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

EMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT showed little change, on the whole, during February, a slight improvement in the building, engineering, and clothing industries being counterbalanced by a decline in the coal mining, wool textile, and linen industries.

Among the 11,500,000 workpeople insured against unemployment under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed at 23rd February, 1925, was 11·6, compared with 11·5 at 26th January, 1925, and 10·7 at 25th February, 1924. Among the members of those Trade Unions from which returns were received the percentage unemployed was 9·4 at the end of February, 1925, compared with 9·0 at the end of January, 1925, and with 8·1 at the end of February, 1924. The total number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland as unemployed at 23rd February, 1925, was approximately 1,287,000, of whom 980,000 were men and 239,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 26th January, 1925, it was also 1,287,000, of whom 969,000 were men and 243,000 were women; and at 25th February, 1924, it was 1,192,000, of whom men numbered 878,000, and women, 241,000.

Employment was good, on the whole, with skilled operatives (other than painters) in the building trades, in some branches of the cotton industry, and in the brick and jute trades; it was fairly good with coach-builders and millsawyers, and in the furnishing, silk, and carpet trades. In coal mining, in the wool textile industry, and in the section of the cotton industry spinning American cotton it was slack; in the iron and steel industry, in tinsplate manufacture, and in the marine engineering and shipbuilding trades it continued bad.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported in February resulted in an aggregate reduction of £22,500 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 580,000 workpeople, and in an aggregate increase of £8,500 in the weekly wages of over 90,000 workpeople. These statistics, however, are exclusive of changes in the rates of wages of agricultural labourers, a considerable number of whom obtained increases in wages in February as the result of Orders issued by the Agricultural Wages Board.

The principal groups of workpeople whose wages were reduced were coal miners in Yorkshire and the East Midlands, where the percentage addition to basis rates was reduced by the equivalent of about 1½ per cent. on current rates; and steel smelters and millmen in various districts in England and Scotland, who sustained a reduction of about 1½ per cent. on current rates. Other important groups of workpeople whose wages were reduced included coal miners in the Radstock district, cokemen and by-product workers in various

districts, steel-sheet millmen and galvanisers, Siemens steel workers in South-West Wales, blastfurnace workers in Cumberland, Lincolnshire, and Scotland, iron puddlers and millmen in Scotland, the majority of tinsplate workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and workpeople employed in the dyeing and dry-cleaning industry. There were also reductions, under cost-of-living sliding scales, in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts for workpeople employed in the perambulator and invalid carriage, paper-bag, paper-box, and brush and broom trades.

Among those classes of workpeople who received increases in rates of wages in February were agricultural labourers in a number of counties, coopers in most of the principal towns, furniture trade operatives in London and Manchester, workpeople employed in the textile bleaching, dyeing, etc., industry in Scotland, road transport workers in Scotland, and employees of various local authorities in Yorkshire and London.

During the first two months of 1925 the changes reported to the Department, in the industries for which statistics have been compiled, have resulted in net increases equivalent to over £60,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 650,000 workpeople, and in net reductions of over £20,000 in those of nearly 600,000 workpeople. In the corresponding period of 1924 there were net increases of nearly £180,000 in the weekly full-time wages of over 1,600,000 workpeople, and net reductions of £28,500 in those of 580,000 workpeople.

COST OF LIVING.

At 28th February the average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel, light, and miscellaneous items) was approximately 79 per cent. above that of July, 1914, as compared with 79 per cent. at 31st January, 1925, and with 78 per cent. at 1st March, 1924. For food alone the corresponding percentage was 76 at each of these dates.

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, in making the calculations, the changes in the prices of the various items included are combined in proportions corresponding with the relative importance of those items in pre-war working-class family expenditure, no allowance being made for any changes in the standard of living.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in February, was 44. In addition, 20 disputes which began before February were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in February (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 13,000; the estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during February was about 85,000 working days. These figures compare with totals of approximately 12,000 workpeople involved and 67,000 days lost in the previous month.

PAYMENT OF WAGES FOR HOLIDAYS.

In the issue of this GAZETTE for December, 1922, details were given of a number of collective agreements between organisations of employers and workpeople, providing for the payment of wages for holidays. Since that date a number of new agreements have been entered into on the same subject and a few of the agreements then existing have been modified or have lapsed. In the following Table a list is given of industries or occupations in which general or district agreements are known to exist providing for the granting of holidays with pay, together with particulars of the number of holidays per annum for which wages are paid and the length of the period of qualifying service required. Except where otherwise stated the holidays shown are exclusive of the usual public holidays, which are also granted and paid for unless the contrary is indicated:—

Industries or Occupations.	Holidays paid for per annum, apart from Public Holidays.*	Qualifying Service in Months.
A.—GENERAL AGREEMENTS.		
Heavy Chemical Manufacture (except London)	1 week	12
Paint, Colour and Varnish Manufacture	3 days	6
Cement Manufacture	5 days	9
Match Manufacture	1 week	12
Printing Ink Manufacture	1 week	12
Drug and Fine Chemical Manufacture	1 week	6
Lead Manufacture	6 days§	12§
Wool and Nail Merchants' Warehousemen (Yorks and Lancs)	1 week	6
Boot and Shoe Manufacture	1 week	12
Flour Milling	3 days	6
Cocoa and Chocolate, Sugar Confectionery and Fruit Preserving Trades	6 days	12
Printing, Bookbinding, etc. (except Newspapers, London and Glasgow)	1 week	12
Envelope and Stationery Manufacture	1 week	12
Process Engraving	9 days§	12§
Paper Bag Making	1 week	6
Press Telegraphists	2 weeks	12
Sea-going Wireless Telegraphists	2 weeks	12
Traffic grades and certain other classes employed by Railway Companies	1 week†	12
Railway Clearing House Number Taking Staff—Number Takers and Working Foremen	6 days†	12
Supervisory Foremen	12 days†	12
Railway Police Staff:—Uniform Constables	6 days†	12
Uniform Sergeants, Detectives and Detective Sergeants	9 days†	12
Shiftworkers at Railway Companies' Electricity Generating Stations and Sub-Stations (except London)	7 days†	12
Tramway Undertakings	8 days†	12
Mental Asylums (Indoor Staff)	21 days†	12
Gas Undertakings	3 days†	6
Local Authorities—Non-Trading Services (certain districts)**	1 week†	12
B.—DISTRICT AGREEMENTS.		
<i>Mining and Quarrying:—</i>		
Coal Mining Deputies (South Yorkshire)	6 days	12
" " (Lancashire and Cheshire)	1 week	12
" " (Notts and Derby—except S. Derby)	8 days	12
" " (East Kent) and Firemen (Cannock Chase)	7 days	12
" " Examiners, Firemen and Shotfriers (Leicestershire)	1 week	12
" " Firemen (S. Wales and Monmouthshire)	1 week	12
" " and Shotlighters (N. Wales)	12 days	12
" " Overmen (Cannock Chase) and Examiners (Bristol)	1 week	12
" " Undermanagers (Cannock Chase)	10 days	12
" " Clerks, Foremen and Weighers (Lancashire and Cheshire)	48 hours	12
" " Balliffs, Examiners and Firemen (Somerset)	14 days†	12
Deputies employed by Ganalster Firms (Deepest)	1 week	12
Chalk Quarry Workers (Thames and Medway)	6 days	12
<i>Metal Trades:—</i>		
Military Musical Instrument Making (London)	1 week	12
Typefoundry (London)	††	††
Watchmakers and Jewellers (Aberdeen)	6 days	12

* Unless otherwise stated, the usual Public Holidays, or days in lieu, are granted and paid for in addition to the periods specified.
 † In the cases indicated by this note, either the whole or a proportion of the employees are required to work on Public Holidays. In some cases work on such Holidays is paid for at ordinary rates and in others at higher rates.
 ‡ Payment is made on a contributory basis. Employers and workpeople contribute weekly amounts, and withdrawals from the fund are made at the Easter, Whitsun, August and Christmas Holidays.
 § A pro rata holiday is allowed to workers with service of less than the amount specified.
 ¶ No payment is made in respect of Public Holidays to those not called upon to work.
 ** Public Holidays are included in the period specified.
 †† The provision for holidays in this case is contained in a recommendation of the National Joint Industrial Council, which left the period of qualifying service to be determined locally. In a few cases somewhat different arrangements have been made by the District Joint Industrial Councils (e.g., in London it was agreed to grant one day's holiday (apart from Public Holidays) for every two months' service up to 6 days, with an additional day for every year of service beyond two up to a maximum of twelve consecutive days).
 ††† In this case the men work 50 hours per week, but are paid for 48 hours only, the extra two hours accruing towards holidays.

Industries or Occupations.	Holidays paid for per annum, apart from Public Holidays.*	Qualifying Service in Months.
B.—DISTRICT AGREEMENTS—continued.		
<i>Textile and Clothing Trades:—</i>		
Textile Making-up and Packing (Manchester)	12½ days¶	12
Boot and Shoe Warehouses (Leicester)	6 days	12
Retail Dressmaking—Female Workers (London)	12 days	12
Wholesale Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Manufacture (London)	1 week	6
Retail Bespoke Tailoring—Male Timeworkers (London)	2 weeks	12
<i>Food and Drink Trades:—</i>		
Brewing (Burton)	6 days	12
" (Northumberland, Durham and Yorkshire)	1 week	12
" and Beer Bottling (London)	3 days	6
Carters employed by Ale and Porter Bottlers (Liverpool)	6 days	12
Workers employed in Seed Crushing and Oil Milling (Liverpool)	1 week	12
Baking (Northumberland and Durham)	1 week	12
" (Bolton)	7 days¶	12
" (Preston)	9 days¶	12
" (Rochdale, Heywood and Bury)	3 days	6
" (Chatham)	1 week	12
" (Bathgate)	6 days	12
" (Breehin and Clydebank)	10 days¶	12
" (Dumfries and Maxwelltown)	6 days	12
" (Dundee and Hamilton)	10 days¶	12
" (Edinburgh and Leith)	8 days¶	12
" (Perth)	3 days	6
" (Co-operative Societies in Yorkshire)	9 days¶	12
" (Co-operative Societies in Wislaw and District)	6 days	6
<i>Transport Trades:—</i>		
Road Transport Workers (London, Swansea and Scotland)	12 days	12
Road Transport Workers (E. Lancashire)	1 week	12
Omnibus Workers (London)	6 days	12
Tug Boat Crews (Bristol)	8 days†	6
Shiftworkers at Railway Companies' Electricity Generating Stations and Sub-stations (London)	1 week	12
<i>Public Utility Services:—</i>		
Local Authorities—Non-Trading Services (Monmouthshire)	14 days†	12
Local Authorities—Non-Trading Services (Glamorganshire)	6 days	12
Waterworks Undertakings:—N. Counties	3 days	6
Yorks and Midlands	4 days	8
Home Counties	5 days	10
S. Midlands	1 week	12
S. Wales and Mon.	6 days	12
Electricity Supply Undertakings:—London	3 days	6
N. E. Coast	4 days	8
Yorkshire	5 days	10
N. W. Area	6 days	12
W. Midlands	7 days	12
E. Midlands	8 days	12
E. Coast	9 days	12
Home Counties	10 days	12
S. Coast	11 days	12
West of England	12 days	12
Devon and Cornwall	13 days	12
S. Wales and Mon.	14 days	12
Scotland	14 days	12
<i>Other Trades:—</i>		
Chemical Workers (London)	14	12
Coopers (Burton and Nottingham)	14	12
Workpeople employed in Newspaper Printing Offices (London)	14	12
Workpeople employed in Newspaper Printing Offices (Glasgow)	14	12
Funeral Workers (London and Liverpool)	14	12
Cemetery Workers (London)	14	12
Umbrella and Sunshade Making (London, Manchester and Glasgow)	14	12
Retail Drapery Shops (certain large firms in London):—Transport Workers	14	12
Packers, Porters, Clerks and Assistants	14	12
Wholesale Textile Warehouses (London)	14	12
" Clothing, Millinery, etc., Warehouses (Manchester)	14	12
Warehousemen (Liverpool)	14	12
Export Packing (London)	14	12
Wholesale Grocers' Assistants (Lancs and Cheshire)	14	12
Produce Warehouses (Newcastle)	14	12
Cork Workers (London)	14	12
Transport Workers engaged in Newspaper Distribution (Glasgow)	14	12
Tanning and Currying (Lancashire, Cheshire, Bristol and the West of England)	14	12
Cinema Operators (Sheffield)	14	12
" (West Riding of Yorks)	14	12
" (Coventry)	14	12
" (Glasgow)	14	12
Other Cinema Workers (London)	14	12
Musicians at Places of Entertainment (Blackpool)	14	12
Butchers (Derby, Swansea and certain districts in Lancs)	14	12
" (Sheffield)	14	12

* † † † See footnotes in previous column.

Industries or Occupations.	Holidays paid for per annum, apart from Public Holidays.*	Qualifying Service in Months.
B.—DISTRICT AGREEMENTS—continued.		
<i>Other Trades:—continued.</i>		
Butchers (Wellingborough)	6 days	12
" employed by Co-operative Societies (Bolton and Manchester)	3 days	6
" employed by Co-operative Societies (N.E. Lancs)	6 days	12
Employees of Co-operative Societies:—London	1 week	12
"	6 days	12
"	9 days	24
"	12 days	36
N. Counties††	6 days	6
N. W. Area	10 days	10
"	3 days	6
Gloucester, Hereford and Bristol	6 days	6
"	3 days	6
"	6 days	12
"	9 days	24
S. Wales and Mon.	6 days	12
Dowls, Treharris, Merthyr and Troedy-rhiw	8 days	12
Border Counties	12 days§	6§
Certain other districts in Scotland	6 days§	12§
"	12 days§	12§

In addition to the general or district agreements of which details are given in the Table, it is known that some others are in existence covering employees of individual firms. It has also been recommended by the Trade Boards for the brush and broom trade and for the dressmaking and women's light clothing trade that employers in those trades should grant one week's holiday with pay to their employees with 12 months' service. The Wholesale Clothing Manufacturers' Federation has expressed itself in favour of payment for a week's holiday, but has left it to districts and individual employers to deal with the matter as they think best. In the tin-box making trade the employers' association has recommended its members to grant one week's holiday with pay after 12 months' service, one week less one day after 9 months, and one week less two days after 6 months. The Joint Industrial Council for the Coöperative Industry has recommended that employers should give favourable consideration to granting a week's holiday with pay each year to all employees with 12 months' service.

The majority of the formal agreements provide that payment shall be made for statutory holidays, and for a certain period in addition, varying in different cases usually from 3 to 12 days in each year. Payment for this period, however, is usually conditional on the employee having had 6 or 12 months' service, and in some cases the amount of holiday varies according to the length of service. In the case of time-workers payment is generally at the full weekly time rates of wages, and in some instances provision is made for the payment of piece-workers on the same basis. In the paper-bag making trade, and in the printing trade in the provinces, piece-workers receive an amount equivalent to the average of their weekly earnings in the previous six months; but in the case of compositors in London they receive payment at the rate of their average earnings, less overtime payments, as shown on their income tax returns for the preceding year. An interesting variation is also made by certain newspaper printing firms at Glasgow who calculate the holiday payment on the average earnings of all piece-workers and not on those of the individual workers, in order to avoid hardship in the case of those whose earnings have been reduced owing to illness. In the paint, colour and varnish trades, piece-workers are paid at their average earnings for the previous month. In the cement industry and the chalk quarrying industry on the Thames and Medway the average of three months is taken, and in the lead smelting industry that of the six weeks preceding the holiday. In the match manufacturing industry, payment is based on the average weekly hours in the year prior to the holiday.

In many of the agreements it is specified that the holidays for which payment is made shall consist of a certain number of consecutive days, and in many cases also it is provided that the holiday period shall be in the summer months. In the military musical instrument trade in London the agreement allows the employer to close his works entirely for a week on giving two months' notice, or to allow his individual workers the holiday at different dates. A somewhat similar arrangement exists in the lead smelting industry. The holidays of omnibus workers in London are arranged so that 75 per cent. of the staff receive them between October and March and the remainder between April and September, this being necessitated, of course, by the additional services in operation in the summer months. In a few agreements, provision is made whereby workers are disqualified for the receipt of payment if absent without sufficient cause for a specified number of days in the preceding 12 months, or if they fail to attend for a full day's work on the day succeeding the holiday.

In some of the agreements provision is made that additional payments are to be made to workers who leave their employment before they have taken their holiday. In the paper bag making, printing and copper plate engraving (London) trades an employee who leaves after 6 months' service without having had his holiday receives one day's pay for each 2 months of service. Newspaper printers in London who leave their employment before 31st March receive one-twelfth of 2 weeks' wages for each month's service since the previous October. An employee in the paint, colour and varnish trades who leaves within a month prior to the date fixed for his holiday receives the holiday payment.

* † † † See footnotes on page 76.
 †† Productive workers are allowed 6 days' holiday after 6 months' service.

A few of the agreements provide for a contribution in one form or another towards the payment for holidays. In the boot and shoe industry contributions are made to a holiday fund by the employer and the worker, the amount being 1s. 2d. a week from the employer and the same from the worker in the case of adult men, with smaller amounts for women, youths and girls. This fund provides for payment for Easter, Whitsun, August and Christmas, or other customary local holidays. The contributions extend over 48 weeks in the year, and withdrawals are made by two instalments at Easter and Whitsun and two larger instalments at August and Christmas. Another example of a contributory system is found in an agreement covering typefounders in London who work 50 hours a week in 50 weeks of the year but receive payment for 48 hours only, the extra two hours per week accruing during the year towards holidays. In the baking trade at Dundee, Perth, Bathgate, Breehin, Clydebank and Hamilton payment for holidays is made in lieu of payment for Sunday sponging.

The particulars given above relate to wage earners. It is estimated that at the present time approximately 1½ millions of such workpeople are covered by the general or district agreements referred to in the foregoing Table. In addition, of course, large numbers of salaried clerks and shop assistants, and other salaried employees, are regularly granted holidays with pay, as well as many workers on "standing" wages, and wage earners employed by some individual firms who are not parties to collective agreements arranged by employers' associations and trade unions.

ENQUIRIES INTO EARNINGS AND HOURS OF LABOUR AND INTO APPRENTICESHIP.

A.—EARNINGS AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

The Ministry of Labour is about to undertake a general enquiry into earnings and hours of labour in Great Britain and Northern Ireland in 1924.

Comprehensive information on this subject was last collected in 1906, when a general enquiry into earnings and hours of labour in the United Kingdom was made by the Labour Department of the Board of Trade, the results of which were published in a series of eight volumes, each dealing with a group of industries. In view of the great changes in wages which have taken place since that year, and of the importance of obtaining up-to-date information on this subject, it has been decided to ask employers generally, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, to furnish the Ministry with returns giving particulars of the earnings and working hours of their workpeople in 1924.

The issue of the enquiry forms will begin on 16th March, but in view of the large numbers (estimated at about 400,000) to be despatched, this stage of the work is not expected to be completed for some weeks, and many employers, therefore, will not receive their forms until April or possibly early in May. The points on which information is to be asked include (1) the numbers of wage-earners (excluding clerks, typists, commercial travellers, etc.) employed in each of 4 weeks in 1924; (2) the total amount of wages paid to such workpeople in those weeks and in the whole of the year 1924; (3) the normal full-time hours of labour in those weeks; (4) the numbers of workpeople on short time and the number of hours lost by them; and (5) the aggregate man-hours worked. This information will be less detailed than that obtained in 1906, but arrangements are in contemplation for amplifying it at a later date by means of supplementary enquiries into particular industries taken separately.

The information supplied by each employer will be regarded by the Department as strictly confidential, and will be used only in compiling general statistics in which no figures relating to individual firms will be disclosed.

In view of the importance of accurate statistics on this subject, it is hoped that employers generally will co-operate with the Department by supplying information. A Census of Production in 1924 is being taken by the Board of Trade, and the utility of the information so collected will be considerably increased if statistics of wages and hours of labour in the same year are available for comparison.

B.—APPRENTICESHIP.

The Department proposes also to undertake an enquiry, at an early date, with a view to obtaining information as to the extent to which systems of apprenticeship at present prevail in each of the principal industries, the sources from which apprentices are obtained, the conditions of service of apprentices (commencing age, premium, length of apprenticeship, rates of pay, etc.), and the arrangements made for their training. No comprehensive information on this subject has been officially collected since before the war.

It is proposed, in the first place, to issue enquiry schedules to a large number of employers in industries in which apprentices are employed, asking for details as to the recruitment, training and conditions of service of their apprentices. The schedules are at present in preparation, and it is hoped that they will be ready for issue in the course of a few weeks. As in the case of the enquiry into earnings and hours of labour, the returns supplied by individual employers will be regarded by the Department as strictly confidential, and used only in the compilation of general information and statistics, in which no details relating to particular firms will be disclosed. The Department hopes that the employers to whom questionnaires are sent will assist in making the enquiry a success by supplying the details asked for in the schedules.

BUILDING PLANS PASSED, 1911-24.

WITH certain exceptions,* plans of buildings to be erected in this country have to be submitted for approval to the competent Local Authority of the district before work may be begun. Statistics of the estimated cost of buildings for which plans have been approved provide, therefore, some indication of the extent and direction of activity in the building and allied trades at different periods.

Except in the year 1922, when the statistics were temporarily suspended, returns have for many years been regularly collected by the Department from some of the principal urban areas of Great Britain (outside London, for which statistics are not obtainable—see footnote *) showing the estimated cost of the different classes of building work for which approval has been granted. From the early part of the year 1910 up to and including the year 1921 the number of towns making returns varied between 90 and 100. With the resumption of enquiries after the suspension in 1922 the opportunity was taken of extending the scope of the statistics to nearly all towns and boroughs (outside the City and County of London) with populations of 40,000 to 50,000 or more, and returns are now regularly obtained from 149 localities in Great Britain. The aggregate population of these 149 towns at the Census of 1921 was over 16½ millions, about 43 per cent. of the total population of Great Britain outside the administrative County of London. In the case of 80 of these towns (with a population in 1921 of nearly 10,600,000) statistics are available for each year from 1911 to 1924 with the exception of 1922.

Totals by Districts for 1923 and 1924—149 Towns.

In the Table below is given a summary of the total estimated cost (to the nearest £1,000 in each case) of the different classes of buildings for which plans were approved in 1924 in the 149 localities for which returns were received, together with corresponding figures for 1923.

District and Aggregate Population (at Census of 1921) of 149 towns to which figures relate.	Dwell- ing Houses.	Facto- ries and Work- shops.	Shops, Offices, Ware- houses and other Business Premises.	Churches, Schools and Public Buildings.	Other Build- ings and Addi- tions and Altera- tions.	Total.
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
ENGLAND AND WALES—						
Northern Counties ... (917,000)	1,336	64	151	68	369	1,988
Yorkshire ... (2,376,000)	4,297	446	658	389	1,218	7,008
Lancashire and Ches- hire ... (3,035,000)	5,773	690	1,503	978	1,069	10,013
North and West-Mid- land Counties ... (2,910,000)	5,754	1,055	703	416	1,729	9,657
South-Midland and Eastern Counties (641,000)	2,480	146	307	307	370	3,610
Outer London ... (2,203,000)	9,214	744	732	353	1,014	12,057
South-Eastern Coun- ties (1,041,000)	3,000	65	347	148	735	4,295
South-Western Coun- ties (433,000)	1,104	18	54	43	232	1,451
Wales and Monmouth- shire ... (834,000)	1,813	86	167	198	272	2,536
SCOTLAND (2,147,000)	3,099	515	274	419	1,582	5,889
TOTAL (16,537,000)	37,870	3,829	4,896	3,319	8,590	58,504
	1923.					
ENGLAND AND WALES—	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Northern Counties ... (917,000)	1,232	346	136	230	282	2,226
Yorkshire ... (2,376,000)	4,317	379	512	484	1,246	6,938
Lancashire and Ches- hire ... (3,035,000)	5,117	817	870	321	993	8,118
North and West-Mid- land Counties ... (2,910,000)	4,396	940	507	427	1,491	7,761
South-Midland and Eastern Counties... (641,000)	2,133	148	233	116	276	2,906
Outer London ... (2,203,000)	8,042	472	1,020	393	947	10,874
South-Eastern Coun- ties (1,041,000)	2,768	101	253	122	911	4,155
South-Western Coun- ties (433,000)	755	27	60	52	155	1,049
Wales and Monmouth- shire ... (834,000)	1,306	55	153	169	201	1,884
SCOTLAND (2,147,000)	1,912	381	491	680	1,622	5,086
TOTAL (16,537,000)	31,978	3,666	4,235	2,994	8,124	50,997

* e.g., buildings within the City and County of London, and Government buildings and asylums. (In the London County Council area, provided the rules of the London Building Acts and the by-laws made thereunder are complied with, no submission of plans prior to the commencement of the building is necessary.)

The outstanding feature of the statistics of both 1923 and 1924 is the predominance of dwelling houses in the totals. Dwelling houses accounted in 1923 for 63 per cent. and in 1924 for 65 per cent. of the total estimated cost of all buildings for which plans were approved in those years in the 149 towns. The total numbers of dwelling houses (or tenements in the case of tenement buildings) represented in the figures for these 149 towns were approximately 45,000 in 1923, and 57,000 in 1924.

Factories and workshops accounted for 7 per cent. of the estimated total cost in 1923, and 6 per cent. in 1924; shops, offices, ware- houses and other business premises for 8 per cent., and churches, schools, and public buildings for 6 per cent., in both years; while the proportion represented by other buildings, and additions and alterations to existing buildings, was 16 per cent. in 1923 and 15 per cent. in 1924. The estimated cost of all buildings for which plans were passed in these 149 towns (roughly £51 million in 1923 and £58½ million in 1924) showed an increase in the latter year of approximately 15 per cent. as compared with the previous year.

Totals for 1911-1924—80 Towns.

The following Table shows for each year since 1911 (with the exception of 1922) the total estimated cost of buildings for which plans were approved in the 80 towns of Great Britain as to which continuous records are available, distinguishing the different classes of buildings. Comparison of the figures for different years within this period is, of course, greatly affected by the marked changes which have occurred in building costs, and possibly also by variations in the extent to which the passing of plans has been followed by actual building; but when allowance is made for these factors, the figures are of considerable significance, especially as regards the indications which they give of the changes in the directions taken by building trade activity at different dates.

Year.	Dwell- ing Houses.	Factories and Work- shops.	Shops, Offices, Ware- houses, and other Business Premises.	Churches, Schools, and Public Buildings.	Other Buildings, and Additions and Altera- tions.	Total, All Buildings.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1911	5,187,000	1,431,000	1,139,000	2,034,000	1,483,000	11,274,000
1912	4,276,000	2,376,000	923,000	1,612,000	1,556,000	10,843,000
1913	4,585,000	2,422,000	1,263,000	2,065,000	1,874,000	12,209,000
1914	4,617,000	1,997,000	1,168,000	1,723,000	1,715,000	11,220,000
1915	1,935,000	2,689,000	751,000	754,000	1,189,000	7,318,000
1916	631,000	2,697,000	461,000	211,000	1,266,000	5,266,000
1917	250,000	3,087,000	282,000	102,000	1,217,000	4,938,000
1918	212,000	2,774,000	450,000	91,000	1,729,000	5,256,000
1919	6,572,000	8,502,000	2,677,000	2,535,000	4,844,000	25,150,000
1920	21,953,000	11,030,000	3,404,000	3,285,000	6,156,000	45,829,000
1921	8,297,000	2,027,000	1,649,000	2,385,000	3,711,000	18,669,000
1923	17,182,000	2,061,000	2,250,000	2,330,000	5,270,000	29,093,000
1924	21,935,000	2,601,000	2,036,000	2,268,000	5,222,000	34,062,000
	2.—PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL.					
	%	%	%	%	%	%
1911	46	13	10	18	13	100
1912	39	22	9	15	15	100
1913	38	20	10	17	15	100
1914	41	18	11	15	15	100
1915	27	37	10	10	16	100
1916	12	51	9	4	24	100
1917	5	62	6	2	25	100
1918	4	53	8	3	33	100
1919	26	34	11	10	19	100
1920	48	24	7	7	14	100
1921	44	11	9	16	20	100
1923	59	7	8	8	18	100
1924	64	8	6	7	15	100

During the war years various circumstances, including rising prices, scarcity of labour, and official restrictions on new construction work, had the effect of curtailing building operations, and the total estimated cost of buildings for which plans were passed showed a great reduction. The decline was especially marked in the case of dwelling houses, which in 1918 accounted for only 4 per cent. of the total, as compared with, roughly, 40 per cent. in the years immediately preceding the war. The figures for factories and workshops, on the other hand, demonstrate the concentration upon these buildings during the war period.

In common with other industries, the building industry became very active in 1919 and 1920. As a result of this activity, combined with the further increases in prices in these years, the figures as to plans passed show a pronounced upward movement. The most marked increases were in the figures for dwelling houses, the total cost of the houses for which plans were passed during 1920 in these 80 towns amounting to nearly one-half of the total for all buildings. The effect of the period of reconstruction and of good trade in 1919, and in the first half of 1920, is shown in the high figures of plans for factories and workshops passed in those years.

The subsequent depression in industry is reflected in the marked decline in the total cost of plans passed in 1921, though some part of the decrease must also be ascribed to the fall in prices which occurred in that year. The statistics for 1923 and 1924 show a recovery, more particularly in respect of dwelling houses, the figures for which in 1924 almost equalled those for 1920, a year of much higher building costs, and accounted for nearly two-thirds of the estimated cost of all buildings for which plans were passed in these 80 towns.

COMPENSATION FOR ABOLITION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE REFUNDS.

IN order to correct misapprehensions with regard to claims for compensation for the abolition of refunds under the Unemployment Insurance Act of last year, the Minister of Labour wishes to make it known that no such claim can be considered unless the applicant reached the age of 50 before 7th July, 1924, had paid at least 50 Unemployment Insurance contributions before 7th July, 1924, and had in the period up to 7th July, 1924, drawn in Unemployment Benefit less than the amount of the employee's share of the contributions (calculated at the reduced rates specified in the Act). All these conditions must be satisfied.

Insured contributors who were over 60 years of age on the 7th July, 1924, may still claim, if entitled, a refund of contributions under the repealed provisions of Section 25 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920.

The claims of both groups of applicants must normally be made not later than 6th July, 1925; after that date claims cannot be entertained unless good cause can be shown for the delay in making them.

Persons who receive refunds of contributions or compensatory payments remain liable, when in insurable employment, to pay contributions under the Unemployment Insurance Acts.

A copy of Regulations relating to compensation for the abolition of refunds, and of other Regulations made by the Minister of Labour under the Unemployment Insurance (No. 2) Act, 1924, will be found on page 107 of this GAZETTE.

CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING SOCIETIES IN 1923.

THE following statistics as to the activities in 1923 and previous years of Co-operative Housing Societies* in Great Britain, registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, have been compiled by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies from the Annual Returns furnished to his Office.

The returns obtained for 1923 show that there were 232 Housing Societies registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, or 13 less than in 1922. This decrease was due mainly to Societies having abandoned schemes for which they had been formed. At the end of 1923 the Societies had 12,795 members, of whom nearly 5,000 were returned as tenants, and share, loan, and reserve capital amounting to £7,945,588. The aggregate amount received in rents was £500,985, and resulted in a net profit of £55,792, to which further reference is made below. Of the latter amount, £27,684 was allocated as interest on shares, or nearly 4 per cent. on the share capital. Frequently some part of the profits is applied to a fund out of which is defrayed the cost of tenants' repairs.

The aggregate cost value of the land and buildings at the end of 1923 was returned at £7,955,000.

The following Table shows the position of Housing Societies in Great Britain for the years 1918-1923:—

	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Number of Societies	109	144	246	264	245	232
Number of Members	8,322	9,044	11,021	12,573	12,746	12,795
Capital—						
Shares ...	£16,646	£28,457	£61,369	£705,887	£727,649	£719,689
Loans ...	3,149,032	3,372,883	5,580,331	6,861,666	7,387,703	7,096,735
Reserves† ...	44,035	46,823	29,085	64,421	76,315	129,164
Total ...	3,709,713	3,948,163	6,224,785	7,631,974	8,191,667	7,945,588
Rents Receivable	256,077	263,723	336,715	434,469	469,804	500,985
Profit (+) or loss (-) on year before deduction of interest on Shares ...	+19,517	+10,583	-5,710	+11,467½	+59,273	+55,792

The high cost of repairs and the fluctuations in property values, which were features of the immediate post-war period, resulted in heavy losses to some of the Societies, but the profit figure for 1922 to some extent reflected the return of more stable conditions. The improvement was maintained in 1923, although the aggregate profit (£56,000) showed a slight decrease. Indeed, but for an exceptionally heavy loss sustained by one Society there would have been an increase of no less than £30,000. The society referred to went into compulsory liquidation in the early part of the year, and found it necessary to write off some £30,000 in respect of depreciation not previously provided for in the books.

The reduction in share and loan capital, and in the value of land and buildings, was largely attributable to the completion of schemes by societies at Tadworth and Amersham.

* The housing societies referred to in this article, which actually undertake the building of houses, must be distinguished from the building societies, established under the Building Societies Acts, which help their members to buy houses, but do not erect any houses. Particulars of Building Societies will be found in Part D of the Annual Report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.

† Includes aggregate of profit and loss balances.
‡ Excludes a credit of £34,000 occasioned by a guarantor relieving a Society of its liability on bank overdraft.

STATISTICS OF INDUSTRIES FOR 1921: ENGLAND AND WALES.

A CENSUS volume has been issued containing statistics relating to industries in England and Wales in 1921*. Statistics of occupations, as distinct from industry, have already been published in a separate volume.† It is explained in the preface to the present volume that the industry to which each individual is classed has been determined (whatever may have been his occupation) by reference to the business in which, or for the purposes of which, his occupation was followed. Where the individual was himself an employer, or was "working on his own account," his business or profession has been regarded as the industry; but in the most usual case of individuals working for an employer, it is the nature of the employer's business which has determined the industry under which such individuals have been classified.

As a single business will employ a number of individuals of widely varying occupations for the purpose of affording a particular service or creating a particular product, it will be seen that the industrial classification differs essentially from the occupational, in that the latter takes account of the nature of the work performed by the individual, while the former has regard to the nature of the service or ultimate product to which his labour contributes. The man who is occupationally a carpenter or a carman, for instance, is classified industrially to building if employed by a builder, or to brewing if employed by a brewer.

The volume shows the numbers of males and of females enumerated in June, 1921, in each of a large number of industries. For 22 main groups of industries in which the figures are arranged, the totals at that date were as given in the following Table:—

INDUSTRY GROUP.	Total Occupied, aged 12 years and over.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
I. Fishing ...	38,616	1,630	40,246
II. Agriculture ...	1,038,490	85,472	1,123,962
III. Mining and Quarrying, and Treatment of Non-Metallic Minerals and Quarry Products ...	1,272,529	11,199	1,283,728
IV. Manufacture of Bricks, Pottery, Glass ...	127,762	48,779	176,541
V. Manufacture of Chemicals, Dyes, Explosives, Paints, Non-Mineral Oils, Grease ...	147,724	49,953	197,677
VI. Manufacture of Metals, Machines, Implements, Conveyances, Jewellery, Watches ...	1,951,388	244,626	2,196,014
VII. Manufacture of Textiles and Textile Goods (not Dress), Cellulose ...	491,445	662,384	1,153,829
VIII. Preparation of Skins and Leather and Manufacture of Goods of Leather and Leather substitute (not Boots and Shoes) ...	58,105	22,367	80,472
IX. Manufacture of Clothing ...	310,730	494,948	805,678
X. Manufacture of Food, Drink, Tobacco ...	340,971	199,747	540,718
XI. Wood Working; Manufacture of Cane and Basket Ware, Furniture, Fittings (not elsewhere enumerated) ...	237,569	24,287	261,856
XII. Paper Making; Manufacture of Stationery and Stationery Requisites; Printing, Bookbinding and Photography ...	230,543	126,265	356,808
XIII. Building, Decorating, Stone and Slate Cutting and Dressing, and Contracting ...	717,311	9,057	726,368
XIV. Other Manufacturing Industries ...	113,922	71,100	185,022
XV. Gas, Water, Electricity ...	158,172	4,595	162,767
XVI. Transport and Communication ...	1,164,459	39,107	1,203,566
XVII. Commerce and Finance ...	1,533,404	741,744	2,275,148
XVIII. Public Administration and Defence ...	981,144	354,735	1,335,879
XIX. Professions ...	272,267	242,509	514,776
XX. Entertainments and Sports ...	81,081	40,923	122,004
XXI. Personal Services (including Hotels and Catering but excluding Government and Local Authority) ...	523,946	1,522,879	2,046,825
XXII. Other Industries, or Industry not stated ...	321,140	67,026	388,166
TOTALS ...	12,112,718	5,065,332	17,178,050

EMPLOYMENT OF EX-SERVICE MEN.

THE latest returns show that there are approximately 28,000 firms on the King's National Roll. The number of disabled ex-service men employed by these firms is approximately 350,000.

At 24th February, 1925, the number of men in training was 6,389, and the number awaiting training, 1,897. Since 1st August, 1919, 89,999 men have terminated training.

Up to 31st December, 1924, 44,718 apprentices have been accepted for training with 17,869 employers, as compared with 44,717 apprentices with 17,868 employers on 30th September, 1924.

The apprentices rejected up to 31st December, 1924, numbered 2,179, this being the same as on 30th September, 1924. Of those accepted, 43,792 had terminated their training, and 926 were still in training. The corresponding numbers on 30th September, 1924, were 43,770 and 947.

The number of men who have received Institutional Training up to 31st December, 1924, is 2,313, this being the same as on 30th September, 1924.

* Census of England and Wales, 1921. Industry Tables. H.M. Stationery Office; price £2 7s. 6d. net.
† See the December, 1924, issue of this GAZETTE, page 429.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION IN 1923.

The Home Office have issued a volume containing Statistics of Compensation and of Proceedings under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, and the Employers' Liability Act, 1880, for the year 1923.*

The statistics relate to seven great groups of industries in regard to which, under the Act of 1906, particulars of compensation paid are supplied by employers—mines, quarries, railways, factories, docks, constructional work and shipping. These groups embrace a large proportion of the chief industries, but it has to be borne in mind that they do not by any means cover the whole field. Besides the various commercial, clerical and domestic employments to which the Act applies, there are several important industries which are not covered by the returns, for example, building, road transport, and agriculture.

In the groups of industries included in the statistics an aggregate of 7,342,311 persons, coming within the provisions of the Act, were employed, on the average, throughout the year 1923. Comparative figures of cases, and of compensation paid, for 1922 and 1923, are given in the following statement; together with the corresponding figures for 1911. It should be noted that the figures for 1911 include Ireland, whereas those for 1922 and 1923 relate only to Great Britain, the collection of statistics of such cases in Ireland being now undertaken by the Governments of Northern Ireland and the Irish Free State.

	1911.	1922.	1923.
Aggregate number of workpeople coming within the provisions of the Act employed in industries covered by returns†	7,305,997	7,205,609	7,342,311
Number of Cases:—			
Fatal ...	4,021‡	2,489	2,657
Non-fatal ...	419,031	390,423	477,378
Total ...	423,052	392,912	480,035
Payments for compensation:—	£	£	£
Fatal Cases ...	620,155‡	546,889	591,164
Non-fatal Cases ...	2,436,249	5,948,839	6,542,932
Total ...	3,056,404	6,495,728	7,134,096

The average amount of compensation paid in fatal cases in 1923 was £222, as compared with £220 in 1922 and £154 in 1911. The average amount paid in 1923 in non-fatal cases was £59 10s. for lump-sum payments and £11 13s. for weekly payment cases, as against £65 3s. and £12 9s., respectively, in 1922; the average for all non-fatal cases was £13 14s. in 1923, as against £15 5s. in 1922, and £5 16s. in 1911.

Increases of 22.2 per cent. in the total number of cases and of 9.8 per cent. in the total compensation paid are shown for the year 1923 compared with 1922. Attention was drawn in the Report for 1922 to the remarkable rise during the last few years in the number of cases and in the amount of compensation paid in the mining industry. This movement was continued in 1923, the mines accounting for almost the whole of the increase in the fatal cases and for a large proportion of the increase in the non-fatal cases.

The proportion of fatal cases to total numbers employed has shown very little variation over the last five years. There has been an increase in non-fatal cases during the last three years, due almost entirely to an increase in the rate of accidents lasting less than thirteen weeks, and especially in those lasting less than four weeks, which constitute more than half the total number of accidents.

The following Table shows the number of persons employed, the total compensation paid, and the charge per person employed, in each of the seven groups of industries for the years 1922 and 1923:—

Industry.	Persons employed.		Total Compensation paid.		Charge per person employed.	
	1922.	1923.	1922.	1923.	1922.	1923.
Shipping ...	216,181	227,210	£ 180,918	£ 173,220	s. 16	s. 15
Factories ...	5,119,388	5,103,240	2,241,356	2,387,417	8	9
Docks ...	122,030	143,942	224,683	262,621	36	10
Mines ...	1,122,511	1,214,660	3,424,604	3,810,661	61	62
Quarries ...	62,781	68,979	71,595	83,640	22	10
Constructional work ...	93,183	106,002	88,148	123,934	18	11
Railways ...	469,535	478,278	264,444	292,603	11	12
Total ...	7,205,609	7,342,311	6,495,728	7,134,096	18	19

The figures given above as to total compensation paid in the seven groups of industries represent only the actual amount paid to workmen or their dependants, and not the total charge on the industries in respect of compensation. To compute the total charge it would be necessary to take account of the administrative expenses and medical and legal costs of employers, insurance companies, and mutual

* Cmd. 2306. H.M. Stationery Office; price 6d. net.

† The figure which the employer is asked to give is the average number employed throughout the year.

‡ There was a great colliery explosion in this year.

§ The figures have been re-calculated since publication in the Report.

indemnity associations, the amounts placed in reserve, and the sums set aside by insurance companies as profits.

In the coal-mining industry the charge arising under the Act works out, as in 1922, at about 3.2d. per ton of coal raised; and, taking £156,003,000 as the amount paid for wages in the industry (the figure supplied by the Mines Department), it would appear that a similar amount of compensation was paid, per £1 of wages, as in 1922, i.e., 5.7d. As regards railways, the information obtained from one large company indicates that the amount of compensation paid per £1 of wages would be about the same as in 1922, which was 1d. As regards shipping, it would appear that the amount of compensation paid per ton of shipping was 2.4d., as compared with 2.7d. in 1922.

Figures are also given concerning the various industrial diseases included under the Workmen's Compensation Act. Compensation was paid, in the seven groups of industries, in 21 fatal cases to the amount of £4,134, and in 16,844 disablement cases to the amount of £631,663. The 21 fatal cases included 18 cases of lead poisoning, 1 of anthrax, 1 of dermatitis, and 1 of nystagmus. The bulk of the non-fatal cases occurred in the mining industry, and were chiefly due to miner's nystagmus, "beat hand," and "beat knee." Those diseases, together with "beat elbow" and inflammation of the synovial lining of the wrist joint and tendon sheaths, numbered 15,835, or 93.9 per cent. of the total number of cases.

Statistics in regard to the administration of the Acts show that the total number of cases under the Workmen's Compensation Acts which were taken into court in Great Britain in 1923 was 6,142, and there were 28,409 cases in which memoranda of agreements and informal arbitrations were registered in the courts. The total number of cases under the Employers' Liability Act, 1880, taken into court in the whole of Great Britain, was 33. The figures have steadily diminished since 1907, when the number of cases was 583, and show that the remedy provided by the older Act has been falling into disuse since the Act of 1906 came into full operation.

PROCEEDINGS OF JOINT INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS AND INTERIM INDUSTRIAL RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEES.

On the 3rd March the Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland, the Minister of Labour, received a deputation, introduced by Mr. P. J. Hannon, M.P., from the Association of Joint Industrial Councils and Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committees, who laid before him the arguments in favour of a Bill to give compulsory powers to the Minister to enforce the decisions of Joint Industrial Councils, and urged that the Government should give facilities for the passage of such a Bill during the present Parliament.

Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland expressed the strong belief of the Government in the value of Joint Industrial Councils, but drew attention to certain difficulties inherent in the proposal which he felt would make it difficult for the Government at present to support such a Bill.

During the four weeks ended 28th February, 1925, eight meetings of Joint Industrial Councils and Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committees were reported to the Ministry of Labour.

The Furniture Removing Joint Industrial Council held two meetings during the month. The Council adopted a report of the Sub-Committee on wages. The Council also agreed to the appointment of Joint Committees for the various Areas to investigate complaints and discuss the best methods of improving organisation.

At the meeting of the National Joint Industrial Council for the Paint, Colour and Varnish Industry a question regarding the rates of payment for certain women employed by two firms was discussed and an agreement was reached.

The National Joint Industrial Council for the Electricity (Supply) Industry decided to hold a special meeting early in March to consider a difference with regard to wages between the two sides of a District Council.

A special meeting of the Lock, Latch, and Key Joint Industrial Council was called to consider a dispute between the Trade Union side and a certain firm over the firm's alleged failure to observe a Council agreement. A settlement was effected, and, arising out of this matter, a proposal is to be put forward that definite conciliation machinery for the industry be established.

Following discussion by the Optical Instruments Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committee of a wages claim by the Trade Union side, certain proposals were made by the employers which the Trade Union side agreed to submit to their members for consideration.

At the meeting of the Needle and Fish Hook Joint Industrial Council certain suggestions by a Works Committee relating to National Health Insurance were discussed.

The National Joint Industrial Council for the Tramway Industry discussed the position of certain grades of employees whose cases had been remitted to the Standing Wages Committee for investigation and report in accordance with the recommendation of the recent Special Tribunal.

COST OF LIVING IN GERMANY.

NEW METHOD OF CALCULATING INDEX NUMBER.*

AFTER considerable discussion by the Index Number Committee, a body which includes representatives of employers and workpeople, a revised method of calculating the German cost-of-living index number has been adopted. In addition to food, light and fuel, clothing and rent, which have hitherto formed the basis of computation, account is now taken of such items as cleaning materials, educational and travelling expenses, etc., in calculating the present-day expenditure necessary to maintain the same standard of living as that enjoyed by a typical household before the war. Adjustments have also been made in regard to particular items of food and clothing, superior qualities being now substituted for the cheaper articles taken as a standard during the "inflation period." A re-investigation has also been made into the pre-war prices prevailing in all localities in which data are obtained for the calculation of the Reich index number.

The February index number calculated on the revised basis is 135.6; on the basis hitherto adopted it is 125.1. Accordingly, in the lower Table on page 103, the cost of living in Germany is shown to have increased by 36 per cent. above the level of July, 1914. It is stated that both methods show an approximately identical increase (about 1 per cent.) as compared with the January figure.

Owing to the present comparative stability in prices, it has been decided to resume the practice of publishing the index number once a month only. The practice (adopted during the inflation period) of publishing a weekly index number is therefore to cease.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING IN GERMANY.

In the issue of this GAZETTE for April, 1923 (page 126), the number of German workers whose conditions of labour were regulated by collective agreements was shown to be 12,883,000 at the end of 1921. At 1st January, 1924, according to an estimate of the Federal Ministry of Labour, published in the *Reichsarbeitsblatt* for 24th December last, the number of workers covered by collective agreements was 13,135,000. This number is stated to represent a decrease of 1,126,000 as compared with the total for the preceding year, and there are indications of a further considerable decline being in progress. From various Trade Union reports, for example, it would appear that the employers' associations are vigorously opposing the conclusion of collective agreements (mainly in order to exclude provision for the 8-hour day) and wish to substitute individual contracts or works agreements.

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES IN FRANCE.†

An Act of 27th January, 1925, makes certain amendments in the French Labour Code in regard to employment exchanges. Under Section 85 of the Code it was provided that municipalities with more than 10,000 inhabitants should establish a municipal employment exchange, but in practice this provision was generally ignored owing to the absence of any penalties for neglect. The amendment provides:—

(1) that, if no municipal employment exchange has been established, one should be set up immediately by the prefect, and

(2) that the expenses necessitated by the installation and operation of the exchanges should be declared obligatory.

A number of new clauses have also been inserted in this section of the Labour Code. Section 85 (a) provides that in each Department (County) the cost of the creation of a Departmental (County) employment exchange shall be included under the compulsory expenses of the Departmental budget, thus affording a legal status to institutions which had previously existed in almost all the Departments. Section 85 (b) provides for a system of co-ordination between the municipal employment exchanges, the departmental offices, and the central office at the Ministry of Labour, whereby information can be exchanged regarding the comparative numbers of applications for work and vacancies offered. Section 85 (c) provides for the establishment of "occupational" sections in each municipal employment exchange or departmental office, including the compulsory institution of an agricultural section in each departmental office. Under this section a supervising committee, consisting of an equal number of workers and employers, is to be set up in each exchange, and, if necessary, in each occupational section. Section 85 (d) provides that departmental offices and municipal exchanges may be established as independent public institutions in towns of more than 100,000 inhabitants.

The other conditions to be carried out by the various offices, exchanges or occupational sections are to be settled by a later Executive Decree.

* *Deutscher Reichsanzeiger*, 7th March, 1925. Berlin.

† *Industrial and Labour Information*, 23rd February, 1925. International Labour Office. Geneva.

WAGES IN THE FRENCH METAL AND ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES.

An investigation into the wages paid in October and November, 1924, to men employed in affiliated undertakings has been recently conducted by a federation of employers in the French metal and engineering and mining industries. Workers employed in metal-liferous mines were not included.

In the Report on this enquiry, which is summarised in the current issue of the Bulletin of the French Ministry of Labour,* the term "wages" comprises both hourly and piecework earnings, including bonuses on output, but excluding family allowances and payments in kind. The workers in question form 85 per cent. of the total number of workpeople employed in the undertakings, and have been classified as skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled. The affiliated undertakings included in the investigation employ 226,000 workpeople in the Paris district, and 382,800 in other parts of France, or 608,800 workers in all, out of an estimated total of 750,000 workers engaged in the industry (250,000 in the Paris district, and 500,000 in other parts of France).

From the data thus obtained, the following hourly average earnings have been calculated:—

Category of Workers.	Paris District.	Other Parts of France.	All France.
Skilled ...	Francs. 3.92	Francs. 2.98	Francs. 3.29
Semi-skilled...	3.11	2.41	2.64
Unskilled ...	2.51	2.04	2.19
All Workers...	3.48	2.63	2.91

FRANCO-BELGIAN LABOUR TREATY.†

A Labour Treaty was signed between France and Belgium on 24th December last with the object of regulating the working conditions of Belgian workers in France and French workers in Belgium. The chief provisions of the Treaty are as follows. The respective Governments undertake to secure—

(1) Liberty to workers and their families to go from one country to the other to work, to stay there, and to leave;

(2) Equality between immigrant and national workers with regard to:—(a) wages; (b) the protection assured by legislation and custom with regard to conditions of work and existence; (c) acquisition, possession and transmission of small rural and urban properties; (d) subsidies to unemployment funds, benefits from public unemployment funds and public institutions for assistance in finding work; (e) application of legislation regulating conditions of work and providing for the health and safety of workers;

(3) Opportunity for workers and employers of the two countries to take part in conciliation and arbitration proceedings in collective disputes in which they are interested parties;

(4) Guarantee that neither State will impose special taxes on immigrants, apart from the general taxes on foreigners.

There are some special protective clauses, e.g., in cases where the labour market will not permit of employment being found for immigrants, either in certain periods, or in certain districts or trades, the Government in question will immediately inform the Government of the other country of this fact by diplomatic channels. Each Government undertakes to notify the other before putting into force any restrictive measures applicable to such workers.

The Treaty is to be in force for one year after ratification and to be renewable annually. Three months' notice of termination may be given by either side.

When it has been found impossible to solve difficulties arising out of the Treaty by diplomatic methods, the Treaty provides for recourse to arbitration.

OLD AGE AND INVALIDITY INSURANCE: FRANCO-ITALIAN AGREEMENT.

A FRENCH Decree‡ dated 27th January, 1925, has been issued approving a reciprocal agreement signed at Rome by representatives of the French and Italian Governments, based on the terms of the Franco-Italian Labour Treaty§ dated 30th September, 1919. In accordance with the agreement in question, payments made under the workmen's and peasants' compulsory old-age and invalidity pensions scheme in the one country are, in the case of insured persons emigrating from Italy to France and from France to Italy, to be treated as contributions under the regulations in force in the other country. Provision is made for any adjustments rendered necessary by reason of variations in the regulations of the respective States in regard to the age at which pensions are payable, conditions of eligibility, etc. Insured persons whose contributions are fully paid and who have paid them into the insurance funds of one country only, will draw their pensions in that country even if they subsequently emigrate to the other.

* *Bulletin du Ministère du Travail*, October-December, 1924. Paris.

† *Belgian Chambre des Représentants*, No. 136, Session of 4th February, 1925. Bill to ratify the Labour Treaty between France and Belgium, signed at Brussels on 24th December, 1924.

‡ *Journal Officiel*, 9th-10th February, 1925. Paris.

§ See this GAZETTE, November, 1919, page 468.

CHANGES IN WAGES IN DENMARK: THIRD QUARTER OF 1924.

A RECENT issue of the journal of the Danish Statistical Department* contains statistics of wages for the third quarter of 1924, compiled from returns furnished by the Danish Employers' Association. The particulars relate to a number of trades which, it is stated, are sufficient to be regarded as representative of manufactures and handicrafts generally. (Corresponding figures for the first quarter† of 1924 were given in the issue of this GAZETTE for January, 1925, and for the third quarter of 1923 in the issue for June, 1924.)

The number of workpeople covered by the latest returns is approximately 110,000, and the industries most strongly represented are metal and engineering (28,000), building (14,000), pottery, glass and stone (12,200), food preparation (10,000), textiles (7,100), printing and paper (6,400), and tobacco (5,800).

The general result of the computation shows that, if the country be taken as a whole, the average hourly earnings amounted to 1.47 kroner (as compared with 1.37 kroner in both the first quarter of 1924, and the third quarter of 1923), and that earnings were 193 per cent. above the level of July, 1914. For skilled workmen the average hourly earnings increased from 1.70 kroner in the first quarter to 1.78 kroner in the third quarter of 1924, and for unskilled from 1.36 kroner to 1.44 kroner. The average hourly earnings of female workers rose from 0.89 krone to 0.93 krone.

As regards later movements of wages, the Danish official journal states that since the third quarter of 1924 industrial earnings as a whole have remained practically at the same level, but that in certain trades, e.g., baking, bookbinding and printing, they have been increased by 3 per cent. as a result of the rise in the index number of retail prices. At the present time, if the country be taken as a whole, average hourly earnings may be taken as 1.80 kroner for skilled men, 1.45 kroner for unskilled men and 0.94 krone for women, or, in general, as about 1 per cent. above those for the third quarter of 1924.

SUBSIDISED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.‡

IMMEDIATELY after the war a system of relief of unemployment by State donations was introduced in Czechoslovakia. This was intended to be temporary only, but in point of fact it has lasted up to the present date. On July 19th, 1921, an Act was passed providing for the introduction of the Ghent system of unemployment relief, i.e., the system by which trade unions which provide unemployment benefits for their members receive subsidies of varying amounts from the State. No practical steps, however, were taken to bring this law into force till January of this year, when legislation was passed by which the law is to come into effect on 1st April, 1925.

The 1921 Act, referred to above, provides for State subsidies to approved trade union unemployment funds equal to the amount of benefits paid. The total benefit (including State subsidy) must not, however, exceed two-thirds of the wages last earned by the worker. The State contribution may not be drawn for a period of more than three consecutive months, or, if at intervals, for not more than four months in any one year. Persons on strike or locked out, or dismissed from employment through their own fault, are excluded from State subsidy. Unemployed persons in receipt of the subsidy must report at the public Employment Exchange, and accept work offered by the Exchange if it is suited to their capacity, paid at the current local rates, and not such as would be likely to diminish their skill at their own trade. They must also perform work of public utility for a period for which the State subsidy would constitute the weekly wage at the rates locally current. Seasonal workers are excluded except as provided for by Special Orders.

The new legislation limits the State contribution to 12 kronen per person per day. Certain exceptions are made from the rule that the State subsidy must not exceed the amount of benefit paid by the Union out of its own funds, e.g., for married persons who can prove membership of a trade union for at least one year or for unmarried persons who can prove membership for five years, the State subsidy will be one and a half times the amount of benefit paid by the Union.

WORKING HOURS IN JUGO- SLAVIA.

ACCORDING to a despatch of the 12th February from His Majesty's Representative at Belgrade, the new Serb-Croat-Slovene Government has decided to postpone indefinitely the application of the Orders on working hours issued by the late Government and noticed at page 431 of this GAZETTE for December, 1924.

* Statistiske Efterretninger, 20th February, 1925. Copenhagen.

† Owing to the provisional nature of the data received, figures for the second quarter of 1924 were not compiled by the Danish Department, and the comparison is consequently with the first quarter of the year.

‡ Social Policy in the Czechoslovak Republic, published by the Social Institute of the Czechoslovak Republic in 1924; and despatches from the British Legation at Prague, dated 15th and 21st January, 1925.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE IN POLAND.*

THE Polish Act introducing a system of compulsory insurance against unemployment, which came into force on 31st August, 1924 (see this GAZETTE for September, 1924, page 322) established an Unemployment Fund as the financial centre of the system. The organisation of this Fund is reported to be proceeding satisfactorily. By the end of September, 38 regional committees had been set up and 11 more were to be established by the end of the year, so that the insurance scheme would cover the whole of the main industrial areas of the country.

The Act has led to an increase in the applications for work at the public Employment Exchanges, owing to the fact that it provides that only unemployed persons registered at the exchanges are entitled to benefit. Thus, while in August the number so registered was only about 27 per cent. of the total number of unemployed, by 1st October, a few weeks after the Act came into force, the percentage had risen to 69.

In addition to insurance, the Government have tried to combat unemployment by loans to private undertakings and municipal authorities for the execution of public works. These loans, which have necessitated a vote of 2,600,000 zloty,† have resulted in employment for more than 18,000 workers.

WORKING HOURS IN POLISH IRON AND LEAD FOUNDRIES.‡

IN the issue of this GAZETTE for November, 1924 (page 396), it was stated that the Polish Government, as a temporary measure, had authorised the introduction of a 10-hour day in iron and lead foundries in Upper Silesia. According to a later report, this provision has been extended for another six months (i.e., till 10th July, 1925), this time not by Government decree, but by agreement between employers and workers.

STATE LOAN FOR COTTAGE INDUSTRIES IN NORWAY.§

A FUND of 100,000 kroner has been established in Norway to encourage cottage industries, and regulations have been passed by the Storting to govern the granting of loans from this fund. Loans are to be made to independent cottage craftsmen—subject to a communal guarantee—for the purchase of machinery and working tools of an expensive nature. Loans may cover nine-tenths of the cost of the machinery installed, but generally are not to be more than 4,000 or less than 300 kroner. Four per cent. interest will be charged on the loans, which have to be repaid within ten years.

Loans will be made only to Norwegian citizens who have been resident in a commune for at least two years, who are over 21 years of age and who have either taken a course at the State School for cottage crafts, or can prove in some other way that they are persons likely to make good use of the loan.

BELGIAN INQUIRY INTO PRODUCTION.||

UNDER a Royal Decree dated 1st December, 1924, a National Commission of Industrial Production is established in Belgium. It will be the function of the Commission to investigate methods by which the national industrial production may be improved and increased. The Commission is composed of leading representatives of the principal industries, of workers' associations and of finance. The competent Government Departments are also represented, as well as the Legislative Chambers.

EXTENSION OF WORKING HOURS IN SWISS FACTORIES.

AN Order of the Swiss Federal Department of Public Economy, dated 16th June, 1924,† authorised an extension of hours to 52 a week in certain branches of the flax-spinning and rope-making trades until the end of the year 1924. H.M. Minister at Berne has now forwarded a copy of a further Order, dated 21st January, 1925, authorising the extension of the validity of the earlier Order up to the 30th June, 1925.

* Report furnished by the Polish Government to the International Labour Office and published in *Industrial and Labour Information*, 2nd February, 1925.

† At the rate of exchange prevailing on 11th March, this is approximately equal to £105,000.

‡ Based on a despatch from H.M. Representative at Warsaw, dated 24th January, 1925.

§ *Sociale Meddelelser*, 1924. Nr. 10. Oslo (Christiania).

|| Despatch from H.M. Ambassador at Brussels, dated 12th December, 1924.

¶ See this GAZETTE for August, 1924, page 304.

INJUNCTIONS AGAINST PICKETING.* DECISION OF UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT.

THE United States Supreme Court in October gave a decision to the effect that judges cannot refuse trial by jury in cases of contempt of court arising out of labour disputes. The Clayton Act of 1914 provided that a jury should be required for the trial of such cases, but the courts have disregarded it. Innumerable injunctions have been issued by the courts prohibiting the workers from the use of violence in the conduct of a strike, and violations of these injunctions have ordinarily been tried without a jury. Difficulties have arisen over the definition of the word "violence," and in some cases it has been so interpreted as practically to exclude picketing by trade unions.

The decision in question arose out of a case in which a Wisconsin court had refused trial by jury to persons arraigned for contempt of court on the charge of having violated the injunction issued during the 1922 railway workshop strike. A Court of Appeal upheld this ruling in a decision which was so worded as to call in question the validity of the Clayton Act. The Supreme Court has now upheld the constitutionality of the Clayton Act, and has strengthened the position of the workers, since the question whether or not actual violence has been committed in connection with the strike must now be submitted to a jury and not summarily settled by the courts. It was also decided that, although the courts are entitled to inflict penalties for contempt, this power must be regulated and kept within limits. A certain guarantee is thus afforded against the abuse of injunctions.

The New York *Nation* of 5th November, 1924, commenting on the decision, says: "The provisions of the Clayton Act in regard to injunctions seem to be entirely sustained in so far as they go, and this will be a definite advantage to workers conducting strikes henceforward. Unfortunately, the Clayton Act does not provide a jury trial for accused persons in all cases of Federal labour injunctions, nor for every contingency under any one, and so we shall have to await subsequent tests to know the exact value of the decision to organised labour."

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC: NEW ACT.

H.M. CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES at Buenos Aires transmits a translation of an Act, dated 30th September, 1924, regulating the employment of children under 18 years of age and of women in industry, commerce, agriculture, etc., throughout the territory of the Republic.

The employment of children under 12 years of age is totally prohibited. Children over 12, but within the compulsory school age, may be employed, in certain circumstances, provided that satisfactory evidence is produced that they have attained the recognised minimum educational standard; but no child under 14 may in any case be engaged in domestic, industrial or commercial work, other than that carried on by the family of which the child is a member.

The employment in industry and commerce of women over 18 years of age is restricted to 8 hours a day and 48 a week; those under 18 may not be employed for more than 6 hours a day and 36 hours a week.

A mid-day rest of 2 hours is prescribed both for women and for children under 18.

The night work of children under 18 and of women (i.e., their employment between the hours of 8 p.m. and 7 a.m. in winter or 6 a.m. in summer) is prohibited.

Children under 18 and women may not be employed on work of a dangerous or unhealthy nature, such as the distilling of alcohol, the manufacture of white and red leads, handling explosive or inflammable materials, the cutting of glass, etc., nor on heavy duties, such as the loading or unloading of ships, mining or other underground work, engine driving, or stoking, etc. Their employment in establishments for the sale of alcoholic drinks is also forbidden.

The Act prohibits the employment of women during the period of six weeks immediately after childbirth, as well as their dismissal for this reason, except in the case of prolonged illness arising from childbirth. Expectant mothers must quit work six weeks before the probable date of their confinement, which is to be certified by a physician. Nursing mothers must also be allowed an interval of 15 minutes every three hours to enable them to feed their children, and employers employing a certain minimum number of women must provide crèches for the accommodation of children under two years of age.

Penalties for infringements of the Act are laid down.

COMPANIES EMPOWERING ACT IN NEW ZEALAND.

ISSUE OF LABOUR SHARES TO EMPLOYEES.

AN Act, entitled the Companies Empowering Act, passed by the New Zealand Parliament on the 6th November, 1924, permits any company registered under the Companies Act of that Dominion to issue a special class of "labour shares" to its employees. These shares are to have no nominal value, and are not to form any part

* Based on a despatch from H.M. Ambassador at Washington, dated 31st October, 1924, and on reports in various American publications.

of the capital of the company. They are not to be transferable, save in accordance with the provisions (if any) in that behalf of the regulations of the company. They are to entitle the holders thereof to attend and vote at meetings of shareholders, and to share in the profits of the company, or in its assets in the event of its being wound up, to such extent and in such manner as may be determined by the memorandum or articles of association of the company. In general, and with certain exceptions, the holders of labour shares are to have all the privileges of other shareholders.

No scheme for the issue of labour shares by any company and no alteration of such scheme, is to be valid unless and until the Court of Arbitration (under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1908) certifies that in its opinion the scheme would be favourable to the general body of the workers. If either the company or the workers make a complaint at any time against the scheme, the Court of Arbitration is to examine into the complaint, and may revoke the certificate; in which case the labour shares issued are deemed to have been surrendered. Labour shares are also deemed to have been surrendered if the holder dies or ceases to be employed by the company. When shares are deemed to have been surrendered the holders (or their personal representatives) are thereupon entitled to receive the value of the shares either in cash or in capital shares.*

A company issuing labour shares may issue capital shares* in payment (wholly or in part) of any share in the profits of the company to which the holders of labour shares, or their personal representatives, may be entitled.

SOCIAL INSURANCE IN CZECHO- SLOVAKIA: NEW LEGISLATION.†

By an Act of 9th November, 1924, all Czechoslovak subjects (including apprentices and home workers) who perform work or render services, otherwise than those of an occasional nature, are to be insured compulsorily against sickness, premature invalidity and old age. State and municipal employees, miners and other workers who already enjoy equivalent benefits are excluded from the Scheme. The following are the chief points in the new Act as applied to the two forms of insurance.

Sickness Insurance.—The administration of this Scheme is based on the principle that every person to whom the law applies becomes *ipso facto* a member of the District Sick Fund of the locality in which his work is situated, unless he belongs to one of the five other forms of sick funds authorised by the law. These latter are (1) funds confined to individual large-scale factories or works; (2) funds organised by Craft Guilds and operating for the benefit of workers employed by master craftsmen who are (compulsorily) members of the Guild; (3) agricultural funds for the insurance of workers employed in agriculture and allied undertakings; (4) funds organised on the principle of mutual aid by voluntary associations of workpeople; and (5) somewhat similar funds organised by registered Friendly Societies.

Workers are divided into ten wage-classes, and employers are obliged to keep lists showing the pay of each insured person, and to preserve these lists for at least five years. Contributions (premiums) vary according to the wage-class. They are to be fixed by the Central Insurance Institution, and must not as a rule exceed 5 per cent. of the average daily wage. They are paid by employers and workers in equal shares, and are collected by the sickness insurance funds. The benefits include free medical attendance, medicines and necessary surgical appliances, and a daily money benefit paid (from the fourth day of incapacity for work) for a period not exceeding one year. The benefit varies from 2.70 to 24 kronen, according to the wage-class. Insured women are entitled to maternity benefit and a nursing bonus, and wives of insured men are entitled to free medical attendance, and (in case of confinement) to the services of a midwife. Funeral benefit is also paid. In certain cases benefits may be increased to 3.60 kronen a day for the lowest wage class, and to 90 per cent. of the lowest limit of daily earnings of the wage class for the other wage classes.

Invalidity and Old-Age Insurance.—This is to be administered by the Central Insurance Institution at Prague, which may delegate particular functions to sickness insurance or other social insurance institutions. Workers are to be divided into four classes, paying respectively 4.30, 5.70, 7.10 and 8.80 kronen a week in contributions, to be provided as to one-half by the employer, and as to the other half by the worker. The benefits include: (a) invalidity pensions for persons incapable of earning as much as one-third of the sum usually earned by a physically and mentally sound worker of the same class; (b) old-age pensions to be paid at the age of 65; (c) widows and widowers' pensions equal to half the pension of the insured person; (d) orphans' pensions equal to one-fifth of pension of insured person for half orphans, and two-fifths for full orphans. The pensions under (a) and (b) are supplemented by an allowance equal to one-tenth of the pension for each dependent child under 17. The State pays a subsidy to invalidity, old-age, etc., pensions equal to the basic annual amount of the pensions in each case.

The date on which the general provisions of the Act are to come into force is to be fixed by Order. Section 285 came into force on the date of the promulgation of the Act. It provides that the Minister of Social Welfare shall have power to appoint a committee to carry out the work necessary to facilitate the beginning of the administration of the provisions of the Act.

* i.e., presumably shares which (unlike the labour shares) do have a nominal value, and do form part of the company's capital.

† *Legislative Series*, 1924.—C. 2, 4. The International Labour Office, Geneva.

CHANGES IN COST OF LIVING: STATISTICS FOR 28th FEBRUARY.*

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included 79%
 Food only 76%

FOOD.

During February there was a further rise of about 3d. per 7 lbs. in the average price of flour, and of about 1d. per 4 lbs. in the average price of bread. The price of butter at the end of February was higher than a month earlier in many cases and lower in many others; on balance, there was an increase of about 1d. per lb. in the average price. On the other hand, there was a further seasonal decline of about 1d. each in the average price of eggs.

As a net result of all the changes recorded, the average increase over the level of July, 1914, in the retail prices (in Great Britain and Northern Ireland) of the articles of food included in these statistics was about 76 per cent. at 28th February,* the same percentage as a month earlier.

In the following Table is given a comparison of retail prices of these articles of food in July, 1914, and at 31st January and 28th February, 1925:—

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated— to the nearest 1/4d.)			Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) at 28th Feb., 1925, as compared with		
	July, 1914.	31st Jan., 1925.	28th Feb., 1925.	July, 1914.	31st Jan., 1925.	28th Feb., 1925.
Beef, British—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Ribs	0 10	1 6	1 6	+ 0 8	+ 0 8	+ 0 8
Thin Flank	0 6 1/2	0 10	0 10	+ 0 3 1/2	+ 0 3 1/2	+ 0 3 1/2
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—						
Ribs	0 7 1/2	0 10 1/2	0 10 1/2	+ 0 3 1/2	+ 0 3 1/2	+ 0 3 1/2
Thin Flank	0 4 1/2	0 5 1/2	0 5 1/2	+ 0 1	+ 0 1	+ 0 1
Mutton, British—						
Legs	0 10 1/2	1 8 1/2	1 8 1/2	+ 0 9 1/2	+ 0 9 1/2	+ 0 9 1/2
Breast	0 6 1/2	0 11 1/2	0 11 1/2	+ 0 5	+ 0 5	+ 0 5
Mutton, Frozen—						
Legs	0 6 1/2	1 0 1/2	1 0 1/2	+ 0 6	+ 0 6	+ 0 6
Breast	0 4	0 5 1/2	0 5 1/2	+ 0 1 1/2	+ 0 1 1/2	+ 0 1 1/2
Bacon (streaky)†	0 11 1/2	1 5 1/2	1 5 1/2	+ 0 6 1/2	+ 0 6 1/2	+ 0 6 1/2
Flour ... per 7 lb.	0 10 1/2	1 7 1/2	1 8	+ 0 9 1/2	+ 0 9 1/2	+ 0 9 1/2
Bread ... per 4 lb.	0 5 1/2	0 10 1/2	0 11	+ 0 5 1/2	+ 0 5 1/2	+ 0 5 1/2
Tea	1 6 1/2	2 5 1/2	2 5 1/2	+ 0 11 1/2	+ 0 11 1/2	+ 0 11 1/2
Sugar (granulated) ...	0 2	0 3 1/2	0 3 1/2	+ 0 1 1/2	+ 0 1 1/2	+ 0 1 1/2
Milk ... per quart	0 3 1/2	0 6 1/2	0 6 1/2	+ 0 3 1/2	+ 0 3 1/2	+ 0 3 1/2
Butter—						
Fresh	1 2 1/2	2 1 1/2	2 1 1/2	+ 0 11 1/2	+ 0 11 1/2	+ 0 11 1/2
Salt	1 2 1/2	1 11 1/2	2 0	+ 0 9 1/2	+ 0 9 1/2	+ 0 9 1/2
Cheese‡	0 8 1/2	1 2	1 2	+ 0 5 1/2	+ 0 5 1/2	+ 0 5 1/2
Margarine	0 7	0 7 1/2	0 7 1/2	+ 0 1 1/2	+ 0 1 1/2	+ 0 1 1/2
Eggs (fresh) ... each	0 2 1/2	0 2 1/2	0 2 1/2	+ 0 1	+ 0 1	+ 0 1
Potatoes ... per 7 lb.	0 4 1/2	0 10 1/2	0 10 1/2	+ 0 5 1/2	+ 0 5 1/2	+ 0 5 1/2

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

Article.	Average Percentage Increase at 28th Feb., 1925, as compared with July, 1914.			Corresponding figure for 31st Jan., 1925.
	Large Towns (Populations over 50,000).	Small Towns and Villages.	General Average.	
Beef, British—	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Ribs	83	76	79	80
Thin Flank	50	52	51	51
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—				
Ribs	50	45	47	48
Thin Flank	18	20	19	19
Mutton, British—				
Legs	95	94	94	93
Breast	80	72	76	75
Mutton, Frozen—				
Legs	93	84	89	89
Breast	41	38	40	39
Bacon (streaky)†	60	59	60	58
Fish	134	111	123	125
Flour	87	91	89	82
Bread	93	88	90	83
Tea	61	64	63	63
Sugar (granulated) ...	94	84	89	86
Milk	90	96	93	93
Butter—				
Fresh	72	81	76	74
Salt	68	69	68	64
Cheese‡	63	64	64	63
Margarine	7	7	4	1
Eggs (fresh)	84	75	80	132
Potatoes	133	98	116	116
All above articles of Food (Weighted Percentage Increase)	78	74	76	76

* As 1st March fell on Sunday, the statistics relate to 28th February, in accordance with the usual practice.
 † If this kind is seldom dealt with in a locality, the returns quote the price of another kind locally representative.
 ‡ The description of cheese specified for quotation is Canadian or American, but where such cheese is seldom sold in a locality the returns quote the price of another kind locally representative.
 § The increase during February was very small, but sufficient to raise the average as expressed to the nearest farthing.

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 rents of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 28th February, 1925, was approximately 47 per cent. Of the total increase, about two-fifths is accounted for by increases on account of rates and water charges and about two-fifths is on account of the landlord's responsibility for repairs, increases on account of the higher level of mortgage interest permitted by the Acts falling within the remaining one-fifth.

As regards clothing, owing to the wide range of quotations, both now and before the war, to changes in qualities, and in stocks held by retailers, and to variations in the extent to which different articles and qualities have been affected by price changes, it is impossible to make an exact calculation of the increase in prices; but information as to the movements of prices of men's suits and overcoats, underclothing and hosiery, textile materials and boots, received from retailers in the principal towns, indicates that at 28th February 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 130 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

In the fuel and light group the average retail price of coal was about the same as a month earlier, and approximately 100 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, and the prices of lamp oil, candles and matches also showed no appreciable change during the month. Taking the fuel and light group as a whole, the average increase at 28th February, as compared with July, 1914, was about 85 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 80 per cent.), the resultant general average increase for 28th February is, approximately, 79 per cent.† over the level of July, 1914, or about the same as a month earlier.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken in 1925 as in 1914) is to show the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families (i.e., the standard actually prevailing in working-class families before the war, irrespective of whether such standard was adequate or not). Owing to the variations in the amounts of increase in the prices of different commodities it is probable that economies or re-adjustments in expenditure have been effected in many families, especially in those cases where incomes have not increased so much as prices. On the other hand, it is probable that the standard of living has been raised in some families in which wages have been increased in greater proportion than prices. No allowance is made in the figures for any such alterations in the standard of living, as to which trustworthy statistics are not available.

SUMMARY TABLE: 1915 TO 1925.

The following Table shows the average percentage increase as compared with July, 1914, for all items included in the statistics, at the beginning of each month since January, 1915:—

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

Month (beginning of)	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
January ...	10-15	35	65	85-90	120	125	165	92	78	77	80
February ...	15	35	65-70	90	120	130	151	88	77	79	79
March ...	15-20	35-40	70	90	115	130	141	86	76	78	79*
April ...	15-20	35-40	70-75	90-95	110	132	135	82	74	73	...
May ...	20	40-45	75	95-100	105	141	128	81	70	71	...
June ...	25	45	75-80	100	105	150	119	80	69	69	...
July ...	25	45-50	80	100-105	152	119	84	69	70
August ...	25	45-50	80	110	115	155	122	81	71	71	...
September ...	25	50	80-85	110	115	161	120	79	73	72	...
October ...	30	50-55	75-80	115-120	120	164	110	78	75	76	...
November ...	30-35	60	85	120-125	125	176	103	80	75	80	...
December ...	35	65	85	120	125	169	99	80	77	81	...

NOTE.

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

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

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

EMPLOYMENT showed little change, on the whole, during February. There was a slight improvement in the building, engineering, and clothing trades, but a decline in coal-mining and in the wool textile and linen industries. Employment was good on the whole with skilled operatives (except painters) in the building trades, in some branches of the cotton industry, and in the brick and jute trades; it was fairly good with coachbuilders and mill-sawyers, and in the furnishing, silk and carpet trades. In coal-mining, in the wool textile industry, and in the section of the cotton industry spinning American cotton it was slack; in the iron and steel industry, in tinsplate manufacture, and in the marine engineering and ship-building trades it continued bad.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts, numbering approximately 11,500,000, and working in practically every industry except agriculture and private domestic service the percentage unemployed at 23rd February, 1925, was 11.6, compared with 11.5 at 26th January, 1925, and 10.7 at 25th February, 1924. For males alone the percentage at 23rd February was 12.3, as compared with 12.1 at 26th January; for females the figure at 23rd February was 9.5, as compared with 9.6 at 26th January. Among members of Trade Unions from which returns were received the percentage of unemployed was 9.4 at the end of February, 1925, compared with 9.0 at the end of January, and with 8.1 at the end of February, 1924. The total number of persons (insured and uninsured) registered* at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland as unemployed at 23rd February, 1925, was approximately 1,287,000, of whom 980,000 were men and 239,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 26th January, 1925, it was also 1,287,000, of whom 969,000 were men and 245,000 were women; and at 25th February, 1924, it was 1,192,000, of whom men numbered 878,000, and women 241,000.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment at coal mines showed a further decline. It was reported to be good in South Yorkshire, Derbyshire, and Mid and East Lothians, but it was slack in most other districts. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 21st February, 1925, was 1,137,640, a decrease of 4.2 per cent. as compared with February, 1924. The average number of days worked per week by the pits in the fortnight ended 21st February, 1925, was 5.31, as compared with 5.39 in January, 1925, and 5.66 in February, 1924.

At iron mines employment showed a further slight improvement but was still bad in the Cleveland district; it continued fair in the Cumberland and Lancashire district, and moderate in other districts. At the mines covered by the returns there was a decrease of 2.6 per cent. in the numbers employed compared with the previous month, but an increase of 2.0 per cent. compared with February, 1924. The average number of days worked by the mines that were working was 5.76, compared with 5.64 in January, 1925, and 5.15 in February, 1924. At shale mines employment continued fair. At limestone quarries it continued fairly good in Derbyshire, and moderate in the Clitheroe and Weardale districts. At the slate quarries in North Wales there was little change as compared with the previous month. At the East of Scotland whinstone quarries it was bad, a further decline being reported. Employment continued fairly good at china clay quarries, and good at tin mines.

Manufacture of Pig Iron, Iron and Steel, and Tinplate.—In the pig iron industry employment continued bad and showed a decline as compared with the previous month. Of a total of 482 furnaces, the number in blast at the end of February was 164, compared with 172 in January, and with 202 in February, 1924. At iron and steel works employment continued bad, but showed a slight improvement as compared with the previous month. Employment in the tinsplate and steel sheet trades showed a decline and was bad; many mills were closed and much short time was worked. The number of mills in operation at the end of February was 433, as compared with 444 at the end of January, and 539 at the end of February, 1924.

Engineering, Shipbuilding, and other Metal Trades.—In the engineering trade employment remained bad on the whole, but showed a slight improvement as compared with the previous month. It was fairly good in electrical engineering and fair at railway, motor and cycle works. At textile machinery works further improvement was reported. In marine engineering employment was still very bad. Employment in the shipbuilding and ship-repairing trades was still very bad and showed a decline as compared with the previous month. Employment in the other metal trades continued moderate on the whole. It was fair or fairly good in the brasswork, hollow-ware, sheet metal, metallic bedstead, nut and bolt, outlery, file, stove and grate, needle and fishing tackle, and saddle and harness furniture trades; moderate in the tube, farriery, wire, lock and latch trades; and slack or bad in the jewellery and plated ware, nail, copper, chain and anchor, and anvil and vice trades.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the cotton trade showed little change as compared with the previous month. In the American spinning section the working week of 39 1/2 hours was reduced to 35 hours as from 16th February. Full time was maintained in the Egyptian section. In the weaving department employment con-

tinued fairly good. In the woollen and worsted trades employment was bad and showed a decline in the worsted section as compared with the previous month.

In the hosiery trade employment continued bad on the whole; in the lace trade it was also bad. In the silk and carpet trades employment was fairly good on the whole; in the jute trade it was good; in the linen trade a decline was reported. In the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc. trades, employment showed a slight improvement, but was still slack generally; with silk dyers at Macclesfield and Leek it continued fairly good.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the retail bespoke branch of the tailoring trade continued generally slack; in the ready-made and wholesale bespoke branch of the trade a slight seasonal improvement was reported and employment was fair on the whole. In the dressmaking and millinery trade employment remained slack generally; in the corset trade it showed some improvement and was moderate to fair; in the shirt and collar trade it was fair and better than in the previous month. In the felt hat trade employment continued slack and much short time was worked. In the boot and shoe trades employment was generally moderate, but slightly better than in the previous month.

Leather Trades.—Employment in the tanning and currying section remained fair; in the portmanteau, trunk and fancy leather section a decline was reported at Birmingham; with saddlery and harness makers it continued very bad.

Building, Woodworking, etc.—Employment in the building trades continued good with skilled operatives (other than painters) in most districts, but generally slack with unskilled workers. It continued very good with bricklayers and with plasterers in most districts; good with carpenters and joiners; and fairly good with masons and slaters. With plumbers employment showed a further slight decline and was only moderate; with painters there was a seasonal improvement, but employment was still bad in many districts; with builders' labourers it remained slack on the whole. In the brick trade employment continued good on the whole.

In the furnishing trades employment showed a slight improvement and was fairly good; with upholsterers it also improved and was fair. With mill-sawyers and brush makers employment was fairly good; with coopers it was also fairly good except at Belfast, where it was reported as bad. With coachbuilders an improvement was reported and employment was fairly good; with basketmakers it was fair, and with packing-case makers slack.

Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.—Employment in the paper trade showed a further improvement and was generally fair, though bad in the wrapping section. With letterpress printers employment was fairly good; with electrotypers and stereotypers it continued good. With lithographic printers employment continued fair generally, but was reported as bad at Manchester and Glasgow. In the bookbinding trade employment continued moderate generally.

Pottery and Glass.—Employment in the pottery trades showed a further slight improvement, but there was still much unemployment and short time working. In the glass trade, employment continued moderate on the whole.

Agriculture and Fishing.—Agricultural operations being hindered by the weather, the demand for casual workers was small and there was more unemployment among this class of labour. In practically all districts there was a sufficient supply of labour available. In the fishing industry employment was fairly good on the whole.

Dock Labour and Seamen.—Employment with dock labourers and seamen continued slack on the whole.

The following Table shows month by month since February, 1924, (a) the percentages unemployed among members of those Trade Unions from which returns are obtained, (b) the percentages unemployed among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and (c) the approximate number (to the nearest 1,000) registered as unemployed at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Date. (End of Month.)	Percentage Unemployed among			Number of Unemployed Registered at Exchanges.*†	
	Trade Unions making Returns.	Insured Workpeople.*	Total.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.		
1924.					
February	8.1	11.1	9.5	10.7	1,192,000
March	7.8	10.3	8.8	9.9	1,095,000
April	7.5	10.2	8.4	9.7	1,087,000
May	7.0	9.9	8.1	9.5	1,057,000
June	7.2	10.0	7.8	9.4	1,049,000
July	7.4	10.5	8.1	9.9	1,089,000
August	7.9	11.3	8.8	10.6	1,191,000
September	8.6	11.5	8.8	10.8	1,243,000
October	8.7	11.9	9.0	11.1	1,247,000
November	8.6	11.8	8.9	11.0	1,233,000
December‡	9.2	11.7	9.0	10.9	1,319,000
1925.					
January	9.0	12.1	9.6	11.5	1,287,000
February	9.4	12.3	9.5	11.6	1,287,000

* Owing to legislative changes and to changes in the administration of unemployment insurance, these figures somewhat under-emphasize the improvement in employment during the first half of 1924 and over-emphasize the decline in the latter half of the year.
 † See note * to previous column.
 ‡ In cases of insured workers the percentages for December relate to 22nd December, 1924.

TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES OF UNEMPLOYED.

TRADE Unions with a net membership of 978,056 in branches covered by the returns received reported 91,593 (or 9.4 per cent.) of their members as unemployed at the end of February, 1925, compared with 9.0 per cent. at the end of January, 1925.

Trade.	Membership of Unions reporting at end of February, 1925.	Unemployed at end of February, 1925.*		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage Unemployed as compared with a	
		Number.	Per cent.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Coal Mining...	143,983	23,773	16.5	+ 2.8	+ 15.8
Engineering and Shipbuilding...	351,067	47,935	13.7	...	- 2.9
Miscellaneous Metal...	47,865	3,234	6.8	...	- 2.0
Textiles:—					
Cotton...	59,164	2,685†	4.5	- 0.1	- 2.3
Woolen and Worsted...	12,072	414	3.4	+ 0.9	+ 2.1
Other...	56,658	1,536	2.7	+ 0.5	- 0.3
Printing, Bookbinding and Paper...	99,753	3,332	3.3	- 0.6	- 1.4
Furnishing...	28,591	1,420	5.0	- 0.2	- 1.7
Woodworking...	41,006	1,654	4.0	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Clothing:—					
Boot and Shoe...	79,295	3,415	4.3	- 0.6	+ 0.1
Other Clothing...	46,696	665	1.4	- 0.1	- 0.9
Leather...	6,067	509	8.4	+ 0.5	- 0.6
Glass...	1,201	33	2.7	...	- 0.2
Tobacco‡...	4,738	988	20.9	+ 2.8	- 7.1
Total...	978,056§	91,593§	9.4§	+ 0.4§	+ 1.3§

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED TRADES.

THE percentage unemployed among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 11.6 per cent. (males 12.3 per cent., females 9.5 per cent.) at 23rd February, 1925, as compared with 11.5 per cent. (males 12.1 per cent., females 9.6 per cent.) at 26th January, 1925, and 10.7 per cent. (males 11.1 per cent., females 9.5 per cent.) at 25th February, 1924. Tables showing the numbers unemployed in the principal industries appear on pages 94 and 95.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

INFORMATION as to the state of employment in certain industries in February, derived from returns furnished by employers and employers' associations, is summarised below. Further details are given on pages 87 to 92.

(a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL TRADES.

Trade.	Workpeople included in the Returns for February, 1925.	February, 1925.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Coal Mining	1,137,640	5.31	5.31	+ 0.12	+ 0.61
Iron	9,124	5.76	5.76	- 0.03	+ 0.05
Shale	4,076	5.94	5.94	- 0.03	+ 0.05
Pig Iron	64	8	8	- 11	- 106
Tinplate and Steel Sheet	433	11	11	+ 0.8	- 6.2
Iron and Steel	75,179	403,649	403,649	+ 0.8	- 6.2

(b) OTHER TRADES.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople Employed.			Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.		
	Week ended 21st Feb., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 21st Feb., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Textiles:—						
Cotton...	90,019	+ 0.6	+ 3.1	166,102	+ 0.2	+ 8.9
Woolen...	15,056	- 0.3	+ 1.3	30,874	+ 0.1	+ 1.6
Worsted...	29,082	- 2.4	- 4.1	52,972	- 2.2	- 7.0
Boot and Shoe...	52,581	+ 0.4	+ 2.0	121,897	+ 1.2	+ 2.2
Pottery...	12,910	+ 0.6	+ 4.5	23,481	+ 1.2	+ 4.6
Brick...	8,374	+ 0.8	+ 15.9	21,755	+ 0.1	+ 27.5
Total	208,022	+ 0.0	+ 2.1	417,081	+ 0.2	+ 4.6

* Short time and broken time are not reflected in the figures. In the mining and textile industries a contraction in the demand for labour is generally met by short-time working. Persons on strike or locked out are also excluded.

† In addition to those shown, who were totally unemployed, a large number of the members of the unions reporting were "paid off part of each week, or alternate weeks or fortnights" or on "temporary stoppage benefit."

‡ The returns for the tobacco trade are supplied by unions whose members are mainly cigar makers.

§ The figures for February, 1925, and January, 1925, exclude building and pottery trade operatives, who were included in February, 1924. The percentage for February, 1924, excluding these returns, would be 8.7 and the increase between February, 1924, and February, 1925, would be 0.7.

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

EMPLOYMENT CHART.

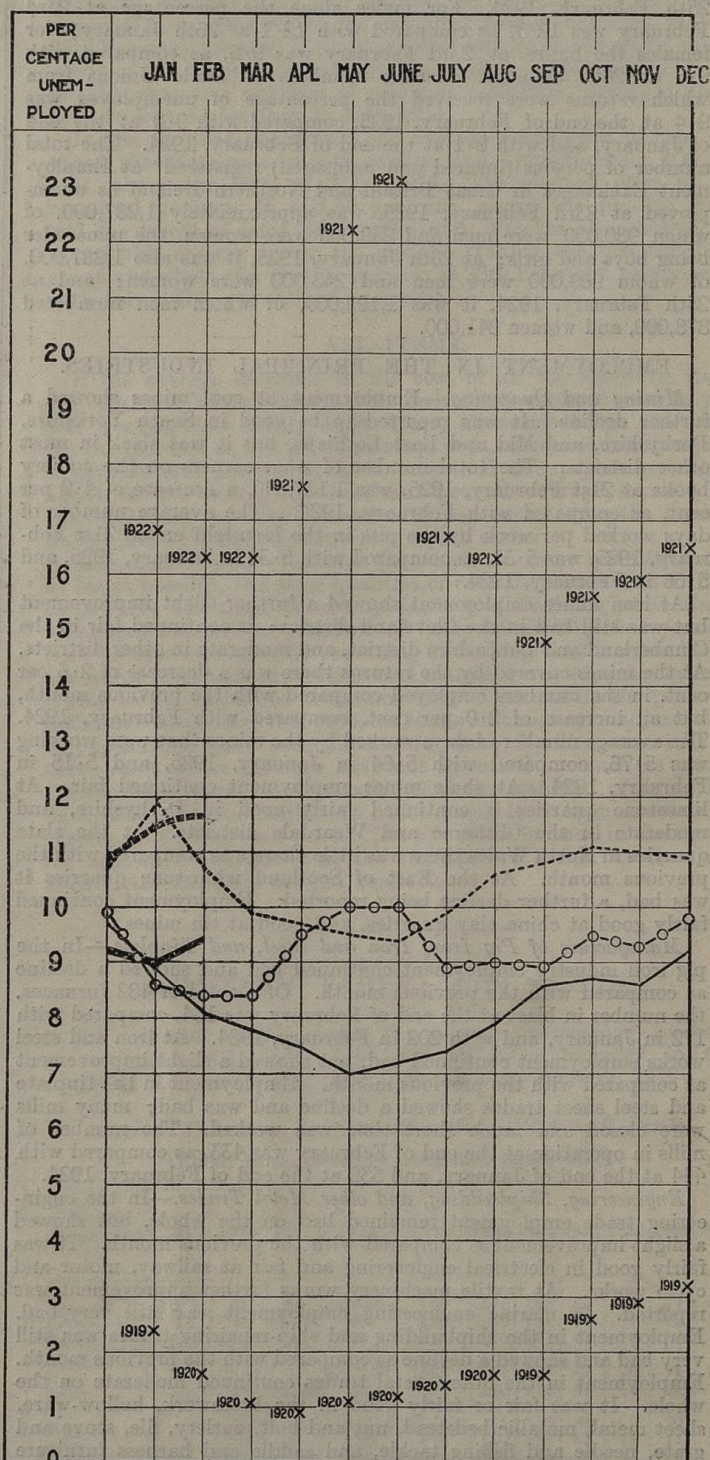
(1) PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT THE END OF EACH MONTH AMONG MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS:—

Thick Curve ————— = 1925.
Thin Curve ————— = 1924.
Chain Curve —○—○—○—○— = Mean of 1919-24.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of Trade Union members unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1919-1924.

(2) PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AMONG WORK-PEOPLE INSURED AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT UNDER THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT:—

Thick Dotted Curve - - - - - = 1925.
Thin Dotted Curve - - - - - = 1924.



NOTE.

The figures relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The Trade Union Returns are furnished by various Trade Unions which pay unemployment benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures. Detailed figures are given in the previous column.

The figures for insured workpeople are briefly explained, and are analysed in detail on pages 94 and 95.

DETAILED REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

NOTE.—The numbers of workpeople given in the following Tables represent the numbers covered by the Returns received and (except as regards coal mining) not the total numbers employed in the various industries. The comparisons of numbers employed and wages paid at different dates relate to the same firms at each date, and cover all the wage-earners, irrespective of age, sex, or occupation, employed by these firms. In comparing the earnings in different industries, it should be remembered that any averages calculated from these figures will be affected not only by the variations in the state of employment and in rates of wages, but also by differences in the proportions of males to females, of adults to juveniles, and of skilled to unskilled workers in the respective industries.

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT in the coal mining industry during February showed a further decline. It was reported to be good in South Yorkshire, Derbyshire, and Mid and East Lothians; but in most other districts it was slack.

The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 21st February showed a decrease of 0.1 per cent. as compared with that at 24th January, and a decrease of 4.2 per cent. as compared with that at 23rd February, 1924.

The average number of days worked per week for the fortnight ended 21st February was 5.31, a decrease of 0.08 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 24th January, and a decrease of 0.35 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 23rd February, 1924.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 10.4 at 23rd February, as compared with 7.9 at 26th January, and 2.5 at 25th February, 1924.

The following Table shows, for the principal coal-mining districts, the total number of wage-earners on the colliery books and the average number of days worked per week* during the fortnight ended 21st February, 1925, as shown by returns obtained by the Mines Department. Small numbers of workpeople employed at coal mines in raising or handling minerals other than coal are included in the totals.

Districts.	Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books at		Average Number of Days worked per Week by the Mines.*		
	21st Feb., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	Fortnight ended 21st Feb., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES:					
Northumberland...	57,181	- 1.2	5.14	- 0.32	- 0.29
Durham...	156,334	- 0.7	4.97	- 0.18	- 0.42
Cumberland and Westmorland...	10,786	- 0.4	5.67	+ 0.06	- 0.06
South Yorkshire...	119,576	+ 1.3	5.51	- 0.08	- 0.04
West Yorkshire...	70,119	- 0.1	5.29	- 0.24	- 0.44
Lancs. and Cheshire...	103,595	- 0.4	5.10	- 0.03	- 0.79
Derbyshire...	66,428	- 0.4	5.42	- 0.20	- 0.34
Notts and Leicester...	68,127	+ 1.2	5.06	- 0.14	- 0.53
Warwick...	20,729	- 0.7	5.67	+ 0.29	- 0.31
North Staffordshire...	35,735	- 0.4	5.56	+ 0.20	- 0.25
South Staffs,† Worcs and Salop...	36,246	- 1.0	5.84	+ 0.19	- 0.15
Glos and Somerset...	14,432	+ 1.1	5.58	+ 0.08	- 0.30
Kent...	1,399	+ 9.1	5.01	+ 0.36	- 0.72
North Wales...	18,384	- 1.0	5.46	- 0.03	- 0.48
South Wales and Mon.	222,982	- 0.3	5.50	- 0.08	- 0.33
England and Wales	1,002,053	- 0.2	5.33	- 0.09	- 0.36
SCOTLAND:					
Mid & East Lothians	15,968	+ 1.2	5.28	- 0.10	- 0.14
Fife and Clackmannan	30,459	- 0.9	4.91	+ 0.33	- 0.60
Rest of Scotland...	89,160	+ 0.3	5.25	- 0.05	- 0.21
Scotland	135,587	+ 0.1	5.18	+ 0.04	- 0.29
GREAT BRITAIN	1,137,640	- 0.1	5.31	- 0.08	- 0.35

The average number of coal-winding days lost in Great Britain during the fortnight ended 21st February, 1925, was 0.45 of a day per week, of which 0.41 was due to want of trade and transport difficulties. The figures for the fortnight ended 24th January, 1925, were 0.38 of a day, of which 0.35 was lost through want of trade and transport difficulties; for the fortnight ended 23rd February, 1924, the average time lost was 0.10 of a day, of which 0.06 was due to want of trade and transport difficulties. The average non-winding time for each of the three periods under review was about one-quarter of a day per week.

The output of coal for Great Britain for the four weeks ended 21st February, 1925, was returned to the Mines Department at 21,550,000 tons, as compared with 19,957,500 tons in the four weeks ended 24th January (which was affected by the New Year holidays) and with 22,672,400 tons in the four weeks ended 23rd February, 1924.

The exports of coal, including coal shipped for the use of steamers engaged in foreign trade, and the coal equivalent of coke and manufactured fuel, amounted to 6,042,734 tons in February, compared with 6,193,131 tons in January.

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

† Including Cannock Chase.

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

Iron Mining.

A SLIGHT improvement was again reported in the Cleveland district, but employment remained bad; many of the mines continued idle, and a considerable amount of short time was worked in the remainder. In the Cumberland and Lancashire district employment remained fair, and in other districts moderate.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in iron ore and ironstone mining and quarrying, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at the Employment Exchanges, was 17.1 at 23rd February, as compared with 18.4 at 26th January, and 20.2 at 25th February, 1924.

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

Districts.	Number of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns.		Average No. of Days worked per week by the Mines.*			
	Fortnight ended 21st Feb., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	Fortnight ended 21st Feb., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a		
				Month ago.	Year ago.	
			Per cent.	Per cent.	Days.	
Cleveland...	4,007	+ 0.1	+ 7.0	5.57	+ 0.15	+ 1.09
Cumberland and Lancashire...	3,404	- 6.3	- 1.4	5.97	+ 0.26	+ 0.40
Other Districts...	1,713	- 1.5	- 2.2	5.79	- 0.17	+ 0.01
ALL DISTRICTS	9,124	- 2.6	+ 2.0	5.76	+ 0.12	+ 0.61

Shale Mining.

At shale mines employment remained fair. At mines employing 4,076 workpeople during the fortnight ended 21st February, 1925, there was an increase of 0.7 per cent. in the number employed, compared with the previous month, but a decrease of 1.9 per cent. compared with February, 1924. The average number of days* worked per week by the mines was 5.94 in February, 1925, compared with 5.97 in January, 1925, and 5.89 in February, 1924.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during February continued bad and showed a decline as compared with the previous month. The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 18.2 on 23rd February, compared with 17.6 on 26th January, and with 10.1 on 25th February, 1924.

Returns received by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers from 83 firms, employing 20,348 workpeople at the end of February, showed a decrease of 2.6 per cent. in the number employed compared with January and of 11.2 per cent. compared with February, 1924.

The total number of furnaces in blast at the end of February as shown by the returns collected by the Federation was 164, compared with 172 at the end of January and 202 a year ago.

The following Table shows the number of furnaces in blast at the end of February, 1925, January, 1925, and February, 1924:—

District.	Total Number of Furnaces.	Number of Furnaces in Blast at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Feb., on a	
		Feb., 1925.	Jan., 1925.	Feb., 1924.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
Durham and Cleveland	111	43	45	47	- 2	- 4
Cumberland and W. Lancs. ...	47	13	13	12	...	+ 1
Other parts of Lancs and Yorks (including Sheffield) ...	35	18	18	17	...	+ 1
Derby, Leicester, Notts and Northants ...	73	40	41	40	- 1	...
Lincolnshire ...	23	10	10	19	...	- 9
Staffs, Shropshire, Worcester and Warwick ...	60	11	10	19	+ 1	- 8
South Wales ...	32	8	7	11	+ 1	- 3
Total, England and Wales	381	143	144	165	- 1	- 22
SCOTLAND	101	21	28	37	- 7	- 16
Total	482	164	172	202	- 8	- 38

The production of pig iron in February amounted to 534,100 tons, as compared with 574,500 tons in January, and 612,700 tons in February, 1924.

* See note in previous column.

IRON AND STEEL TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works continued bad during February, but showed a slight improvement as compared with the previous month.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the number of unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 22.8 on 23rd February, 1925, as compared with 23.7 on 26th January and 16.8 on 25th February, 1924.

According to returns received from firms employing 75,179 workpeople, the volume of employment during the week ended 21st February, 1925 (as indicated by the number of workpeople employed combined with the number of shifts during which work was carried on in each department), increased by 0.8 per cent. as compared with the previous month but showed a decrease of 6.2 per cent. as compared with a year ago. The average number of shifts during which the works were open was 5.4 in all three periods.

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

DEPARTMENTS.	No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns.		Aggregate Number of Shifts.*	
	Week ended 21st Feb., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago.	Week ended 21st Feb., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago.
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces ...	8,720	+ 4.6	50,317	+ 3.3
Puddling Forges ...	3,870	+ 8.8	17,100	+ 8.7
Rolling Mills ...	27,271	+ 0.9	136,564	+ 0.5
Forging and Pressing ...	3,108	+ 0.6	15,203	+ 2.4
Founding ...	8,445	+ 3.3	48,681	+ 4.4
Other Departments ...	7,652	- 0.6	42,459	+ 0.0
Mechanics, Labourers... TOTAL ...	16,113	- 1.5	92,340	- 1.6
	75,179	+ 1.3	403,649	+ 0.8

DISTRICTS.	No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns.		Aggregate Number of Shifts.*	
	Week ended 21st Feb., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago.	Week ended 21st Feb., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago.
Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland...	14,733	+ 4.4	80,225	+ 2.2
Sheffield and Rotherham ...	18,770	- 2.8	100,300	- 1.6
Leeds, Bradford, etc. ...	1,955	+ 8.6	10,611	+ 11.6
Cumberland, Lancs. and Cheshire ...	7,600	- 2.2	39,898	- 3.0
Staffordshire ...	7,679	+ 2.0	39,692	+ 1.3
Other Midland Counties	3,800	- 0.3	20,415	- 0.2
Wales and Monmouth	8,792	+ 4.1	48,792	+ 3.7
Total, England and Wales ...	63,329	+ 0.9	339,933	+ 0.3
Scotland ...	11,850	+ 3.4	63,716	+ 3.3
TOTAL ...	75,179	+ 1.3	403,649	+ 0.8

The production of steel ingots and castings, as returned by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, amounted to 646,400 tons in February, as compared with 605,100 tons in January, and 767,600 tons in February, 1924.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades continued bad during February, and showed a decline as compared with the previous month. At the end of February 433 tinplate and steel sheet mills were reported to be in operation at the works for which information is available, as compared with 444 at the end of January and with 539 a year ago. Many of the mills in operation were working considerably less than the full number of shifts per week.

The following Table shows the number of mills in operation at the end of February, 1925, at the works covered by the returns received, together with the increase or decrease compared with January, and compared with February, 1924:—

Works.	Number of Works Open		Number of Mills in Operation	
	At end of Feb., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	At end of Feb., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Tinplate ...	66	- 1	334	- 2
Steel Sheet	9	- 2	99	- 9
TOTAL ...	75	- 3	433	- 11

* The figures relate to the number of shifts during which the works were in operation, allowance being made for the numbers of men employed. No account is taken of the 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.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed on 23rd February, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 45.4, as compared with 44.0 on 26th January, and with 4.0 on 25th February, 1924. These percentages include persons working part-time and not actually employed on the dates mentioned.

The exports of tinned and galvanized plates and sheets in February, 1925, amounted to 95,327 tons or 5,436 tons less than in January, 1925 and 95 tons less than in February, 1924.

ENGINEERING.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry during February remained bad on the whole, but showed a slight improvement in most districts compared with the previous month. It was still very bad in marine engineering, but fairly good in electrical engineering and fair at railway, motor and cycle works. At textile machinery works short time was still in operation, but a further improvement was reported. Compared with a year ago, employment generally showed an improvement in nearly all the principal districts.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 23rd February, 1925, and the increase or decrease as compared with January and with a year ago:—

Divisions.	Numbers of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 23rd February, 1925.						Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
	Engineering, Iron and Steel Founding.	Electrical Engineering.	Marine Engineering, etc.	Constructional Engineering.	Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles, and Aircraft.	TOTAL.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London ...	8,487	408	163	116	2,424	11,598	- 783	- 3,498
South-Eastern ...	3,422	384	99	55	985	4,945	- 426	- 1,801
South-Western ...	2,129	65	341	65	842	3,442	- 176	- 847
Midlands ...	9,093	1,206	35	698	5,658	16,691	- 1,499	- 7,543
North-Eastern ...	18,733	475	6,683	1,268	839	27,998	+ 76	- 6,413
North-Western ...	23,543	1,141	312	182	2,423	27,601	- 1,135	- 11,243
Scotland ...	15,650	245	2,522	1,135	989	20,541	- 881	- 4,382
Wales ...	922	33	36	31	172	1,194	+ 10	+ 325
Northern Ireland	1,636	12	1,051	10	232	2,941	- 58	+ 334
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...	83,615	3,969	11,243	3,560	14,564	116,951	- 4,872	- 35,068

Divisions.	Percentage Unemployed at 23rd February, 1925.					
	Engineering, Iron and Steel Founding.	Electrical Engineering.	Marine Engineering, etc.	Constructional Engineering.	Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles, and Aircraft.	TOTAL.
London ...	9.6	4.6	24.0	5.6	7.3	8.7
South-Eastern ...	8.1	4.5	3.1	10.4	4.3	6.4
South-Western ...	6.2	2.2	5.2	10.7	4.5	5.4
Midlands ...	10.2	5.2	2.3	11.6	6.7	8.2
North-Eastern ...	14.5	6.7	25.8	18.6	8.1	15.6
North-Western ...	16.5	6.7	16.5	10.1	11.9	15.6
Scotland ...	18.4	7.2	12.4	20.2	10.0	16.6
Wales ...	11.5	9.4	20.0	5.8	9.2	10.9
Northern Ireland	20.8	10.0	18.5	50.0	15.0	19.3
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...	13.3	5.5	17.0	14.8	7.2	11.8

On the North-East Coast employment continued bad, especially in marine engineering, in which section it was worse than in January. In the Newcastle district, however, the improvement formerly reported was still maintained, and at locomotive works employment remained fairly good. In Yorkshire employment remained moderate on the whole, though slack at Leeds, and showed a further improvement, except in the textile machinery section, where it continued to decline. In Lincolnshire it continued moderate, though at Lincoln more short time and less overtime were reported. At Peterborough employment remained fairly good. In Lancashire and Cheshire, in the textile machinery section, it showed a further improvement, but there was still much short time; while in the heavy engineering section employment continued bad. At locomotive, linotype machinery and machine tool works, full time working was usual, and in the electrical engineering section employment was fairly good. In the motor section employment showed a decline.

In the Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry district employment showed a further improvement, and was fairly good for skilled men, especially in the motor and cycle and electrical sections, though many of the less skilled workers were without employment. Much overtime was reported at motor and cycle works, particularly at Coventry. In the heavy engineering section, employment was still depressed. At Nottingham employment was quiet in most sections, but remained good in the motor and cycle section. At Derby it was good generally; at Leicester it was fair on the whole.

In the Eastern Counties employment was fair generally and continued to show an upward tendency; in the motor and electrical sections it was good. In London an improvement was noted, employment being moderate on the whole and remaining good on electrical work. In the Southern Counties employment was still fair on the whole, and good in the motor, aircraft and electrical sections and on railway work at Swindon. In South Wales it remained slack.

In Scotland a further slight improvement was reported, but employment generally remained very bad. At Belfast employment was still very bad and showed little change.

SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING.

EMPLOYMENT in the shipbuilding and ship-repairing industries was still very bad during February, and showed a decline compared with the previous month.

On the North-East Coast employment continued very bad, and was worse than in January. On the East Coast it was moderate, and on the Thames it was slack. On the South Coast it was dull, and showed a decline on the whole. At the Bristol Channel ports and on the Mersey it remained bad.

In Scotland employment continued bad, and showed little general change compared with the previous month; with shipwrights it was fair, however, and with joiners on the Clyde it continued good. At Belfast employment was still bad.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of insured workpeople unemployed at 23rd February, 1925, and the increase or decrease as compared with 26th January, 1925, and with a year ago:—

Divisions.	Total Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 23rd Feb., 1925.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Percentage Unemployed at 23rd Feb., 1925.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
London ...	4,206	+ 392	- 360	29.4	+ 2.7	- 2.8
South-Eastern ...	891	141	- 373	9.3	- 1.5	- 4.1
South-Western ...	5,030	+ 1,387	- 36	17.8	+ 4.9	+ 1.5
Midlands ...	99	56	- 36	19.4	- 11.0	- 7.6
North-Eastern ...	30,961	+ 739	+ 3,618	44.1	+ 1.1	+ 6.4
North-Western ...	10,584	+ 690	- 762	31.1	+ 2.0	- 0.5
Scotland ...	20,723	+ 381	+ 790	31.6	+ 0.6	+ 3.8
Wales ...	4,127	+ 94	+ 170	36.9	- 0.8	+ 5.5
Northern Ireland	7,592	+ 16	+ 375	35.4	+ 0.1	+ 5.9
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ...	84,253	+ 3,314	+ 3,386	33.0	+ 1.3	+ 3.3

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

DURING February employment in these trades was bad. In the worsted section it showed a decline on the previous month and was much worse than a year ago.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 13.5 on 23rd February, 1925, as compared with 12.0 on 26th January, 1925, and 6.6 on 25th February, 1924.

Employment with wool-sorters and combers was bad, and worse than a month earlier; about 40 per cent. of the Trade Union sorters were on short time. In the worsted spinning departments employment continued bad, and with operatives spinning yarns for weaving employment was very bad; general depression continued in the Bradford, Keighley and Halifax areas, and employment was reported as quiet during February.

In the manufacturing departments there was little change in the Bradford, Keighley and Calder Vale districts. In the fine men's wear trade of Huddersfield, Halifax and Leeds, and in the coating trade of Bradford and Keighley, employment continued bad. With tweed manufacturers employment was bad in practically all districts, with the exception of Yeadon, Guiseley and Saddleworth. In the Huddersfield and Colne Valley area employment was stated to be worse than in the previous month, although a few firms were running their machinery overtime or on night shifts. At Morley employment was moderate, and in the heavy woollen district it was described as very bad. In the Dewsbury area short time was reported to be general with firms engaged in the manufacture of heavy woollen cloths and blankets, and employment in the manufacture of rugs and shawls was also bad. Employment was bad with flannel manufacturers at Rochdale and Apperley Bridge, but not so bad as at Saddleworth; in the Stockport district employment was very poor, with much short time.

Employment showed a marked improvement in the blanket mills at Witney, all the operatives being on full time; at Trowbridge employment was reported to be very good. In Wales there was an improvement at Newport, but at Llanidloes the trade continued in a depressed condition, while at Aberystwyth only three factories were stated to be working.

In Scotland employment at Galashiels showed signs of improvement, but the mills were still working short time. At Hawick employment was not good, and only two firms were stated to be well employed. At Ayr employment continued good, but slackness was reported at Greenock, Alloa and Dumfries.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns as to the numbers of workpeople employed and the total amount of wages paid in the three periods under review:—

Departments.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.	
	Week ended 21st Feb., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 21st Feb., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Wool sorting ...	346	- 1.7	800	+ 3.4
Spinning ...	3,563	+ 0.4	7,160	+ 0.6
Weaving ...	5,653	- 0.6	10,519	+ 0.3
Other Departments	4,445	- 0.2	9,992	- 0.2
Not Specified ...	1,049	- 0.9	2,403	- 1.3
TOTAL ...	15,056	- 0.3	30,874	+ 0.1

Districts.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.	
	Week ended 21st Feb., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 21st Feb., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Huddersfield District	1,642	- 0.2	4,088	- 0.1
Leeds District	1,630	+ 1.4	3,949	+ 3.0
Dewsbury and Batley District	1,300	- 0.9	2,597	- 0.2
Other Parts of West Riding ...	1,874	+ 1.2	4,280	+ 0.5
Total West Riding	6,446	+ 0.5	14,914	+ 0.9
Scotland ...	3,795	+ 5.7	7,193	+ 3.6
Other Districts ...	4,815	- 1.6	8,767	+ 2.1
TOTAL ...	15,056	- 0.3	30,874	+ 0.1

WORSTED INDUSTRY.

Departments.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.	
	Week ended 21st Feb., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 21st Feb., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Wool sorting and combing ...	3,929	- 4.4	9,445	- 4.0
Spinning ...	15,109	- 2.8	22,321	- 2.9
Weaving ...	5,435	+ 0.5	11,080	- 1.5
Other Departments	2,914	- 0.9	7,114	+ 0.5
Not specified ...	1,695	- 5.5	3,012	+ 0.3
TOTAL ...	29,082	- 2.4	52,972	- 2.2

Districts.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.	
	Week ended 21st Feb., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 21st Feb., 1925.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Bradford District	14,189	- 2.7	27,861	- 1.1
Keighley District	5,196	- 2.4	9,257	- 0.1
Halifax District ...	2,575	- 3.5	4,179	- 6.7
Huddersfield District	2,761	...	5,157	- 2.9
Other Parts of West Riding ...	3,231	- 2.5	4,896	- 7.0
Total West Riding	27,952	- 2.4	51,350	- 2.2
Other Districts ...	1,130	- 1.3	1,622	- 2.2
TOTAL ...	29,082	- 2.4	52,972	- 2.2

Returns from firms in the woollen section, employing 14,414 workpeople, showed that about 32 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time in the week ended 21st February, to the extent on the average of 8 hours. In the worsted section returns from firms employing 27,469 workpeople in the same week showed that about 32 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time, to the extent of about 11 hours on the average.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women registered as applicants for employment at Employment Exchanges at 2nd February, 1925, in the principal centres, at which approximately 69 per cent. of the total number of applicants for employment in the woollen and worsted industries were registered:—

Departments.	Number of Applicants for Employment at 2nd February, 1925.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 5th January, 1925.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Wool sorting ...	301	3	304	- 124	- 1	- 125
Wool washing and preparing ...	870	117	987	+ 7	- 16	- 9
Wool combing ...	1,045	969	2,014	- 111	- 47	- 158
Wool carding ...	1,280	210	1,490	- 82	- 4	- 86
Woolen spinning ...	681	221	902	+ 64	- 26	+ 38
Worsted drawing and spinning ...	469	2,755	3,224	+ 38	+ 342	+ 380
Wool winding and warping ...	244	173	417	+ 48	+ 50	+ 98
Worsted winding and warping ...	57	606	663	+ 13	+ 70	+ 83
Woolen weaving ...	315	2,337	2,652	+ 87	+ 216	+ 303
Worsted weaving ...	127	846	973	+ 40	+ 27	+ 67
Other processes ...	1,592	228	1,820	+ 137	+ 38	+ 175
TOTAL ...	6,981	8,465	15,446	+ 117	+ 649	+ 766

The imports (less re-exports) of raw wool (sheep's and lambs') were 43,903,600 lb. in February, 1925, compared with 45,792,700 lb. in January, 1925 and with 42,768,700 lb. in February, 1924.

The exports of woollen and worsted yarns were 4,560,300 lb., compared with 5,149,000 lb. in January, 1925, and with 4,635,600 lb. in February, 1924.

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

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

The statistics here presented show, industry by industry, the number of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, and the number and percentage of such persons who were unemployed on 23rd February, 1925.

Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, substantially all employed persons, except outworkers and persons employed in agriculture and private domestic service, must be insured against unemployment.

The number of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland is estimated at approximately 11,514,000. This figure is computed annually, and is estimated from a count of the unemployment books which are exchanged annually.

Every insured person claiming unemployment benefit must lodge his unemployment book at an Employment Exchange when making a claim. It is possible therefore to obtain from a count of the lodged books a record of unemployment in insured trades.

(a) Insured persons, unemployed and in receipt of benefit; (b) Insured persons not in receipt of benefit, but known to be unemployed by reason of their maintaining registration at an Employment Exchange or otherwise;

(c) Insured persons who are not in receipt of benefit and are not maintaining registration, but whose unemployment books remain lodged at Employment Exchanges. Provided there is no definite evidence of employment these are counted in the statistics for two months after the insured person's last attendance at an Exchange.

Insured persons who are disqualified for the receipt of benefit under the trade dispute disqualification are not included amongst the numbers unemployed.

In July, 1923, the classification of insured workpeople was revised so as to bring it, so far as practicable, into conformity with the industrial grouping adopted in connection with the 1921 census of population. At the same time the classification was put on a strictly industrial basis, all unemployment books being classified according to the industry of the employer, or, in the case of unemployed persons, of the last employer.

NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.

Table with columns for Industry, Estimated Number of Insured Persons at July, 1924, Number of Unemployment Books Remaining Lodged at 23rd February, 1925, Percentage Unemployed at 23rd February, 1925, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 26th January, 1925. Includes sub-sections like Metal Trades, Textile Trades, Leather and Leather Goods, etc.

NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.

Table with columns for Industry, Estimated Number of Insured Persons at July, 1924, Number of Unemployment Books Remaining Lodged at 23rd February, 1925, Percentage Unemployed at 23rd February, 1925, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 26th January, 1925. Includes sub-sections like Fishing, Mining, Non-Ferrous Metal Products, etc.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1925 (continued).

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for Mining and Quarrying, Chemical, Glass, Brick, Pottery, etc., Trades, Iron and Steel Smelting and Manufacture, and various other trades.

* This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with selling prices. † This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices. ‡ This change took effect from the pay starting nearest 1st February—in most cases this was 1st February. § This change took effect under an arrangement made by the Iron and Steel Trades Employers' Association, the West Coast Ironmasters' Association, the Cleveland Ironmasters' Association, and the Lincolnshire Ironmasters' Association, with the Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers. ¶ Men with base earnings of not more than 7s. per shift have, since August, 1924, been in receipt of bonuses varying according to earnings from 2d. to 1s. 2d. per shift. (See p. 338 of GAZETTE for September, 1924.) ** This change applied to firms who are members of the Iron and Steel Trades Employers' Association, those in England being situated principally in the North East Coast District, Cumberland, Lancashire, South and West Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and the Midlands. †† The men on 8-hour shifts referred to are those who do not receive allowance hours and/or extra payment for night shift during the normal week. The men whose wages are based on a 47-hour week are mainly men employed in engineering shops or working with craftsmen who receive the allowances or extra payments mentioned. ††† Except certain men employed at Newburn, West Hartlepool and Gateshead.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1925 (continued).

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of change. Includes sections for Iron and Steel Smelting and Manufacture, Engineering, Shipbuilding and Other Metal Trades, Textile Trades, Clothing Trades, Food, Drink, and Tobacco Trades, and Woodworking and Furniture Trades.

* This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with selling prices. † See note ¶ on previous page. ‡ Excluding process men doing labouring work while waiting for vacancies to occur in various process departments. § Certain firms—members of the Galvanizing Conciliation Board. ¶ Viz., the weaving of all hessian, floor cloth and linoleum goods, other than those woven in looms the reed space of which is 32 inches or narrower. † The change took effect from the beginning of pay week first occurring on or after 12 January. †† Excluding waste bleachers, machine calico printers, engineers and mechanics, etc., employed in repair and maintenance of plant. ††† The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.

TRADE DISPUTES.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of trade disputes involving a stoppage of work, reported to the Department as beginning in February in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 44, as compared with 35 in the previous month and 56 in February, 1924.

Causes.—Of the 44 disputes beginning in February, 16, directly involving 1,900 workpeople, arose out of demands for advances in wages; 10, directly involving 2,100 workpeople, on other wages questions; 8, directly involving 2,600 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; 4, directly involving 1,200 workpeople, on details of working arrangements; and 6, directly involving 200 workpeople, on other questions.

Results.—Settlements were effected in the case of 24 new disputes, directly involving 6,500 workpeople, and 8 old disputes, directly involving 3,100 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 10,

directly involving 3,600 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 9, directly involving 1,700 workpeople, in favour of the employers; and 13, directly involving 4,300 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of 5 disputes, directly involving 400 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

The following Table analyses the disputes in progress in February :

Table with 5 columns: Groups of Industries, Started before 1st Feb., Started in Feb., Total, and Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in Feb. Rows include Mining and Quarrying, Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding, Textile, Transport, and Other.

PRINCIPAL TRADE DISPUTES IN PROGRESS DURING FEBRUARY, 1925.

Table with 6 columns: Occupations and Locality, Approximate Number of Workpeople Involved, Date when Dispute Began/Ended, Cause or Object, and Result. Rows include Trawlermen, Box packing-case and furniture makers, Captains, mates, casual hands on barges, Stevedores, and Electricians.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

The number of cases in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported during February, 1925, is shown below. Four deaths were reported during the month, three due to epitheliomatous ulceration and one due to anthrax.

Table with 2 columns: (a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING and (b) CASES OF ANTHRAX. Lists various occupations and the number of cases reported.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

The number of workpeople, other than seamen, reported as killed in the course of their employment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during February, 1925, was as shown below.

Table with 2 columns: RAILWAY SERVICE and FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS. Lists types of accidents and the number of fatalities.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople and those which lasted less than one day have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics. The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly involved."

POOR LAW RELIEF IN GREAT BRITAIN.

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

THE number of persons* relieved on one day† in February, 1925, in the thirty-one selected areas named below, was 718,254, or 0.1 per cent. less than in the previous month, and 20.3 per cent. less than in February, 1924. The numbers relieved at these three dates were equivalent, respectively, to rates of 404, 404, and 509 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Table with 7 columns: Selected Urban Areas, Number of Persons* in receipt of Poor Law Relief on one day† in February, 1925, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a. Rows include ENGLAND AND WALES, METROPOLIS, and SCOTLAND.

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

The number of assisted passages granted during February, 1925, in connection with agreed schemes under the Empire Settlement Act, and the total number of such passages granted from the inception of these schemes, together with the number of departures during the same periods, are shown in the following Table:—

Table with 6 columns: Assisted Passage Schemes, Assisted Passages Granted, Total Assisted Passages Granted, Departures in Feb. 1925, Total Departures. Rows include To Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and Minor Schemes.

The figures given include both applicants and dependants of applicants to whom assisted passages have been granted.

* Including dependants. The figures exclude casuals, lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses, and persons receiving out-door medical relief only. † The figures for England and Wales relate to 28th February, and those for Scotland to 15th February.

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. It is also to be observed that in every case the percentage calculation is based on the assumption that the standard of living is identical at the various periods compared.]

I.—FOOD.

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

Table with 6 columns: Country, July 1921, July 1922, July 1923, July 1924, Latest figures available. Rows include UNITED KINGDOM, FOREIGN COUNTRIES, and BRITISH DOMINIONS, & C.

II.—ALL ITEMS.

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

Table with 6 columns: Country, Items on which Computation is based, July 1921, July 1922, July 1923, July 1924, Latest figures available. Rows include UNITED KINGDOM, FOREIGN COUNTRIES, and BRITISH DOMINIONS, & C.

* Exceptions to this are: France (other towns), 3rd quarter of 1914; The Hague, January to July, 1914; Milan, January to June, 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; Amsterdam, South Africa, average, 1914. † Figure for June, 1914. ‡ Fuel and lighting are also included in these figures. § Figure for August. ¶ A = Food; B = House-Rent; C = Clothing; D = Fuel and Light; E = Other or Miscellaneous Items. ¶ Exceptions to this are: France, Spain, Australia and South Africa, in which comparison is with the average for 1914; Belgium, April, 1914; Greece, March, 1914; Milan, January to June, 1914; Germany, Egypt, Hungary, average, 1913-1914; Switzerland and Luxembourg, June, 1914; United States and Chile, 1913; Poland, January, 1914. ** Figure for 3rd Quarter. †† Figure for June. ††† Figure for May. §§ Based on prices calculated on a gold standard. ¶¶ See article on p. 81 as to change in the basis of the index number.

Tags, India : G. Hughes & Co., London.—**Tape :** G. H. Wheatcroft & Co., Warksworth.—**Waxed Stencil Paper :** Ellams Duplicator Co., Ltd., Bushey.

H.M. OFFICE OF WORKS.

Building Works : Alexandria Housing Scheme—Re-surfacing Roads, etc. : J. J. & W. H. Shearer, Alexandria. Bath Post Office, etc.—Asphalte : The Ragusa Asphalte Paving Co., Ltd., London, W. Beaconsfield Post Office, etc.—Erection : Y. J. Lovell & Son, Gerrard's Cross. Masonry : E. Harris, High Wycombe. Bolton Old Post Office—Adaptations : John Johnson & Son, Wigan. Brighton Sorting Office—Slating, etc. : Ernest Matthews & Co., London, W.C. Steel Roof Trusses : Redpath, Brown & Co., Ltd., London, E.C. Broadmoor Asylum—Plumbing : William Freer, Leicester. Burslem Telephone Exchange—Erection : Stephen Heath & Son, Newcastle, Staffs. Crewe Station Post Office—Erection of Garage, etc. : J. Williams & Sons, Crewe. Crowborough Post Office, etc.—Erection : R. Cook & Sons, Ltd., Crawley. Dollis Hill Post Office Research Station—Erection of Laboratory : Winter & Ward, Harpenden. Edinburgh, Tollcross Employment Exchange—Alterations, etc. : W. & J. R. Watson, Ltd., Edinburgh. 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