amount equivalent to nearly 1½ per cent. on current rates.

The increases in the metal group were mainly due to the operation of cost-of-living sliding scales; among those affected were workpeople employed in chain making, whose wages were advanced by 5 per cent. on list prices, and electrical cable makers, among whom men on time rates received an increase of 1s. 11½d. or 2s. per week, and women an increase of 1s. per week.

The decreases in this group mainly affected iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen in the Midlands, whose wages were reduced by the equivalent of nearly 2 per cent. on current rates.

Hours of Labour.

The only important changes in hours of labour reported as taking effect in December were increases in the hours in respect of which the minimum rates fixed under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act, 1924, apply in Norfolk and Wiltshire.

Changes in Wages and Hours in 1931.

A special article dealing with these changes appears on pages 4 and 5 of this issue of the GAZETTE.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING DECEMBER, 1931.

Table with columns: Industry, District, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of Change (Decreases in italics).

* The particulars of numbers affected and amount of change in weekly wages exclude changes affecting Government employees, agricultural labourers, shop assistants and clerks, for which classes the information available is not sufficient to form a basis for statistics. Where information is available, however, details of changes in the current rate of wages of these classes are included in the list of principal changes recorded. The statistics are based on normal conditions of employment, and do not take into account the effect of short-time working, etc.

† At three collieries where a lower percentage is payable, the percentage was increased by 2 per cent. to 43 per cent. at one colliery, and remained unaltered at 40 and 42 per cent. at the other two collieries respectively. It has now been agreed to stabilise the percentage of 48 payable at the majority of the collieries to 31st March, 1932.

‡ The subsistence wage for adult able-bodied underground workers at the majority of the collieries remained unchanged at 8s. 3d. per day. § The decreases shown took effect under an agreement made by the Conciliation Committee of the National Joint Industrial Council for the Paint, Colour and Varnish Industry.

¶ Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements. ** Under selling-price sliding-scale arrangements. †† In addition to the above percentages on base rates, bonuses are paid to production men on basis rates up to 6s. 10d. per shift and to other men on basis rates up to 6s. 3d. per shift. The bonuses, which vary inversely in amount with the base rates, range from 1d. and 1d. per shift in the case of the higher-paid men to 1s. 5d. per shift for production men on a base rate of 3s. 10d., and 1s. 0½d. or 1s. 1½d. for other men on the same rates.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING DECEMBER, 1931 (continued).

| Industry. | District. | Date from which Change took effect. | Classes of Workpeople. | Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.) |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| Shuttle Manufacture. | Lancashire (except Garston and Blackburn). | Pay preceding 1st pay day in Jan. 1932. | Journeymen shuttlemakers ... | Increase* of 3 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 28 per cent. above base. Minimum daywork rate after change: 1s. per hour, plus 28 per cent. (1s. 3-36d. per hour.) |
| | Lancashire ... | | Apprentices to shuttlemakers ... | Increase* of 3 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 10½ per cent. above such rates. Rates after change: 9s. per week at 14 years, increasing by annual increments to 21s. at 20 years, plus, in each case, 10½ per cent. |
| | Yorkshire ... | | Journeymen shuttlemakers ... | Increase* of 3 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 31 per cent. above base. Minimum daywork rate after change: 11d. per hour, plus 31 per cent. (1s. 2-41d. per hour.) |
| Chain Manufacture. | Great Britain ... | 1 Dec. | Workpeople employed in making dolled and tommed chain from iron up to and including ½ in. diameter. | Increase* of 5 per cent. on the general minimum time rates as fixed under the Trade Boards Acts at 1st November, 1923, and on piecework rates as fixed, varied and extended under Trade Boards Acts at 5th November, 1928. General minimum time rate after change for adult workers, 5½d. per hour. |
| | Great Britain ... | 1 Dec. | Workpeople employed in making dolled and tommed chain from iron No. 6 I.S.W.G., up to and including ½ in. diameter, and hand-hammered chain from iron ½ in. up to and including ½ in. diameter. | Increase* of 5 per cent. on general minimum time rates as varied under Trade Boards Acts at 1st February, 1924, and on piecework rates as fixed, varied or extended under Trade Boards Acts at 16th August, 1926. General minimum time rate after change for lowest-paid adult workers, 1s. 1½d. per hour. |
| | Cradley Heath and District, Chester, Stoke and Pontypridd. | 1st full pay day in Dec. | Commercial end-welded dolled and tommed chain makers (except those whose wages are regulated by the Chain Trade Board) and cable shackle makers. | Increase* of 5 per cent. on list prices, leaving prices 15 per cent. below the lists of 1922. |
| | Great Britain, other than the above counties. | 1st full pay day in Dec. | Admiralty end-welded chain makers | Increase* of 5 per cent. on list prices, leaving prices 10 per cent. below the lists of 1922. |
| Electrical Cable Manufacture. | Middlesex, Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Essex, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire. | Pay preceding 3rd pay day in Dec. | Workpeople employed in the electrical cable-making industry (except plumber-jointers, etc.). | Increase* of amounts varying according to size from 2d. to 4½d. per cwt. |
| | Great Britain, other than the above counties. | | Anchor and grapnel makers ... | Increase* of 3d. per cwt. |
| Lock, Latch and Key Manufacture. | Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Willenhall Districts. | 1 Dec. | Bobbers ... | Decrease of 5 per cent. in wages. |
| Hosiery Manufacture. | Hawick ... | 1st full pay day in Dec. | Men and women ... | Flat-rate bonuses of 3s. 3d. per week for men and 2s. 6d. per week for women increased* to 6s. 6d. and 5s. per week respectively, the bonus of 20 per cent. on base rates remaining unchanged. |
| | Great Britain ... | | Apprentices ... | Flat-rate bonus of 1s. 1½d. per week increased* to 2s. 3d. per week, the bonus of 15 per cent. on base rates remaining unchanged. |
| Drift Nets Mending. | Great Britain ... | 28 Dec. | Female workers— Timeworkers ... | Decreases in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of from 8d. to 2s. 10d. per week. Minimum rates after change: 3s. 8d. during 1st six months of employment, increasing each six months to 22s. after two years' employment. |
| | | | Pieceworkers ... | Decreases in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of from 5d. to 9d. per net. |
| Dyeing and Dry Cleaning. | Various districts in England and Scotland. | 1st pay day in Dec. | Workpeople employed in the dyeing and dry cleaning trades. | Decreases* of 2s. or 2s. 6d. per week for men, of 6d. or 1s. 6d. per week for boys and youths, and of 6d. or 1s. per week for girls and women. Rates after change: men—skilled dyers, 61s. or 65s.; dyers (one-colour), 56s.; wet or dry cleaners, finishers, glazers, and other skilled workers, 51s. 6d.; labourers, 47s.; boys and youths—9s. 6d. at 14, increasing each year to 38s. 6d. at 20; girls and women—9s. 6d. at 14, increasing each year to 20s. 6d. at 18 and to 21s. at 21. |
| Road-Vehicle Building, etc. | Various districts in Scotland (excluding Dumfries)†. | 1 Dec. | Workpeople employed in the road-vehicle building and wheelwright trades. | Decreases for timeworkers of ½d. per hour for skilled men (the rates for vicemen not qualified to do fitting, brush hands, hammermen and labourers remaining unchanged) and of proportionate amounts for apprentices and for pieceworkers. National minimum rates after change: bodymakers, cartwrights, finishers, carriage makers, wheelers, woodcutting machinists, smiths, painters, and trimmers, 1s. 5d.; coach fitters and vicemen, 1s. 4d.; vicemen (not qualified to do fitting), 1s. 2½d.; brush hands and hammermen, 1s. 1½d.; labourers, 1s. 0½d. Special district standard rates: West of Scotland district and Edinburgh district—woodworking branches and smiths, 1s. 6½d.; painters and trimmers, 1s. 6d.; coach fitters, 1s. 4½d.; these classes employed on passenger-carrying vehicles, ½d. per hour more. Dundee district—½d. per hour above national minimum rates (except labourers)†. |
| Stationery, etc. Manufacture. | Various districts in England and Scotland.‡ | 1 Sept. | Workpeople employed in the envelope making and manufacturing stationery trades. | Decrease of 5 per cent. on current rates.‡ Minimum rates after change in London area—head warehousemen, cutters and export packers, 67s. 6d.; ordinary or assistant packers, assistant warehousemen, 64s.; porters, 57s. 6d.; women, 34s. 3d. |
| Waterworks Undertakings. | Certain towns in Yorkshire.§ | 1st full pay in Dec. (or later dates)¶ | Workpeople employed by waterworks undertakings. | Decrease of ½d. per hour§ |
| Tramway Undertakings. | West Ham ... | 26 Nov. | Fitters and permanent way labourers. | Decrease of 5 per cent. Rates after change: fitters, 1s. 7½d.; permanent way labourers, 1s. 5½d. |

* Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.
 † The change took effect under an agreement made between the Scottish National Vehicle Builders' Association, the National Union of Vehicle Builders and the Amalgamated Society of Woodcutting Machinists. At Dumfries, which was not affected, wages are regulated by agreements of the Joint Wages Board which covers England. The West of Scotland district comprises Lanarkshire, Dumbartonshire, Stirlingshire, Renfrewshire and Ayrshire; the Edinburgh district includes the counties of Linlithgow, Midlothian, East Lothian and Fife south of a line drawn from Kinross to Leven; and the Dundee district comprises Angus and Perthshire.
 ‡ The reduction took effect under arrangements made between firms who are members of the Employers' Federation of Envelope Makers and Manufacturing Stationers and their employees. No trade union was a party to the arrangement.
 § The reduction described followed the terms of a recommendation made by the National Joint Industrial Council for the Waterworks Undertakings Industry and was imposed by the Undertakings concerned after the Yorkshire Joint Industrial Council had failed to come to an agreement. The Undertakings at present known to have made the reduction include Brighouse, Doncaster (from 17 December), Halifax (from 7 January, 1932), Leeds, and Todmorden.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING DECEMBER, 1931 (continued).

| Industry. | District. | Date from which Change took effect. | Classes of Workpeople. | Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.) |
|--|------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Omnibus Undertakings. | Various districts in Scotland.* | 1 Dec. | Drivers, conductors and conductresses. | New scales of hourly rates adopted as follows: drivers, 1s. 0½d. on appointment, increasing by ½d. every six months to 1s. 2½d. after 24 months; conductresses, 6½d. on appointment, 6½d. after 6 months, and 7d. after 12 months; junior male conductors, 6½d. at 18 years, 7d. at 18½, 7½d. at 19 and 8d. at 20 years of age.* |
| Road Transport | Leeds ... | 1st pay day after 7 Dec. | Road transport workers (21 years of age and over):— Horse drivers ... | Decrease of 3s. per week. Rates after change: one-horse drivers, 49s.; two-horse, 54s. |
| | Leeds ... | | Motor drivers, etc. ... | Schedule of uniform weekly rates adopted as follows: drivers, up to 30 cwt., 50s.; 30 cwt. to 50 cwt., 54s.; 50 cwt. and over, 58s.; mates and trailer-men, 50s.; drivers of 6-wheeled vehicles of a carrying capacity of 10 tons or over, 65s.; mates, 53s.; steam wagon drivers, 61s.; steam wagon steers, 51s. |
| Local Government (Non-Trading Services). | Shoreditch ... | Week ending 9 Oct. | General yard labourers ... | Decrease of 4s. 3½d. per week (64s. 7½d. to 60s. 4d.). |
| | Buxton ... | 4 Nov. | Manual workers ... | Decreases usually of ½d. per hour (½d. in certain cases) for men on hourly rates and of 2s. 6d. per week for men on daily rates. Rates after change include: general labourers, 11d. to 1s. per hour; scavengers, 11½d.; ash freighter labourers, 9s. 1d. per day. |
| | Aldershot ... | 4 Dec. | Manual workers ... | Decrease of 2½ per cent. Rates after change include: general yard and road labourers, road sweepers and refuse collectors, 1s. per hour; road paviers and masons, 1s. 2d. per hour, less 2½ per cent. in each case. |
| | Certain Authorities in Middlesex.† | Day following 1st pay day after 13 Oct. | Adult male workers ... | Scheduled minimum rates increased by varying amounts (usually from 2s. to 3s. per week). Minimum rates after change include: Grade A workpeople (bath and lavatory attendants, scavengers, etc.), 53s. 6d.; Grade B (yardmen, dust collectors, labourers, etc.), 56s. 6d.† |
| National Government. | Angus ... | 15 Nov. | Road labourers employed by County Council. | Decrease of 2½ per cent. Rates after change: Arbroath, Brechin and Forfar districts, 41s.; Dundee district, 44s. |
| | Renfrewshire ... | 16 Nov. | Road labourers employed by County Council. | Decrease of 2½ per cent. in respect of the first £100 per annum and 5 per cent. on next £100. Rates after change, 50s. to 55s. per week less the above decreases. |
| Skip and Basket Making. | Great Britain ... | Pay week in which 1 Dec. falls. | Workpeople employed in War Department and Air Ministry Establishments who are paid on an engineering trade basis; also, in case of War Department, those in Naval Dockyard Stations who are in receipt of Admiralty war advances. | Piecework prices to be fixed so as to enable a worker of average ability to earn at least 25 per cent. over time rates, excluding "war" advances, and existing prices fixed on a basis of 33½ per cent. reduced accordingly (i.e., by 6½ per cent.); also payment for nightshifts to be at rate of time and a sixth in lieu of time and a third, except at certain establishments where corresponding reduction has been made in cases where the previous payment was at rates other than time and a third.‡ |
| | Lancashire and Cheshire. | | 7 Dec. | Skip and basket makers ... |

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED DURING DECEMBER, 1931.

| | | | | |
|-------------|---------------|---------|------------------|---|
| Agriculture | Norfolk ... | 27 Dec. | Male workers ... | Hours in respect of which the minimum weekly rates fixed under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act, 1924, are payable fixed at 53 in summer and 48 in winter, instead of 50 in summer and 48 in winter as previously. |
| | Wiltshire ... | 20 Dec. | Male workers ... | Hours in respect of which the minimum weekly rates fixed under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act, 1924, are payable, fixed at 50 in winter (until 5th March, 1932) instead of 48 as previously. |

* The new rates are embodied in an agreement made between the Scottish General Transport Co., Ltd. and the Transport and General Workers' Union. It was agreed that the introduction of these rates should not result in a reduction for drivers, etc., already employed.
 † The increases in minimum rates described were the result of an agreement made by the Middlesex Joint Industrial Council whereby a new Zone 1A was created, with rates 2s. in excess of the previous highest rated Zone 1. The Authorities allocated to the new Zone (with their previous Zones) are as follows:—Acton (1), Brentford and Chiswick (1), Edmonton (1), Enfield (2), Hayes and Harlington (2), Southgate (1), Tottenham (1), Uxbridge (2), Willesden (1), Wood Green (1).
 ‡ Amendments were also made in the rates of pay for overtime for dayshift and nightshift working.
 § Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangement.

PRICES AND WAGES IN THE IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRIES.

The following Table shows the results of recent ascertainties upon which are based variations in district rates of wages:—

| Product and District. | Price according to last Audit.* | | Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) of last Audit* on | |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|-------------|
| | Period covered by last Audit. | Average selling price per ton. | Previous Audit. | A year ago. |
| Pig Iron: | 1931. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. |
| Cumberland (Hematite mixed numbers.) | Sept.-Oct. | 62 5½ | - 0 9½ | - 8 5½ |
| Lincolnshire | July-Sept. | 61 0 | - 0 7½ | - 2 4½ |
| West of Scotland... | July-Sept. | 70 8 | - 1 0 | - 6 6 |
| Manufactured Iron: | | | | |
| North of England (Bars.) | Sept.-Oct. | 178 7½ | - 3 1½ | - 4 2½ |
| West of Scotland... (Rounds, flats, squares, angles, hoops, tees and rods.) | Sept.-Oct. | 207 0½ | + 1 3½ | - 2 5½ |
| Steel: South-West Wales (Steel tin bars.) | July-Sept. | 89 7 | - 4 10½ | - 29 1½ |

* Stated to the nearest farthing.

The variation from the previous audit in the price of Cumberland pig iron resulted in a decrease in November of 1 per cent. on the standard rates of blastfurnacemen in West Cumberland and North Lancashire, but this was only applied to the higher-paid workpeople, those with average earnings below 6s. 4d. per shift having their wages increased by a special agreement. In Lincolnshire the ascertainment resulted in a decrease in November of 1 per cent. on the standard rates of blastfurnacemen. This reduction was also applied to the wages of ironstone miners and quarrymen in that area. The reduction in the price of pig-iron in the West of Scotland resulted in a decrease in November of 1 per cent. on the standard rates of blastfurnacemen in that area; the reduction, however, was not applied to lower-paid day-wage men, whose wages have remained at 21 per cent. above the standard since August, 1925.

As regards manufactured iron, the ascertainties for the North of England and the West of Scotland did not warrant a change in the wages of iron puddlers and millmen in those areas. The ascertainment of the price of steel tin bars in South-West Wales for the quarter July-September, 1931, was again below the standard price of the scale which regulates the wages of Siemens-steel workers in that area, and there was in consequence no change in the wages of these workpeople.

Further details of the changes referred to will be found on page 484 of the December GAZETTE.

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

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

Summary table showing average increases since July, 1914: All items included (47%), Food only (31%).

FOOD.

At 1st January the average level of the retail prices of the principal articles of food showed a slight decline as compared with 1st December. This was mainly due to seasonal reductions in the prices of eggs, the effect of which, however, was partly counterbalanced by increases in the prices of potatoes.

As a net result of all the changes recorded the average increase over the level of July, 1914, in the retail prices (in Great Britain and Northern Ireland) of the articles of food included in these statistics was 31 per cent. at 1st January, 1932, as compared with 32 per cent. at 1st December, 1931, and 38 per cent. at 1st January, 1931.

In the following Table is given a comparison of retail prices of these articles of food in July, 1914, and at 1st December, 1931, and 1st January, 1932:—

Table comparing retail prices of food articles in July 1914, Dec 1931, and Jan 1932. Columns include Article, Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated), and Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) at 1st Jan., 1932, as compared with July, 1914, and 1st Dec., 1931.

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

Table showing percentage comparison of retail prices at the same dates. Columns include Article, Average Percentage Increase at 1st Jan., 1932, as compared with July, 1914, and Corresponding General Average for 1st Dec., 1931.

* If this kind is seldom dealt with in a locality, the returns quote the prices 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 prices 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 1st January, was approximately 49 per cent. When decontrolled rents are also included, the combined average increase in working-class rents since July, 1914, is approximately 54 per cent. This latter figure has been utilised in calculating the final percentage increase for all the items included in these statistics.

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, and boots, received from retailers in the principal towns, indicates that at 1st January 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 about 90 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

In the fuel and light group the prices of coal at 1st January averaged approximately 85 per cent. above the level of July, 1914. The average price of gas remained between 45 and 50 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 1st January, as compared with July, 1914, was about 75 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 75 per cent.), the resultant general average increase for 1st January, 1932, is approximately 47 per cent.* over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 48 per cent. at 1st December, 1931, and 53 per cent. at 1st January, 1931.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken in 1932 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 may have been raised 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 1932.

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 1932:—

Summary table showing average percentage increase since July, 1914—all items (Food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, etc.) from 1920 to 1932.

NOTE.

A detailed account of the method of compilation of these statistics 'The Cost of Living Index Number: Method of Compilation' has been published, and may be purchased, price 3d. net (3½d. post free), from H.M. Stationery Office, at any of the addresses shown on the cover of this GAZETTE.

* If allowance is made for the changes in taxation since July, 1914, on the commodities included in these statistics, the average increase is about 1 per cent. less.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—While the percentages given in the following Summary Tables are derived from the most authoritative sources of statistical information, certain differences in the nature and scope of the data used, in the methods of combining such data and in the periods for which the rise is measured, suggest the need for caution in drawing conclusions from a comparison between the figures for any two countries or cities. 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 showing percentage increase in retail food prices in various countries compared with July 1914. Columns include Country, July 1928, July 1929, July 1930, July 1931, and Latest figures available (Rise, Date).

II.—ALL ITEMS.

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

Table showing percentage increase in the cost of food, house-rent, clothing, fuel and light, and other household requirements in various countries compared with July 1914. Columns include Country, Items on which computation is based, July 1928, July 1929, July 1930, July 1931, and Latest figures available (Rise, Date).

* Exceptions to this are: Egypt, January 1913 to July 1914; France (other towns), August, 1914; Italy (all items) and Rome, January to June, 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; Spain, South Africa, France (Paris, all items), Poland, 1914; Germany, average, 1913-1914; Amsterdam, 1911-1913; Belgium, April, 1914; Italy (food), United States (all items), Canada, 1913; Australia (all items), November, 1914. The Australian percentages for all items are a weighted average for the six capital cities. The percentages are calculated in Czechoslovakia and Poland, on prices converted to their gold values, and, in the other countries, on prices in the ordinary currency.

† Fuel and light are also included in these figures. ‡ New series. § Figure for June. ¶ A = Food; B = House-Rent; C = Clothing; D = Fuel and light; E = Other or Miscellaneous Items. ** Figure for 3rd Quarter.

POOR RELIEF IN DECEMBER, 1931.

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

THE number of persons* relieved on one day† in December, 1931, in the forty-seven selected areas named below, was 633,440, or 3.3 per cent. more than in the previous month and 14.8 per cent. more than in December, 1930. The numbers relieved at these three dates were equivalent, respectively, to rates of 381; 369; and 332 per 10,000 of the population.

In the forty-three selected areas in England and Wales the number of persons relieved in December, 1931, was 527,796, an increase of 3.5 per cent. as compared with a month earlier and an increase of 14.4 per cent. as compared with December, 1930. In the four areas in Scotland the number relieved was 105,644, or 2.3 per cent. more than in the previous month and 17.2 per cent. more than a year ago.

Recipients of indoor relief in the forty-seven areas in December, numbered 102,958, or 0.3 per cent. less than in the previous month and 12.4 per cent. less than a year ago. Recipients of outdoor relief numbered 530,482, or 4.0 per cent. more than in the previous month and 22.2 per cent. more than in December, 1930.

Of the forty-seven areas, thirty-nine showed increases in the number per 10,000 relieved in December as compared with November, while seven showed decreases. In one area there was no change. Compared with December, 1930, forty-four areas showed increases, including Sheffield (368 per 10,000); Manchester (176 per 10,000); Liverpool (151 per 10,000); West Ham (110 per 10,000); and Glasgow (107 per 10,000); while three showed small decreases.

Table showing number of persons in receipt of poor relief on one day in December, 1931, and increase (+) or decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of population as compared with a month before and a year before.

Main table showing poor relief statistics for England and Wales, and Scotland. Columns include County, Indoor, Outdoor, Total, Rate per 10,000 of Population, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of population as compared with a month before and a year before.

* The figures include dependants, but exclude persons in receipt of outdoor medical relief only and casuals. In England and Wales, patients in mental hospitals (formerly referred to as lunatics in asylums), and, in Scotland, lunatics and mental defectives, are also excluded. † 19th December in London, 26th December in the rest of England and Wales, and 15th December in Scotland.

Terminus (London Automatic Area): Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, W.C. Sub-Contractors for Terminus: Hart Accumulator Co., Ltd., London, E., for Batteries; The Electric Construction Co., Ltd., London, W.C., for Charging Machine and Ringing Machines; London Trunk Exchange: Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., London, W.C. Sub-Contractors for London Trunk: D. P. Battery Co., Ltd., Bakewell, for Batteries; The Electric Construction Co., Ltd., London, W.C., for Charging Machine and Ringing Machines; Bishopsgate (London Automatic Area); Paignton (Torquay Automatic Area); and Torquay (Torquay Automatic Area): Automatic Telephone Manufacturing Co., Ltd., London, W.C. Edgware (London Automatic Area); Birmingham (Birmingham Automatic Area); Haverton Hill (Middlesbrough Multi Exchange Automatic Area); and Kensington (London Automatic Area): The General Electric Co., Ltd., Coventry. Sub-Contractors for Kensington: D. P. Battery Co., Ltd., Bakewell, for Batteries. Belgrave (Leicester Multi Office Automatic Area); Warstock (Birmingham Automatic Area); and Halesowen (Birmingham Automatic Area): Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. Sub-Contractors for Halesowen: Hart Accumulator Co., Ltd., London, E., for Batteries; English Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C., for Charging Machine. Middleton (Manchester Area): Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. Sub-Contractors for Middleton: The Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., Manchester, for Batteries; English Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C., for Charging Machine. Failsworth (Manchester Area): Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. Sub-Contractors for Failsworth: The Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., Manchester, for Batteries; English Electric Co., Ltd., London, W.C., for Charging Machine; Crompton Parkinson, Ltd., Chelmsford, for Ringing Machines. Aston Cross (Birmingham Automatic Area): Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. Sub-Contractors for Aston Cross: The Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., Manchester, for Batteries; The Electric Construction Co., Ltd., London, W.C., for Charging Machine; Crompton Parkinson, Ltd., Chelmsford, for Ringing Machines. Shirley (Birmingham Automatic Area): Siemens Bros. & Co., Ltd., London, S.E. Sub-Contractors for Shirley: Hart Accumulator Co., Ltd., London, E., for Batteries; The Electric Construction Co., Ltd., London, W.C., for Charging Machine.

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