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

### EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT in February showed a recovery from the seasonal decline recorded in January.

*Insured Persons in work.*—It is estimated that at 22nd February, 1937, the number of insured persons, aged 16-64, in employment in Great Britain, exclusive of agricultural workers, was approximately 11,187,000. This was 81,000 more than at 25th January, 1937, and 662,000 more than at 24th February, 1936.

*Numbers Unemployed (excluding Persons normally in Casual Employment).*—At 22nd February, 1937, there were 1,391,932 persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain who were out of a situation. This was 42,025 less than at 25th January, 1937, and 285,145 less than at 24th February, 1936. The total on 22nd February, 1937, included 1,101,455 men, 43,011 boys, 200,891 women, and 46,575 girls.

*Numbers Temporarily Stopped.*—At 22nd February, 1937, there were registered as unemployed in Great Britain 105,136 men, 2,383 boys, 50,915 women, and 3,400 girls who were on short time or otherwise temporarily suspended from work. The total of 161,834 was 21,834 less than at 25th January, 1937, and 97,458 less than at 24th February, 1936.

*Numbers unemployed normally in Casual Employment.*—At 22nd February, 1937, there were on the registers in Great Britain 72,068 men, 141 boys, 1,860 women, and 10 girls who normally seek a livelihood by means of jobs of short duration. The total of 74,079 was 2,481 more than at 25th January, 1937, but 14,573 less than at 24th February, 1936.

*Applicants for Benefit or Allowances.*—The total of 1,627,845 persons on the registers at 22nd February, 1937, included 1,385,171 insured persons who were applicants for insurance benefit or unemployment allowances, 132,962 other insured persons (including insured juveniles under 16 years of age), and 109,712 uninsured persons. Of the 1,385,171 applicants for benefit or allowances, 754,823 had claims admitted for insurance benefit and 559,216 had applications authorised for allowances; the balance of 71,132 included 40,763 persons whose position under the conditions relating to contributions paid and benefit received had not been determined, 8,762 persons who had been disqualified for short periods from receiving benefit, and 21,607 persons whose needs had been held not to justify payment of unemployment allowances.

*Percentages Unemployed.*—Among insured workpeople, aged 16-64 (excluding agricultural workers), the percentage unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 12·2 at 22nd February, 1937, as compared with 12·6 at 25th January, 1937, and 15·3 at 24th February, 1936. For males alone the percentage at 22nd February, 1937, was 13·6, and for females 8·3. At 25th January, 1937, the corresponding percentages were 14·0 and 8·6, and at 24th February, 1936, they were 17·1 and 10·1.

*Industries in which the Principal Variations occurred.*—There was an increase in employment in most of the principal industries. Those showing the greatest improvement included building and public works contracting, the clothing trades (including boot and shoe manufacture), the cotton industry, general engineering, the motor vehicle and aircraft industry, pottery and earthenware manufacture, and shipping service. In none of the principal industries was there a marked decline in employment.

### WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in February, resulted in an increase of about £98,600 in the weekly full-time wages of 1,213,000 workpeople, and in a decrease of £4,050 in those of 43,000 workpeople.

The principal groups of workpeople affected by increases in rates of wages were building trade operatives in Great Britain, men employed at shipbuilding and ship-repairing centres in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, coal miners in Yorkshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, North Staffordshire, Cannock Chase and Scotland, and workers employed in steel melting and steel rolling in various districts. The decreases affected mainly coal miners in Warwickshire and the majority of tinplate workers in South Wales.

The changes so far reported in the two completed months of 1937 are estimated to have resulted in a net increase of about £160,000 per week in the full-time rates of wages of 2,062,000 workpeople, and in a net decrease of £10,300 in those of 87,000 workpeople.

### COST OF LIVING.

At 1st March the average level of retail prices of the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and miscellaneous items) was approximately 51 per cent. above the level of July, 1914; for food only the average percentage increase was 35. These percentages were the same as at 1st February. For 29th February, 1936, the corresponding figures were 46 per cent. for all items and 29 per cent. for food only.

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

### TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work reported to the Department as beginning in February was 75. In addition, 11 disputes which began before February were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in the above disputes, including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, was about 25,000, and the aggregate duration in February of the disputes was about 84,000 working days.

AVERAGE EARNINGS AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN OCTOBER, 1935.

II.—LEATHER INDUSTRIES; FOOD, DRINK AND TOBACCO INDUSTRIES; AND PAPER, PRINTING, ETC., INDUSTRIES.

In the February issue of this Gazette particulars were given of the scope and nature of an enquiry made by the Ministry of Labour into average weekly earnings and hours of labour in October, 1935; and statistics were published summarising the results of the enquiry for certain groups of industries. In the following Tables similar particulars are given for further groups of industries.

Average Weekly Earnings.—The Table below shows the average actual earnings per head, in the week ended 12th October, 1935, of (a) all the workpeople covered by the returns, and (b) of the men, 21 years and over, youths and boys under 21 years, women 18 years and over, and girls under 18 years, in respect of whom separate figures were supplied. Some of the firms who supplied figures showing the average earnings of all workers employed did not give separate particulars for men, boys, women, and girls, respectively; but the numbers of workpeople in respect of whom these particulars were given by other employers were in most cases sufficiently large to provide a substantial basis for the calculation of the average earnings shown in the Table.

As enquiry forms were sent to all firms, in the industries covered, who employed more than 10 workpeople, but to only about 20 per cent. of the smaller firms, the proportions of returns received are higher, on the whole, in the case of firms employing more than 10 workpeople than among the smaller firms. For those industries in which the average earnings shown by the returns from the smaller firms differ from those shown by the larger firms to such an extent as to have a marked effect on the figures, separate particulars are given for the larger and smaller firms, respectively. In those cases in which separate particulars are not given for the two groups, the exclusion of the smaller firms would not materially affect the average earnings shown.

Hours of Labour.—The Table on page 89 summarises the information received relating to weekly working hours. The Table shows: (a) the proportions of workpeople, employed by firms making returns, whose normal weekly hours (i.e. hours constituting a full ordinary week) exclusive of recognised intervals for meals, etc.\* fell within various limits; (b) the average normal hours of these workpeople; (c) the proportion of workpeople who, in the week ended 12th October, 1935, were working less than the normal week, and the average hours lost by those workpeople in that week; and (d) the proportion who, in that week, worked more than the normal weekly hours and the average time worked in excess of the normal hours by those workpeople during that week. The figures in the last column of the Table show the average hours worked per head, computed from the data given in the preceding columns relating

to normal weekly hours, short time, and hours worked in excess of the normal week, respectively. In this connection it should be observed that in the great majority of the returns the particulars relating to operatives working less than the full week included only those workers who were on short time as a result of arrangements made by their employers, and excluded any loss of time by individual workers due to voluntary absence from work, sickness, bad time-keeping, etc. If full account had been taken of absences from work from all these causes, the figures relating to hours actually worked would usually have been somewhat lower, on average, than those shown in the Table.

Shift-work.—In certain of the industries for which particulars are given, considerable proportions of the workpeople were employed on shift-work. The following Table shows the number of shift-workers employed by firms, engaged in such industries, who supplied information and the average number of shifts worked per week:—

Table showing the number of shift-workers employed by firms in various industries, categorized by the number of shifts worked per week (5 1/2, 6, 7).

In each of these industries the normal length of the shift was, with few exceptions, 8 hours; but in some cases a shorter shift was worked on Saturday. For 1,402 workers in grain milling, 1,517 in sugar making and refining, and 9,978 in paper making the Saturday morning shift was 6 or 7 hours. For the purpose of the above Table work performed on Saturday by these workers has been reckoned as a full shift. In the case of 1,231 workers in grain milling, 2,395 in sugar making and refining and 2,702 in paper making there was a recognised meal interval, usually of 30 minutes, included in the shift.

Increases in Rates of Wages since October, 1935.—In a number of industries for which particulars are given below, rates of wages have been increased since the date (October, 1935) to which the enquiry related. In the leather tanning industry men have received an increase of 1/4d. per hour, women 1d. per hour, and youths 1/2d. per hour; while in fellmongery men have received 1d. per hour. In the food, drink and tobacco group there have been increases of 2s. per week for men, 1s. 6d. for women, and 1s. for juveniles in the brewing industry at Burton-on-Trent, and increases for bakers in certain districts. In the paper making industry the rates of wages of men have been increased by 1/2d. to 1d. per hour in different districts, and those for women by 1/8d. to 1/4d. per hour.

I.—AVERAGE EARNINGS IN THE WEEK ENDED 12TH OCTOBER, 1935.

Main table showing average earnings and hours of labour for various industries, categorized by sex and age group.

\* Except in the case of those shift-workers for whom no definite interval for meals was agreed upon. See following paragraph. † The figures for this industry relate, in the case of one large firm, to a week in August, conditions in October having been abnormal.

I. AVERAGE EARNINGS IN THE WEEK ENDED 12TH OCTOBER, 1935.

Main table showing average earnings and hours of labour for various industries, categorized by sex and age group.

II. HOURS OF LABOUR\* IN THE WEEK ENDED 12TH OCTOBER, 1935.

Main table showing proportions of workpeople whose normal weekly hours were within certain limits, categorized by industry.

\* See paragraphs as to Hours of Labour and Shift-work on page 88.

† See footnote † on page 88.



BUILDING PLANS APPROVED IN 1936 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

RETURNS are collected each month by the Ministry of Labour relating to the estimated cost of buildings for which plans have been approved by Local Authorities in 146 of the principal towns in Great Britain.

Information is now available for all the 146 Authorities covered by the returns in respect of the whole of 1936, and in the Tables which follow, the figures for the year are summarised, both by monthly and quarterly periods, and also by districts. The totals are compared with the corresponding totals for 1935, and a summary Table is given with comparative figures for each year since 1923.

The Table below gives the estimated total cost both for each month and for each quarter of 1936, summarised according to the classes of buildings, with a comparison of the year's totals with those for 1935:—

Table with 7 columns: Period, Dwelling Houses, Factories and Workshops, Shops, Offices, Warehouses and Other Business Premises, Churches, Schools and Public Buildings, Other Buildings and Additions to existing Buildings, Total. Rows include 1936 monthly and quarterly data, and Total 1935.

In the further Table which follows, the estimated total cost for the year 1936 is analysed by districts and by classes of buildings. A comparison is also made between the total for each district and the corresponding total for 1935:—

Table with 7 columns: District, and Aggregate Population (in thousands) at Census of 1931\* of 146 Areas to which the figures relate, Dwelling Houses, Factories and Workshops, Shops, Offices, Warehouses and Other Business Premises, Churches, Schools and Public Buildings, Other Buildings and Additions to existing Buildings, Totals for 1936; and Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) compared with 1935. Rows include England and Wales districts and Scotland.

\* The population figures relate to the areas as at present constituted, taking into account revisions in area which have taken place since 1931. † Particulars are not available for the London County Council area.

The total for dwelling houses in 1936 was slightly below the total for 1935, and accounted for rather less than two-thirds of the estimated total cost of all buildings for which plans were passed, as compared with rather more than two-thirds in 1935; in each quarter of 1935 the totals for dwelling houses were greater than in the corresponding quarter of any previous year since 1923.

In the second Table above it will be observed that the totals for 1936 showed substantial increases over those for 1935 in the Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Scotland and Wales; only in the case of Outer London, where the total for dwelling-houses was noticeably lower than in 1935, was there any appreciable decrease from the level of the previous year.

The number of dwelling-houses for which plans were passed by the 146 Authorities in each quarter of 1936 is shown, by districts, in the following Table, which also includes the average cost per dwelling in each district for the whole year.

Table with 7 columns: District, Number of Dwelling Houses (Jan-Mar, April-June, July-Sept, Oct-Dec, Total, 1936), Average Cost per Dwelling for whole Year. Rows include England and Wales districts and Scotland.

It should be observed, with regard to the above figures, that the term "dwelling-house" may apply either to a self-contained house or to a flat or to a tenement in a large block of dwellings, and that the variations in the average cost per dwelling in the different districts will be partly due to variations in the types of dwellings, as well as to variations in size, etc. Details are not available as to the types of dwellings actually covered by the returns.

Comparison of Estimated Costs, 1923-36.—A comparison of the estimated total cost of buildings for which plans were passed in each of the last fourteen years is shown in the following Table, in which separate totals are given for dwelling-houses and for all classes of buildings combined, with index numbers for each year, taking 1924 as the standard of comparison:—

Table with 5 columns: Year, Estimated Total Cost (Dwelling Houses only, All Buildings), Index Numbers (Dwelling Houses only, All Buildings). Rows include years from 1923 to 1936.

The above figures indicate that, following an increase in the totals in 1924-6, there was a decline in 1927, due to a decrease in the dwelling-house group. The totals again increased in each year up to 1930, but fell off in 1931, in which year the total for all classes of buildings combined was less than in any previous year since 1924.

\* Index numbers for the totals recorded in each quarter since the beginning of 1927 are given in the quarterly Supplements to this GAZETTE. (See the Supplement published with the February issue.)

CHARTS ILLUSTRATING LABOUR STATISTICS.

A SPECIAL Supplement which is included with the present issue of this GAZETTE contains a selection of charts, etc., illustrating some of the principal official statistics relating to labour conditions. Explanatory notes are given below:—

Changes in Working-Class Cost of Living.

The first chart shows the general movement of working-class cost-of-living and retail prices of food in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as indicated by the index-numbers published each month in this GAZETTE (see, e.g., page 119 of the present issue).

Changes in Money Wages and in "Real" Wages.

This chart shows the average movement of weekly rates of wages and of "real" wages in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the average levels at the end of each month being expressed as percentages of the average level in 1924. The statistics on which the curve for wages is based refer to workers of unchanged grade, and almost wholly to those industries or sections of industries in which organised arrangements exist for the negotiation of changes in rates of wages on a collective basis; they relate to rates of wages for a full week and take no account of changes in earnings resulting from variations in the state of employment.

Trade Disputes.

The diagram shows the aggregate number of working days lost in strikes and lock-outs in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. It is based on statistics published in the issues of this GAZETTE for May, 1936 (page 163), and January, 1937 (page 6).

Numbers of Unemployed Persons on the Registers of Employment Exchanges.

This chart is based on the numbers of unemployed persons, males and females, whether insured or uninsured, and including those temporarily stopped as well as those wholly unemployed, registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain in the years 1921 to 1936 inclusive. The figures are published monthly in this GAZETTE (see, e.g., page 95 of the present issue).

Percentages Unemployed among Insured Persons.

This chart shows the fluctuations from 1921 to 1936 in the percentages unemployed among persons aged 16-64, excluding agricultural workers, insured against unemployment in Great Britain, as published regularly in this GAZETTE (see, e.g., page 105 of the present issue). Separate curves are given for the percentages wholly unemployed (including casuals), and temporarily stopped.

Claimants for Insurance Benefit and Applicants for Unemployment Allowances, etc., and Insured Non-Claimants.

For the period October, 1923, to October, 1931, this chart indicates separately the number of claimants for standard and transitional benefit respectively included in the numbers of unemployed persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges. From November, 1931, to December, 1934, the curves relate to the number of claimants for "insurance benefit," and "transitional payments," respectively.

The figures relate to Great Britain. Those for October, 1929, February, 1930, and May, 1930, were obtained from sample inquiries, the results of which were published in the issues of this GAZETTE for January, 1930, and October, 1930 (pages 9 and 358 respectively).

For subsequent dates the figures have been published regularly in this GAZETTE (see e.g., page 106 of the present issue).

Persons Insured against Unemployment and Numbers in Employment.

This diagram shows for the period June, 1923, to December, 1936, the estimated numbers of persons, aged 16-64, excluding agricultural workers, insured against unemployment in Great Britain, divided into four sections representing respectively the numbers in employment, the numbers directly involved in trade disputes, the numbers recorded as unemployed, and the numbers absent from work through sickness or other temporary reasons except holidays.

Average Numbers of Applicants for Unemployment Insurance Benefit and Unemployment Assistance registered each month as having been unemployed for the periods stated.

This diagram shows for each year from 1932 to 1936, the average numbers of applicants for insurance benefit and unemployment allowances on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain, who, at the date of each monthly count, had been registered as unemployed for various periods. The figures on which the diagram is based relate only to the duration of the last spell of registered unemployment as recorded at the date of the count. The diagram does not furnish an analysis according to the total amount of unemployment experienced in each year. Detailed figures comparable with those on which the diagram is based are given each month in this GAZETTE (see e.g., page 106 of this issue).

Insured Persons in Employment in the main Industry Groups.

This diagram indicates the numbers of insured persons, aged 16-64, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland in employment in five main industry groups at June of each year from 1923 to 1936, inclusive. Agriculture is excluded. The diagram is based on the figures used for the Table published on pages 466 and 467 of the December, 1936, issue of this GAZETTE, representing the differences between the estimated numbers insured and the numbers recorded as unemployed.

Vacancies notified to and filled by Employment Exchanges.

This diagram shows for each year from 1922 to 1936 the numbers of vacancies notified to, and filled by, Employment Exchanges in Great Britain (including Branch Employment Offices, and the Juvenile Employment Bureaux of Local Education Authorities).

Trade Union Membership.

The curves of this chart illustrate the changes in the membership of trade unions, registered and unregistered, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as shown by the statistics given in the October, 1936, issue of this GAZETTE (page 356).

Total Passenger Movement—Outward and Inward Balances from and to the United Kingdom.

This diagram is based on statistics prepared by the Board of Trade and shows the net balance of passengers travelling between the United Kingdom and the rest of the world, i.e., the difference between the total number of passengers leaving the United Kingdom and the total number entering in each year. The diagram provides a rough indication of the balance of migration from or into the United Kingdom.

FATAL ACCIDENTS IN MINES AND QUARRIES IN 1936.

THE Mines Department have issued a preliminary Statement\* of the number of deaths caused by accidents in and about the mines and quarries of Great Britain (including the Isle of Man) during the year 1936. The principal statistics are given below; the figures for 1936 are subject to minor corrections on the receipt of the final returns for the Annual Report.

Table with 6 columns: No. of separate Fatal Accidents in (1936, 1935, 1934), No. of Deaths caused by Fatal Accidents in (1936, 1935, 1934). Rows include Mines under the Coal Mines Act, 1911; Quarries under the Quarries Act, 1894; and Total.

Of the 777 deaths from accidents at mines under the Coal Mines Act in 1936, no fewer than 372, or 48 per cent., were due to falls of ground, including 276 at the working face, and 95 on underground roads. Haulage accidents underground accounted for 163 deaths, including 142 caused by persons being run over or crushed by trams or tubs. Of the remainder, 71 were due to explosions of firedamp or coal dust, 19 to shaft accidents, and 95 to miscellaneous accidents underground. Accidents on the surface accounted for 57 deaths.

It is estimated that for mines under the Coal Mines Act, 1911, the death-rate in 1936, per thousand persons employed was 1.00, as compared with 1.10 in 1935 and 1.35 in 1934. Taking a hundred thousand man-shifts worked as the basis, the death rate was 0.38 in 1936, 0.43 in 1935, and 0.53 in 1934. The death-rate per million tons of mineral raised was 3.32 in 1936, as compared with 3.77 in 1935 and 4.74 in 1934.

\* H.M. Stationery Office; price 2d. net (2½d., post free). † The Quarries Act, 1894, applies only to quarries more than 20 feet deep. In addition, 5 accidents, causing 5 deaths, were reported in 1936 at quarries 20 feet deep or less.

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY : GENERAL SUMMARY.

EMPLOYMENT in February showed a recovery from the seasonal decline recorded in January. The industries showing the greatest improvement included building and public works contracting, the clothing trades (including boot and shoe manufacture), the cotton industry, general engineering, the motor vehicle and aircraft industry, pottery and earthenware manufacture, and shipping service. In none of the principal industries was there a marked decline in employment.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

It is estimated that at 22nd February, 1937, the number of insured persons, aged 16-64, in employment in Great Britain, exclusive of agricultural workers, was approximately 11,187,000. This was 81,000 more than at 25th January, 1937, and 662,000 more than at 24th February, 1936.

Among insured workpeople, aged 16-64 (excluding agricultural workers), the percentage unemployed in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 22nd February, 1937 (including those temporarily stopped as well as those wholly unemployed), was 12.2, as compared with 12.6 at 25th January, 1937, and 15.3 at 24th February, 1936. In Great Britain the percentage at 22nd February, 1937, was 11.9 as compared with 12.3 at 25th January, 1937, and 15.1 at 24th February, 1936.

At 22nd February, 1937, the numbers of persons on the Registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain were 1,391,932 wholly unemployed, 161,834 temporarily stopped, and 74,079 normally in casual employment, making a total of 1,627,845. This was 61,378 less than a month before, and 397,176 less than a year before. The total of 1,627,845 included 1,278,659 men, 45,535 boys, 253,666 women, and 49,985 girls.

The persons on the Registers included 1,385,171 insured persons who were applicants for insurance benefit or unemployment allowances, 132,962 other insured persons (including insured juveniles under 16 years of age), and 109,712 uninsured persons. Of the 1,385,171 applicants for benefit or allowances, 754,823 had claims admitted for insurance benefit, and 559,216 had applications authorised for allowances at 22nd February, 1937; the balance of 71,132 included 40,763 persons whose position under the conditions relating to contributions paid and benefit received had not been determined, 8,762 persons who had been disqualified for short periods from receiving benefit, and 21,607 persons whose needs had been held not to justify payment of unemployment allowances.

In Great Britain and Northern Ireland the total number of persons on the Registers of Employment Exchanges at 22nd February, 1937, was 1,703,926, as compared with 1,766,362 at 25th January, 1937, and 2,093,900 at 24th February, 1936.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

Mining and Quarrying.—In the coal mining industry employment in February showed little change on the whole as compared with January. It was good in the Midlands and in Kent, and moderate to fair in other districts except in Cumberland and South Wales, where it was very bad. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 20th February, 1937, showed an increase of 0.7 per cent. as compared with 23rd January, 1937, and of 0.3 per cent. as compared with 22nd February, 1936. The average number of days worked per week in the fortnight ended 20th February, 1937, was 5.53, an increase of 0.16 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 23rd January, 1937, and of 0.22 of a day as compared with the fortnight ended 22nd February, 1936.

In the iron mining industry employment showed an improvement and was good in most districts. At the West Lothian shale mines it continued fair. At the East of Scotland whinstone quarries employment improved to some extent, but was still affected by unfavourable weather conditions. Employment at slate quarries in North Wales continued good. At tin mines it remained slack. There was an improvement at china clay quarries, where employment was fairly good. At lime stone quarries in the Buxton area employment continued good, while in the Cleveland area it was fairly good. At chalk quarries there was an improvement and employment was good.

Pig Iron, Iron and Steel and Tinplate.—In the pig iron industry and in iron and steel manufacture employment showed improvement as compared with the previous month, and was good in many areas; it was much better than a year ago. Employment also improved in the tinplate industry; but there was little change in steel sheet manufacture.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and Other Metal Industries.—In the engineering industry employment improved and was good on the whole. There was an improvement in motor vehicle manufacture and employment was very good; it remained very good in electrical engineering. Employment improved in general engineering and in textile engineering, and was good in the former and moderate in the latter; it remained fair in marine engineering and in constructional engineering.

In the shipbuilding and ship-repairing industry the improvement recorded in recent months continued. Shortages of certain classes of skilled men were reported in some districts.

In the other metal trades employment showed little change and continued good on the whole. It was very good in the brasswork trade; good in the sheet metal, ironfounding (other than engineers' ironfounding), jewellery and plated ware, hollow-ware, and nut, bolt, nail, rivet, etc. trades; fairly good in the file, tube, wire manufacturing and needle and fishing tackle trades; and fair in the edge tool and chain and anchor trades.

Textile Industries.—In the cotton industry employment showed a further improvement in February. There was a shortage of workers at many centres.

In the wool textile industry employment showed little change on the whole during February. Shortages of labour were again reported in several districts. In the carpet section employment was good in all the principal districts.

Employment in the hosiery trade showed little change and was fairly good. In the lace trade it showed an improvement and was good. There was a slight improvement in the silk manufacturing industry, and in artificial silk yarn manufacture, at some centres, and employment was fairly good. In the linen trade it showed little change and remained slack; there was a slight decline in the jute trade and employment continued bad. In the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc. trades, employment showed an improvement and was moderate generally.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the retail bespoke and in the ready-made and wholesale bespoke branches of the tailoring trades showed an improvement and was fair on the whole. There was also an improvement in the dressmaking and millinery trades and employment was fairly good. Employment in the shirt and collar trade showed an improvement and was fair. In the glove and corset trades there was an improvement and employment continued good at most centres. Employment in the hat trade continued to improve and was fair.

In the boot and shoe industry employment showed a marked improvement. Short-time working decreased, and there was a considerable amount of overtime working.

Leather Trades.—Employment in all sections of the leather trades showed an improvement; it was fair in the tanning, currying and leather-dressing sections, and fairly good in other sections.

Building, Woodworking, etc.—In the building industry employment showed a slight improvement and was moderate on the whole. In individual occupations it was good for the time of year with bricklayers and carpenters, slack with painters, and fair with other classes of skilled operatives; in some areas a shortage of bricklayers was reported. In brick manufacture employment showed a slight improvement and continued fairly good.

Employment in the furnishing trades improved slightly and continued fair; with millawyers and coachbuilders it showed little change and remained fair on the whole.

Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.—In the paper-making industry employment showed little change and continued good generally. In the printing industry it improved and was fairly good on the whole. With bookbinders there was a slight decline, but employment was good.

Pottery and Glass.—In the North Staffordshire pottery industry employment showed an improvement and was fair on the whole. There was no appreciable change in the glass trades, and employment remained slack in the bottle-making section, and fairly good in other sections.

Fishing.—With fishermen employment showed a slight improvement, but continued very bad on the whole.

Dock Labourers and Seamen.—Employment declined slightly among port transport workers; there was little change in harbour, river, and canal service. Employment among seamen improved slightly but remained slack on the whole.

UNEMPLOYMENT SUMMARY BY DISTRICTS.

The following Table shows, for the main areas into which the country is divided for the purposes of the administration of the Unemployment Insurance Acts, the proportions unemployed among insured workpeople,\* aged 16-64, and the numbers of unemployed persons (insured and uninsured), aged 14 years and over, on the registers of Employment Exchanges, etc., at 22nd February, 1937:—

Table with columns for Division, Percentages unemployed amongst Insured Workpeople, aged 16-64\* at 22nd Feb., 1937, Unemployed Persons on Registers of Employment Exchanges at 22nd Feb., 1937, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month before and a year before.

\* Excluding insured agricultural workers.

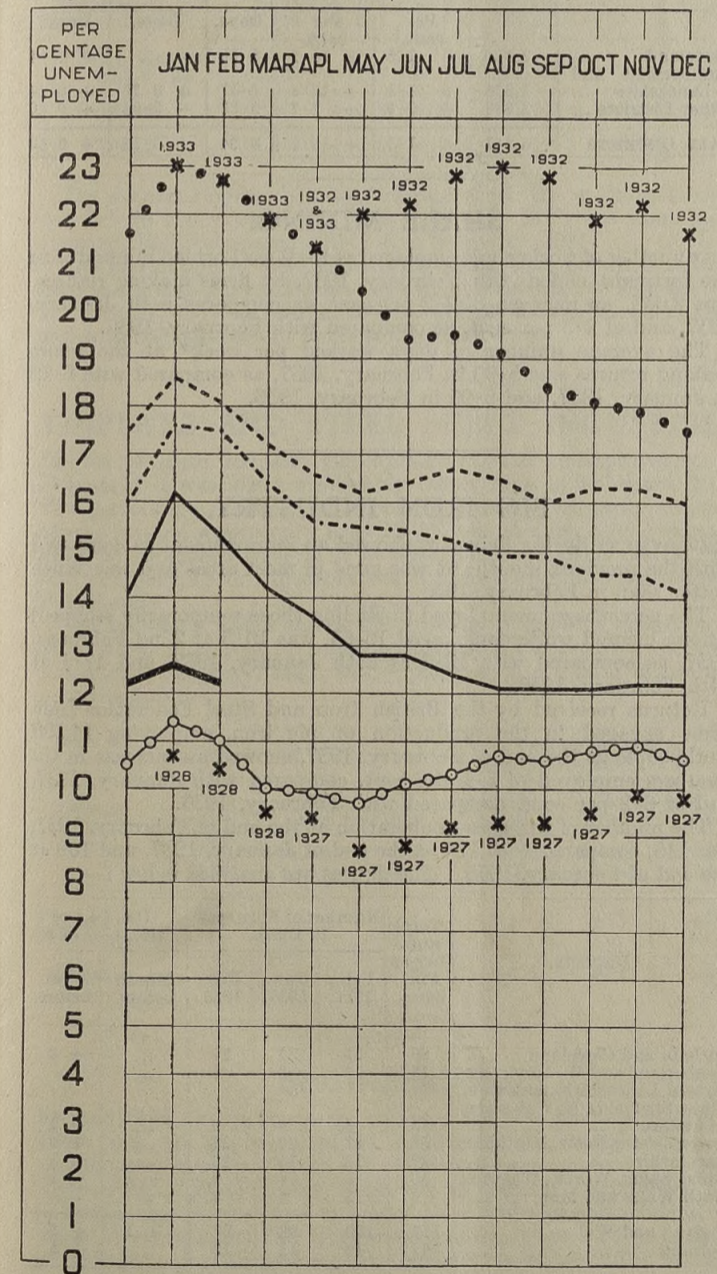
UNEMPLOYMENT DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

Table showing Unemployment during the past 12 months from 1936 to 1937, detailing percentages unemployed for Males and Females, and total numbers of unemployed persons insured and uninsured.

UNEMPLOYMENT CHART.

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

1937. --- 1934. - - - - -
1936. --- 1933. • • • • •
1935. - - - - - Mean for 1924-29† ○ ○ ○ ○ ○



\* Excluding workers insured under the Agricultural Scheme. Up to and including June, 1936, these are revised percentages calculated on the basis of the estimated numbers insured at the dates referred to; those for later months are based on the estimated numbers insured at July, 1936, and are subject to slight revision when information becomes available as to the number of unemployment books exchanged at July, 1937.

† Excluding the period April, 1926, to March, 1927.

COMPOSITION OF UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

The following Table gives an analysis of the unemployment figures for 22nd February, 1937:—

Table showing composition of unemployment statistics for Great Britain, categorized by gender and age groups, including Persons on Register, Two-months Files, and Total Insured Unemployed.

NUMBERS ON THE REGISTERS OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.†

ANALYSIS FOR 22nd FEBRUARY, 1937, AND 25th JANUARY, 1937

Table comparing numbers on registers of employment exchanges for Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 22nd February 1937 and 25th January 1937, categorized by gender and employment status.

VACANCIES NOTIFIED TO, AND FILLED BY, EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.† (GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.)

Table showing vacancies notified to and filled by employment exchanges for Great Britain and Northern Ireland, categorized by gender and compared with a year before.

\* In addition to those persons who had claims admitted for benefit under the agricultural scheme, some persons who are classified, on page 105, as insured under that scheme at July, 1936, and unemployed at 22nd February, had claims for agricultural benefit under consideration; and some others were claiming benefit under the general scheme, in virtue of contributions paid during periods of employment in industries other than agriculture.

† The figures include 63 private gardeners (62 men aged 18-64, 5 boys aged 16-17, and 1 boy aged under 15).

‡ i.e., uninsured persons, together with small numbers insured under the special schemes for the banking and insurance industries. The numbers of claimants to benefit under these schemes are shown in item 7.

§ See explanation on page 102. The figures include 9 private gardeners (all men).

¶ The term "Employment Exchange," as used in this connection, includes Ministry of Labour Employment Exchanges and Branch Employment Offices, and also Juvenile Employment Bureaux under the control of Local Education Authorities which are exercising powers under Sec. 81 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1935.

\*\* "Vacancies Filled" include certain types of cases (described as Class B engagements) in which the work of the Exchanges was limited; for instance, obtaining for an employer former employees or placing the same men in relief work in alternate weeks. During the four weeks ended 22nd February, 1937, the average number of such placings of men and women was 8,347 per week.



COTTON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT showed a further improvement in February, and was much better than a year ago. A shortage of workers was reported from many centres.

The percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, in the industry as a whole, was 10.8 at 22nd February, 1937, as compared with 11.4 at 25th January, 1937, and with 17.0 at 24th February, 1936. In the preparing and spinning departments the corresponding percentages were 10.7, 11.1, and 16.5; in the manufacturing department they were 10.9, 11.7, and 17.5.

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

Table with 6 columns: Department/District, Number of Workpeople (Week ended 20th Feb., 1937), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Year before, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople (£), and Per cent. (Week ended 20th Feb., 1937, Month before, Year before).

Returns from firms employing about 61,100 workpeople in the week ended 20th February, 1937, showed that about 2 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time in that week, losing 13 hours each on the average. These figures do not take account of other forms of under-employment, e.g., reductions in the number of looms worked by individual operatives.

At Ashton-under-Lyne employment improved, and was much better than a year ago. There was also some improvement at Stockport. Employment at Glossop continued good.

In the Oldham district there was again an improvement, much better time being worked; employment was fairly good both in the spinning and manufacturing departments, and better than a year ago. It was reported that more looms would have been working but for the shortage of weavers.

At Bolton employment showed a further improvement; it was moderate with spinning and cardroom workers, and good with weavers. At Leigh employment continued good generally, and was better than a year ago. At Bury it showed a slight improvement. Employment at Rochdale the improvement reported in previous months was maintained; in the manufacturing department there was little change.

At Preston, Burnley, Chorley and Great Harwood employment showed little general change. At Blackburn, Accrington, Darwen, Padiham and Nelson employment improved, and was better than a year ago. At Colne there was little change. In the Rossendale Valley employment improved slightly and was fair.

Employment with doublers in Yorkshire continued very good; it showed a further improvement with spinners and was good. At Todmorden employment continued good.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of 56 Employment Exchanges in the principal cotton trade centres in Lancashire and Cheshire at 22nd February, 1937:-

Table with 6 columns: Department, Wholely Unemployed (Men, Women), Temporarily Stopped (Men, Women), Total, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a month before.

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

WOOL TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT showed little change on the whole during February, and remained fairly good. Shortages of labour were again reported in several districts.

The percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, in the woollen and worsted industry was 7.4 at 22nd February, 1937, compared with 7.1 at 25th January, 1937, and 9.7 at 24th February, 1936. In the carpet section, the corresponding percentages were 4.4, 4.5 and 6.1.

Worsteds Section.—Employment remained good or fair in all the principal departments and districts.

Returns from employers for the week ended 20th February, 1937, showed that, in the worsteds section as a whole, 12½ per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns were on short time\* in that week, losing 10 hours each on the average, and 14 per cent. were on overtime, averaging 6 hours each. In the sorting, combing and preparing departments, 19 per cent. were on short time, losing 17 hours each on the average, and 11 per cent. were on overtime, averaging 8 hours each. In the spinning department, 12 per cent. were on short time, losing 7½ hours each on the average, and 17 per cent. were on overtime, averaging 5½ hours each. In the weaving department the corresponding figures were: short time, 8½ per cent. and 7½ hours; overtime, 12 per cent. and 5 hours.

With wool sorters employment was fair. In the woollombing department there was a decline in all sections, and employment was not so good as a year ago. It improved in the spinning and weaving departments, and was good or fairly good generally.

At Bradford employment declined, but remained fairly good; and a shortage of weavers and of burlers and menders in the manufacturing department was again reported. At Halifax employment remained fairly good. At Keighley, the spinning department employment remained good. Short time continued to be worked in the fine worsteds (men's wear) section at Huddersfield, but employment was better than a year ago.

Woollen Section.—Employment showed a slight improvement, and was good in most districts, with much overtime and night shift working; it was better than a year ago.

Returns from employers for the week ended 20th February, 1937, showed that, in the woollen section as a whole, 8 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns were on short time\* in that week, losing 8 hours each on the average, and 24½ per cent. were on overtime, averaging 6 hours each. In the spinning department 7½ per cent. were on short time, losing 6 hours each on the average, and 32 per cent. were on overtime, averaging 7 hours each. In the weaving department the corresponding figures were: short time, 7½ per cent. and 7 hours; overtime, 20 per cent. and 5 hours.

Good employment was maintained in the Huddersfield and Colne Valley districts; and employment was good, and better than in January, in the Heavy Woollen District. In the rag and shoddy trade employment remained at a high level, and a shortage of juvenile labour was reported. At Leeds and Morley there was some improvement, and employment was good.

In the blanket trade employment remained good at Witney, and fair in Yorkshire. Among flannel workers at Rochdale and Saddleworth employment remained fair, and was better than a year ago. In the West of England employment was good generally. In the South of Scotland some firms were fairly busy; employment on the whole was moderate, and better than in February, 1936.

Carpet Section.—Employment was good in all the principal districts.

The following Tables summarise the information received from employers:-

Table with 6 columns: Department, Number of Workpeople, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, and Per cent. (Week ended 20th Feb., 1937, Month before, Year before).

\* The figures given in this article as to short time do not take into account, in the case of the weaving departments, other forms of under-employment, such as "playing for warps" or tending one loom instead of two. † Comparison of earnings is affected by reductions in rates of wages which have been made by certain firms at various dates since February, 1929.

BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT showed a marked improvement in February. Short time working decreased, and there was a considerable amount of overtime working. The percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, was 10.7 at 22nd February, 1937, as compared with 12.9 both at 25th January, 1937, and at 24th February, 1936.

The following table summarises the information received from those employers who made returns:-

Table with 6 columns: Department, Number of Workpeople, Total wages paid to all Workpeople, and Per cent. (Week ended 20th Feb., 1937, Month before, Year before).

Returns from firms employing about 57,800 workpeople in the week ended 20th February, 1937, showed that 26 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time in that week, losing 6 hours each on the average; while nearly 17 per cent. were on overtime, to the extent of over 3 hours each on the average. The Bristol and Kingswood district again showed the largest amount of short time working; while overtime was largely worked in the Kettering, Norwich, and Stafford districts.

Employment in London improved and was fair; there continued to be an unsatisfied demand for skilled workers.

At Leicester employment again improved, and was good with women workers; it was described as better than it had been for four years. It improved also in the Leicestershire country district, and was good with some firms and fair generally.

At Northampton there was a considerable improvement, and employment with many firms was fairly good; with other firms short time was still largely worked. At Kettering and Desborough employment improved and was good; the reduction in unemployment, however, was partly caused by the engagement of substitute workers to fill vacancies due to sickness. There was also an improvement at the other Northamptonshire centres generally, and employment was fairly good.

At Stafford and at Norwich employment again improved; at Stafford there was practically no short time, and at both centres there was a considerable amount of overtime working.

In the Bristol and Kingswood district employment improved but remained slack, with much short time working. There was also a slight improvement at Leeds, but employment remained rather slack. In the Lancashire slipper trade there was some improvement, but short time was still largely worked.

Employment continued good at Kilmarnock and slack at Edinburgh; there was a slight improvement at Maybole, but employment was still bad.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of 53 Employment Exchanges in the principal centres of the boot and shoe industry at 22nd February, 1937:-

Table with 6 columns: Department, Wholely Unemployed (Men, Women), Temporarily Stopped (Men, Women), Total, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a month before.

Table with 6 columns: Districts, Number of Workpeople, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, and Per cent. (Week ended 20th Feb., 1937, Month before, Year before).

The following Table shows, by districts and by departments, the percentage increases and decreases in the numbers employed in the week ended 20th February, 1937, by those firms who supplied returns for the purpose of the foregoing table (excluding the carpet section), as compared with the week ended 23rd January, 1937:-

Table with 5 columns: Department, Spinning, Weaving, Other Depts., and All Depts. (including not specified).

The following Table shows the number of men and of women (other than casuals) on the registers of 17 Employment Exchanges in the principal wool textile trade centres at 22nd February, 1937:-

Table with 6 columns: Department, Wholely Unemployed (Men, Women), Temporarily Stopped (Men, Women), Total, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a month before.

\* See footnote † in second column, page 98. † Most of the districts are indicated by the names of their principal towns, but neighbouring towns and areas are included in each case.

BRICK INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT showed a slight improvement during February and continued fairly good.

The percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, was 9.5 at 22nd February, 1937, as compared with 9.8 at 25th January, 1937, and 13.6 at 24th February, 1936.

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

Table with columns for Districts, Number of Workpeople, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople, and percentage changes for various periods.

Returns from employers relative to short-time and overtime working showed that, of 12,601 workpeople employed by firms furnishing information, over 4 1/2 per cent. were working overtime to the extent of nearly 7 1/2 hours each on the average.

BUILDING.

EMPLOYMENT during February showed a slight improvement and was moderate on the whole. Compared with a year ago there was an improvement among all occupations, and in all administrative divisions except Northern Ireland.

As regards individual occupations employment was good for the time of year with bricklayers and carpenters, slack with painters and fair with other classes of skilled operatives; in some areas a shortage of bricklayers was reported. Among labourers, etc., employment remained very slack.

The Table below shows the numbers and percentages unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) at 22nd February, 1937, among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, together with the increase or decrease in the percentages unemployed as compared with the previous month and with February, 1936:—

Large table with multiple columns showing numbers and percentages of insured workpeople aged 16-64, categorized by occupations and divisions.

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

Returns as to the estimated cost of buildings for which plans were approved during February have been received from 142 Local Authorities (representing towns with a population of 17,473,000 in 1931). These returns show that in February, 1937, plans were passed for buildings with an estimated cost of £10,646,600, as compared with £9,954,100 in February, 1936.

An analysis of the figures for February, 1937, by districts and by classes of buildings, is given on page 109 of the present issue.

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

POTTERY INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in North Staffordshire showed an improvement compared with the previous month, and was fair on the whole; in the china section there was increased activity due to orders for coronation wares, and shortages of labour were reported in certain occupations. At Derby employment was good; at Worcester it was very good; at Bristol it continued fair.

The percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, was 14.2 at 22nd February, 1937, as compared with 17.0 at 25th January, 1937, and 21.9 at 24th February, 1936.

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

Table with columns for Districts, Number of Workpeople, Total wages paid to all Workpeople, and percentage changes for various periods.

Returns from employers relative to short-time working showed that, of 10,860 workpeople employed by firms making returns, 1,498, or nearly 14 per cent., were working on an average 9 1/2 hours less than full time in the week ended 20th February, 1937; on the other hand, 947, or about 8 1/2 per cent., were working overtime to the extent of about 5 hours each on the average.

PAPER MANUFACTURE, PRINTING, AND BOOKBINDING.

EMPLOYMENT in the paper-making industry showed little change as compared with January and continued good generally; it was better than a year ago.

In the letterpress printing industry employment improved in February and was good on the whole; it was better than a year ago. At Manchester, however, it was reported to be fair only. Employment with electrotypers and stereotypers was very fair.

Employment in the lithographic printing industry showed an improvement as compared with January and was better than a year ago. Reports from Bradford, Liverpool and Edinburgh, however, indicated that employment, though better than in January, was relatively poor. With lithographic artists it was good.

In the bookbinding industry employment showed a slight decline as compared with the previous month but was good on the whole.

The percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, in the paper and paper-board industries was 4.8 at 22nd February, 1937, as compared with 4.6 at 25th January, 1937, and 6.9 at 24th February, 1936. The corresponding percentages unemployed in the printing and book-binding industries were 7.4, 7.7 and 9.2; in the cardboard box, paper-bag and stationery industries they were 5.5, 5.9 and 7.3.

The following Table summarises the returns from various trade unions which furnished information as to the extent of unemployment amongst their members:—

Table with columns for No. of Members of Unions at end of February, 1937, Percentage Unemployed at end of Feb., Jan., Feb., 1936, and percentage changes for various periods.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT during February declined slightly among port transport workers, and showed little change in harbour, river and canal service: it was better than in the corresponding period last year.

Among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, in the dock, harbour, river and canal service, 28.9 per cent. were unemployed at 22nd February, 1937, as compared with 28.3 per cent. at 25th January

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

NUMBERS ON THE REGISTERS IN THE PRINCIPAL TOWNS.

The Table below shows for each of the Employment Exchange administrative areas in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and for the principal towns therein, the number of unemployed persons registered at Employment Exchanges on 22nd February, 1937. In certain cases (e.g., Birmingham, Sheffield, Liverpool, Glasgow, Edinburgh, etc.) the figures cover more than one Exchange area.

Table showing Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London, categorized by period and location.

Tilbury.—The average daily number of dock labourers employed during February was 843, compared with 859 in January, 1937, and with 829 in February, 1936.

North-East Coast.—Employment at most ports remained moderate, but showed some improvement on the whole.

Mersey.—Employment at Liverpool declined somewhat, but was fair; at Garston it remained steady; while at Salford it declined sharply, mainly among casual labourers.

The average weekly number of dock labourers registered at the clearing houses under the Liverpool Docks Scheme as employed in the four weeks ended 26th February, 1937, was 12,060, compared with 12,402 in January, 1937, and with 11,518 in February, 1936. The average weekly amount of wages paid to these men through the clearing houses was £34,227 in the four weeks ended 26th February, 1937, compared with £33,736 in January, 1937, and with £29,261 in February, 1936.

Other Ports in England and Wales.—Employment at Cardiff and Swansea declined somewhat. Employment at Bristol and Avonmouth was quiet in the first two weeks, but improved considerably towards the end of the month. At Southampton and Plymouth it showed little change.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—Employment at Glasgow and Grange-mouth continued moderate; at Dundee and Leith it showed little change, and was fair to moderate; and at Belfast it remained good.

SEAMEN.

EMPLOYMENT among seamen improved slightly during February, particularly in the second and third weeks of the month, but remained slack on the whole. Among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, in the shipping service, the percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) at 22nd February, 1937, was 22.7, compared with 24.0 at 25th January, 1937 and 29.5 at 24th February, 1936.

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

Table with columns for Principal Ports, Number of Seamen\* shipped in Feb., 1937, and percentage changes for various periods.

\* It will be understood that the numbers given are the numbers of separate engagements, and not of separate individuals. † Including Birkenhead and Garston. ‡ Including Avonmouth and Portishead. § Including Barry and Penarth.

\* The figures for Rutherglen are included. [Percentage rates of unemployment for each of about 760 towns in Great Britain are given in the Monthly "Local Unemployment Index."]



UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

THE statistics here presented show, industry by industry, the estimated number of persons aged 16-64, insured against unemployment at July, 1936, and the total number and percentage of such persons unemployed on 22nd February, 1937, distinguishing those wholly unemployed (i.e., out of a situation) from those temporarily stopped (i.e., suspended from work on the understanding that they were shortly to return to their former employment).

The Unemployment Insurance Acts provide, subject to certain exceptions, for the compulsory insurance against unemployment of substantially all employed persons. The principal classes excepted are persons aged 65 and over, persons employed otherwise than by way of manual labour at a rate of remuneration exceeding in value £250 per annum, private domestic servants, and outworkers. Persons employed by local public authorities, railways and certain other public utility undertakings, members of the police forces, and persons with rights under a statutory superannuation scheme may, in certain circumstances, also be excepted. Prior to September, 1934, juveniles under 16 years of age were also excepted, and they are excluded from the statistics in these Tables; particulars of the numbers of these juveniles recorded as unemployed at 22nd February, 1937, are given on pages 107 and 108.

An unemployment book, on which is recorded the industry in which he is employed, is issued to every insured person, and this book must be lodged at an Employment Exchange whenever the insured person makes a claim for unemployment benefit, or for an unemployment allowance, or registers as unemployed without claiming benefit or allowances.

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

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

The numbers unemployed given in the following Tables relate only to persons aged 16-64, insured against unemployment. They include insured persons of those ages maintaining registration at Employment Exchanges, together with those whose unemployment books remain lodged in the "two months" file referred to above. The figures given on page 95 relating to persons registered at Employment Exchanges include uninsured as well as insured persons who are maintaining registration for employment, but not insured persons whose books are in the two months file. A Table showing the composition of the two series of figures is given on page 95.

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

The estimated numbers of insured persons in each industry are computed once a year, in November, on the basis of information obtained at the annual exchange of unemployment books. The figures relate to the beginning of July, and similar statistics are not available for other dates in the year. In considering the figures on pages 104 and 105 it should be borne in mind that, in the case of individual industries, the percentage rates of unemployment at January and February, 1937, have been calculated on the basis of the estimated numbers of insured persons at the beginning of July, 1936; while the figures for February, 1936, and 1935, are calculated on the basis of the estimated numbers insured at July, 1935, and 1934, respectively (but see footnote † on page 105 regarding the percentages for all industries and services combined). In an industry in which a relatively large change occurs during one or more years in the estimated number of insured workpeople, this change may have an important effect on the relative percentage rates of unemployment.

I. INSURED PERSONS AGED 16-64, EXCLUSIVE OF AGRICULTURAL WORKERS,\* RECORDED AS UNEMPLOYED AT 22nd FEBRUARY, 1937.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals), TEMPORARY STOPPAGES, TOTAL, GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, GREAT BRITAIN ONLY, WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED, TEMPORARY STOPPAGES AND CASUALS. Rows include Fishing, Mining, Non-Metalliferous Mining Products, Brick, Tile, Pipe, etc., Pottery, Glass, Chemicals, Metal Manufacture, Engineering, Construction and Repair of Vehicles, Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing.

\* Statistics relating to unemployment among workers insured under the agricultural scheme are given on page 105.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals), TEMPORARY STOPPAGES, TOTAL, GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, GREAT BRITAIN ONLY, WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED, TEMPORARY STOPPAGES AND CASUALS. Rows include Other Metal Industries, Textiles, Leather and Leather Goods, Clothing, Food, Drink and Tobacco, Woodworking, Paper, Printing, etc., Building and Contracting, Other Manufacturing Industries, Gas, Water and Electricity Supply, Transport and Communication, Distributive Trades, Commerce, Banking, Insurance and Finance, Miscellaneous Trades and Services.

\* Excluding agricultural workers and juveniles under 16 years of age (see Tables on pages 105, 107 and 108).

† Including 76,361 casuals (males, 74,505; females, 1,856).

GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

Main table for Great Britain and Northern Ireland showing industry, estimated number of insured persons, and percentages at 22nd February 1937. Includes sub-sections for Fishing, Mining, Non-Metalliferous Mining Products, Brick, Tile, Pipe, etc., Glass, Chemicals, Metal Manufacture, Engineering, Construction and Repair of Vehicles, Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing, Other Metal Industries, Textiles, Leather and Leather Goods, Clothing, Food, Drink and Tobacco, and Woodworking.

\* See last paragraph of text on page 102.

Main table for Great Britain and Northern Ireland showing industry, estimated number of insured persons, and percentages at 22nd February 1937. Includes sub-sections for Paper, Printing, etc., Building and Contracting, Other Manufacturing Industries, Gas, Water and Electricity Supply, Transport and Communication, Distributive Trades, Commerce, Banking, Insurance and Finance, Miscellaneous Trades and Services, and a TOTAL summary.

II. INSURED AGRICULTURAL WORKERS RECORDED AS UNEMPLOYED AT 22nd FEBRUARY, 1937.

The numbers of these workers recorded as unemployed at 22nd February, 1937, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland (exclusive of private gardeners) who numbered 77) were as shown below:—

Table showing the distribution of insured agricultural workers recorded as unemployed by age group (Aged 14 & 15 years, Aged 16 & 17 years, Aged 18-20 years, Aged 21-64 years, Total) for Males and Females.

As explained in the November, 1936, issue of this GAZETTE (page 397), the information on which estimates of the total numbers of insured workers in particular industries are ordinarily based will not be obtainable, as regards agricultural workers, until after the next general exchange of unemployment books, in July, 1937. It will

not, therefore, be possible to compute exact percentages of unemployment, comparable with those given for other industries in the foregoing Table, until after that date. In the meantime, provisional estimates of the numbers insured at July, 1936, have been made on the basis of such particulars as are in the possession of the Department, and in the following Table these estimates are utilised for the purpose of approximate calculations of the percentages unemployed among persons, aged 16-64, in each of the groups for which particulars are available. It should be observed that the estimated numbers insured and the percentages unemployed are subject to revision in the light of the information which will be derived from the exchange of unemployment books next year. Comparable percentages of unemployment cannot be calculated for dates earlier than November, 1936, owing to the alteration in conditions caused by the operation of the benefit provisions of the Unemployment Insurance (Agriculture) Act, 1936.

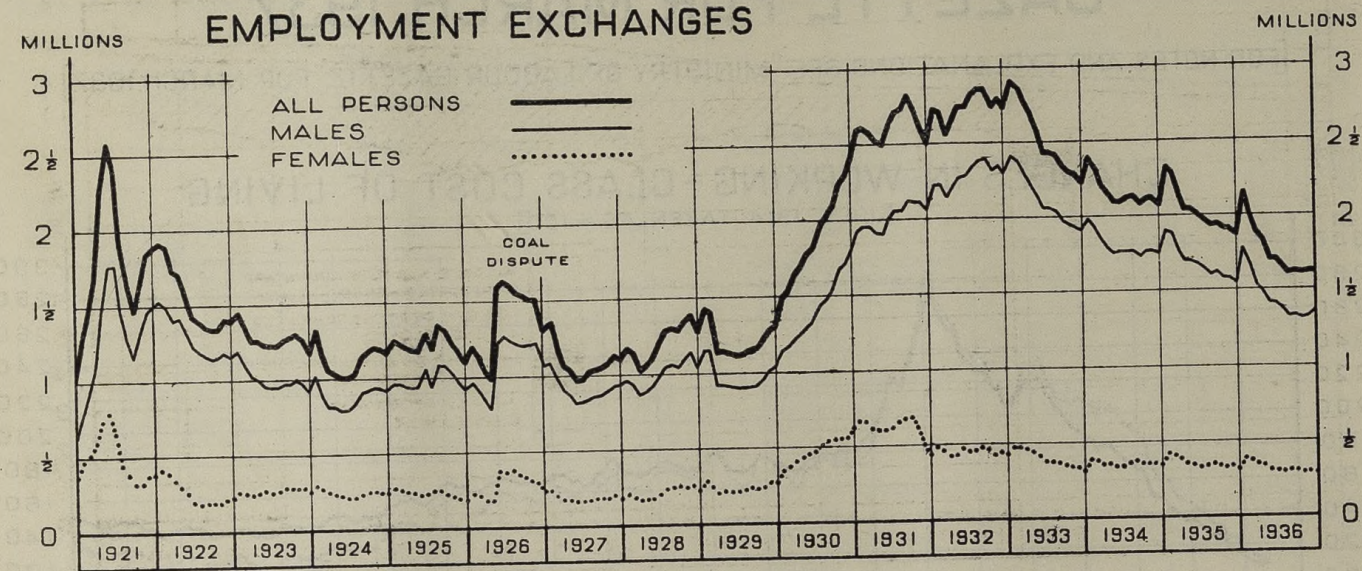
Table showing the distribution of insured agricultural workers recorded as unemployed by industry (Farming, Forestry, etc.; Market Gardening, Horticulture, etc.; Other Gardening) and by age group (Aged 14 & 15 years, Aged 16 & 17 years, Aged 18-20 years, Aged 21-64 years, Total) for Males and Females.

Among insured agricultural workers aged 16-64, the numbers and approximate percentages recorded as unemployed in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 25th January, 1937, were: farming, forestry, etc., 27,993 (5.8 per cent.); market gardening horticulture, etc., 6,033 (8.4 per cent.); other gardening, 1,468 (4.3 per cent.); total, 35,494 (6.0 per cent.).

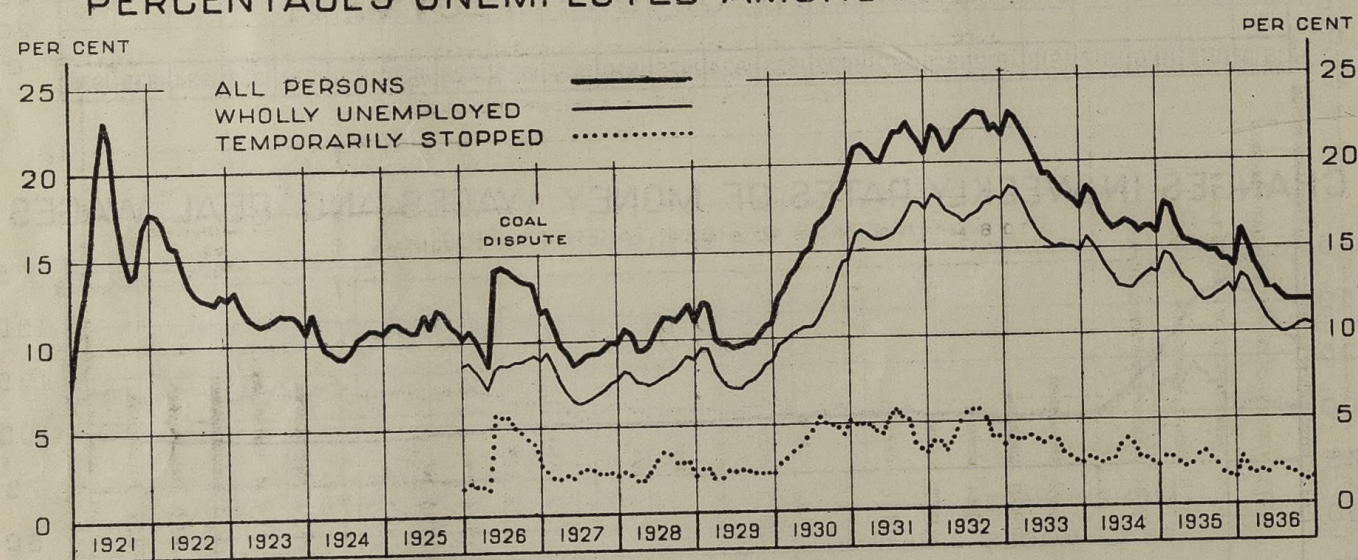
\* See last paragraph of text on page 102. † For 25th February, 1935, separate figures are not available. ‡ The percentages for all industries and services combined for February, 1936, and February, 1935, used for these comparisons are the revised figures based on the estimated number insured at those dates—see the issue of this GAZETTE for November, 1936, page 397. The percentages given for January, 1937, and February, 1937, are based on the numbers insured at July, 1936. § Excluding agricultural workers and juveniles under 16 years of age. ¶ By virtue of the Private Gardener Inclusions Order, 1936, private gardeners have been included within the agricultural scheme of unemployment insurance as from 1st February, 1937. (See page 476 of the December, 1936, issue of this GAZETTE.) Estimates of the number of private gardeners so included are not yet available.



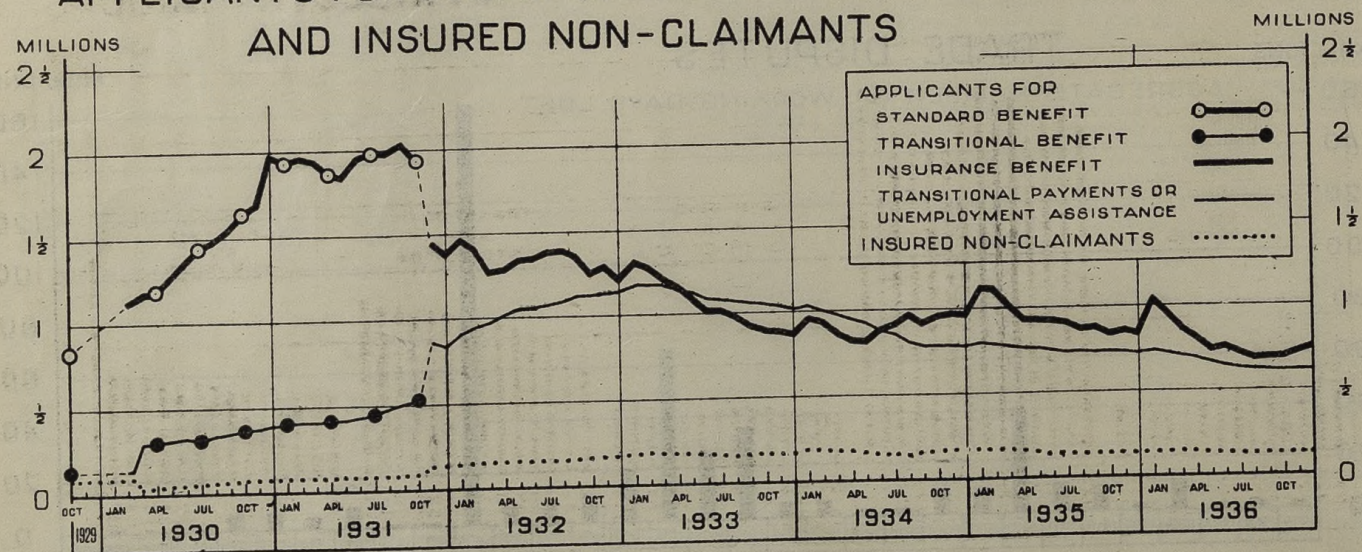
### NUMBERS OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS ON THE REGISTERS OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES



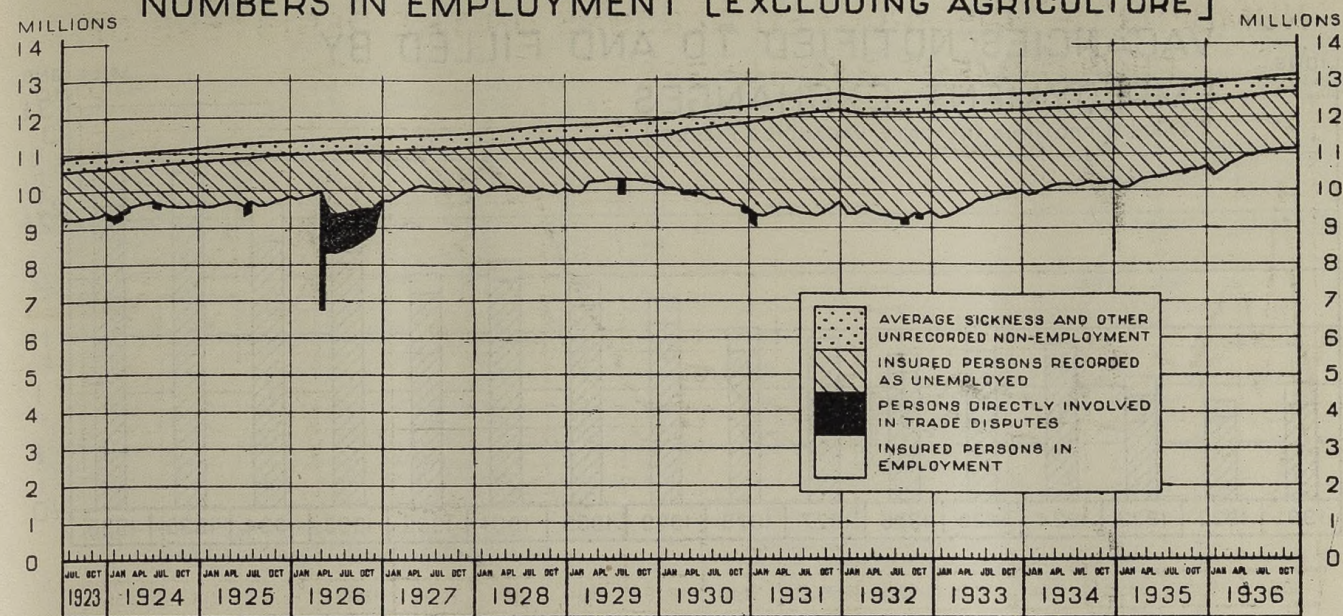
### PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED AMONG INSURED PERSONS



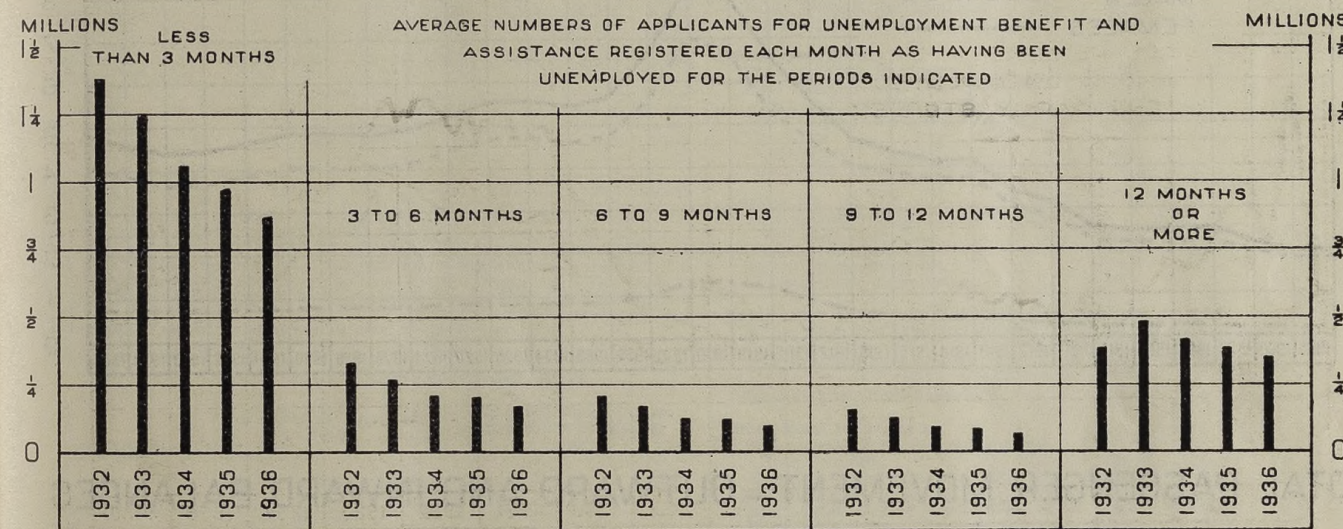
### APPLICANTS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT AND ASSISTANCE AND INSURED NON-CLAIMANTS



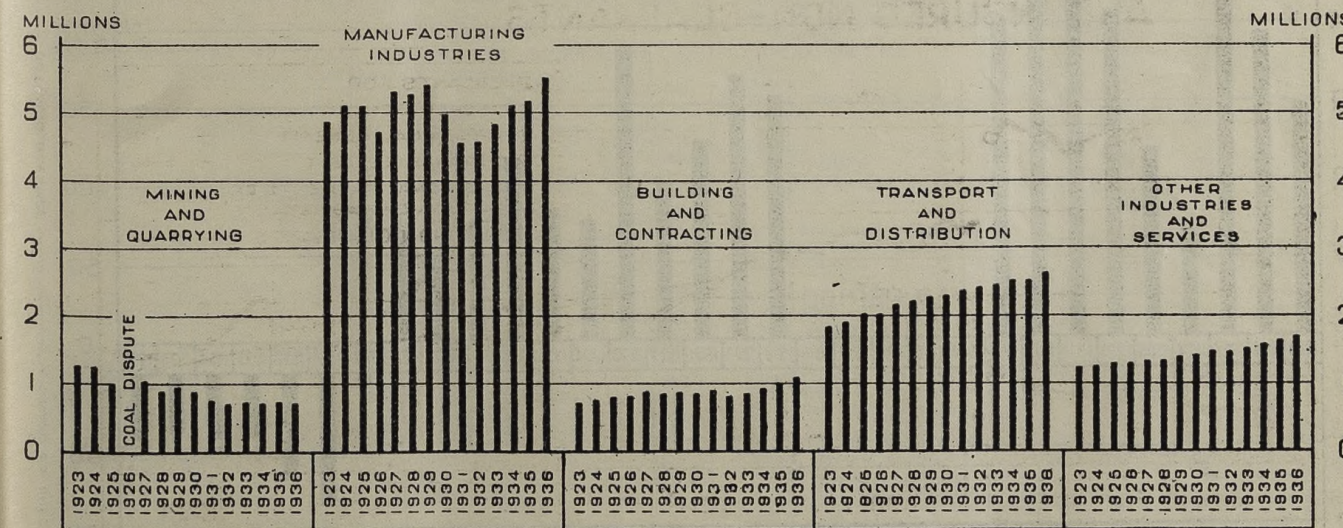
### PERSONS AGED 16-64 INSURED AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT AND NUMBERS IN EMPLOYMENT [EXCLUDING AGRICULTURE]



### DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT



### INSURED PERSONS IN EMPLOYMENT IN MAIN INDUSTRY GROUPS









PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1937—continued.

Table with columns: Industry, District, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of Change. Includes entries for Coal Mining, Coke, etc., Manufacture, Other Mining and Quarrying, Glass Manufacture, Chemical Manufacture, Paint, Colour and Varnish Manufacture, and Pig-iron and Iron and Steel Manufacture.

\* Flat-rate additions are also paid of 1s. per day to workers 21 years of age and over and of 6d. per day to other workers. † Flat-rate additions are also paid of 1s. per day to workers 21 years of age and over and of 6d. per day to other workers.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY, 1937—continued.

Table with columns: Industry, District, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of Change. Includes entries for North-East Coast Area, Cleveland, Cumberland and North Lincolnshire, Pig-iron and Iron and Steel Manufacture, South-West Wales, Various districts in Great Britain, Reading, Belfast, Hull, and Galvanising.

\* Under selling-price sliding-scale arrangements. † Principally the North-East Coast, Cumberland, Lancashire, South and West Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and the Midlands. ‡ The wages of general labourers have been stabilised at 46s. 11d. (i.e., 30s. basis plus 53.75 per cent.) per full normal week of 47 hours from 31 May, 1936, up to the end of June, 1937.







TRADE DISPUTES IN FEBRUARY.\*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of disputes involving stoppages of work reported to the Department as beginning in February in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 75, as compared with 70 in the previous month, and 54 in February, 1936. In these 75 new disputes about 17,400 workpeople were directly involved, and 6,500 workpeople indirectly involved (i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes). In addition, about 1,000 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 11 disputes which began before February, and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 86, involving 24,900 workpeople, and resulting in a loss, during February, estimated at 84,000 working days.

In the following Table is given an analysis, by industries, of disputes in progress in February:—

Table with 5 columns: Industry Group, Started before beginning of month, Started in month, Total, Number of Disputes in progress in month, Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in month.

Causes.—Of the 75 disputes beginning in February, 16, directly involving 3,000 workpeople, arose out of demands for advances in wages, 2, directly involving 100 workpeople, out of proposed wage reductions, and 17, directly involving 4,100 workpeople, on other wage questions; 3, directly involving 400 workpeople, on questions as to working hours; 16, directly involving 3,100 workpeople, on

questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; 7, directly involving 1,300 workpeople, on other questions respecting working arrangements; and 11, directly involving 2,300 workpeople, on questions of trade union principle. Three disputes, directly involving 3,100 workpeople, were due to sympathetic action.

Results.—Final settlements of disputes which terminated during February have been effected in the case of 49 new disputes, directly involving 11,800 workpeople, and 5 old disputes, directly involving 100 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 11, directly involving 2,300 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 25, directly involving 6,100 workpeople, were settled in favour of the employers; and 18, directly involving 3,500 workpeople, resulted in a compromise. In the case of 8 other disputes, directly involving 1,400 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

TOTALS FOR THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 1937 AND 1936.

Table with 6 columns: Industry Group, January and February, 1937, January and February, 1936. Sub-columns: No. of Disputes beginning in period, Number of Work-people involved in all Disputes in progress, Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING FEBRUARY.

Table with 7 columns: Occupations† and Locality, Approximate Number of Work-people Involved, Date when Dispute Began, Date when Dispute Ended, Cause or Object, Result.

\* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration (i.e., number of workpeople multiplied by number of working days, allowing for workpeople replaced by others, etc.) exceeded 100 days. † The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople indirectly involved, i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these workpeople. ‡ Estimated maximum number; the number gradually increased during the stoppage. § The slaughtermen ceased work on 15th February, and the butchers on 18th February.

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

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

Table with 2 columns: Category, Percentage Increase. All Items included ... 51%, Food only ... 35%.

FOOD.

At 1st March the average level of the retail prices of food in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was practically the same as at 1st February, reductions in the prices of fish and butter being counterbalanced by increases in the prices of eggs and tea.

As a net result of all the changes recorded, the average increase over the level of July, 1914, in the retail prices of the articles of food included in these statistics was 35 per cent. at 1st March, 1937, as compared with 35 per cent. at 1st February, 1937, and 29 per cent. at 29th February, 1936.

In the following Table is given a comparison of retail prices in July, 1914, and at 1st February, 1937, and 1st March, 1937:—

Table with 6 columns: Article, Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated— to the nearest 1d.), Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) at 1st Mar., 1937, as compared with July, 1914.

RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT.

As regards rents, enquiries which have been made into the changes which have taken effect under the Rent and Mortgage Interest Restrictions Acts indicate that the average increase in the controlled rents (including rates) of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 1st March, 1937, was approximately 51 per cent. When decontrolled rents are also included, the combined average increase, as compared with July, 1914, in controlled and decontrolled working-class rents (including rates) is approximately 59 per cent. This latter figure has been utilised in calculating the final percentage increase shown below for "all items."

As regards clothing, owing to the wide range of quotations, both now and before the war, to changes in qualities and in stocks held by retailers, and to the 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. Information which has been collected, however, from retailers in the principal towns as to the prices of clothing bought by working-class families indicates that for articles of, as far as possible, similar quality at each date, the average increase in retail prices between July, 1914, and 1st March, 1937, was about 95 per cent.

In the fuel and light group the prices of coal were on the average about 90 per cent. above the level of July, 1914. The average price of gas was between 45 and 50 per cent. above the pre-war level. For the fuel and light group as a whole (including coal, gas, oil, candles and matches) the average increase at 1st March, as compared with July, 1914, was between 75 and 80 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 between 70 and 75 per cent.), the resultant general average increase for 1st March, 1937, is approximately 51 per cent. over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 51 per cent. at 1st February, 1937, and 46 per cent. at 29th February, 1936.

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

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

Table with 5 columns: Article, Large Towns (Populations over 50,000), Small Towns and Villages, General Average, Corresponding General Average for 1st Feb., 1937.

SUMMARY TABLE: 1920 to 1937.

The following Table shows the average percentage increase, as compared with July, 1914, for all the items included in the statistics, at the beginning of each month, 1920 to 1937:—

Table with 12 columns: Year, Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr., May, June, July, Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.

NOTE.

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

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









O. C. Summers, London, N. St. James's Park—Water Mains : O. C. Summers, London, N. South Lambeth Sub-District Office—Heating and Hot Water Services : Haywards, Ltd., London, E.C. **Miscellaneous** : Belfast Sinks : J. & R. Howie, Ltd., Kilmarnock. Bookcases : Wake & Dean, Ltd., Bristol; A. G. Farmer & Sons, Ltd., Bristol. Bronze Poster Frames : Cooke's (Finsbury), Ltd., London, N. Brooms : C. H. Leng & Sons, Birmingham. Brooms and Brushes : C. H. Leng & Sons, Birmingham. Carbon Tetrachloride Extinguishers : Foamite, Ltd., London, W. Cement : Cement Marketing Co., Ltd., London, S.W. Chairs, Easy : W. Birch, Ltd., High Wycombe. Chairs—Interview : S. & W. Hummerston, London, E.C. Chairs—Ladder Back : T. Glenister, Ltd., High Wycombe. Chairs—Small and Arm : W. Hands & Sons, Ltd., High Wycombe. Chairs—W. 26 : W. Hands & Sons, Ltd., High Wycombe. Chamois Leathers : J. S. Deed & Sons, Ltd., London, W.C. Clocks : F. W. Elliott, Ltd., Croydon. Counter Screens—Bronze : Tonks (Birmingham), Ltd., Birmingham. Covering of Stands (Coronation) : A. Elmes & Co., Ltd., London, N.; W. Whiteley, Ltd., London, W. Cupboards and Lockers : Waddells (Stratford Steel Equipment), Ltd., London, E. Cupboards—Steel : Sankey-Sheldon (Harris & Sheldon), Ltd., London, E.C.; Vickers-Armstrongs, Ltd., Dartford; G. A. Harvey & Co. (London), Ltd., London, S.E.; Milners' Safe Co., Ltd., London, E.C. Dressing Chests : Wake & Dean, Ltd., Bristol. Drop Bag Parcel Fittings : J. Elwell, Ltd., Oldbury. Door Springs—Overhead : J. Beresford & Son, Ltd., Birmingham. Felt : Cook, Sons & Co., Ltd., London, E.C. Flags—Grouped : J. Edgington & Co., Ltd., London, W.C. Kettles—Wrot Iron : J. & J. Siddons, Ltd., West Bromwich. Lavatory Basins : J. & R. Howie, Ltd., Kilmarnock. Letter Fittings : F. Troy & Co., Ltd., London, N.W. Lockers for Flying Clothing : Sankey-Sheldon (Harris & Sheldon, Ltd.), London, E.C. Road Making Materials : H. F. Bond, Ipswich. Sheet Lead and Lead Pipes : Glynn Bros., Ltd., London, N.W. Steel Pedestal for Draughtsmen's Tables : Sankey-Sheldon (Harris & Sheldon, Ltd.), London, E.C. Steelwork : G. Pauling, Ltd., London, S.W. Tables—Pedestal Writing : Maynard (1933), Ltd., London, W.C. Tables—Solid Top : Smiths' Systems, Ltd., Cheltenham. Venetian Banners and Decorations : J. Edgington & Co., Ltd., London, W.C. Waste Units : Kay & Co. (Engineers), Ltd., Bolton.

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