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

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT showed a slight decline at 22nd August as compared with 25th July.

Among workpeople insured against unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed in all industries taken together was 23·1 at 22nd August, 1932, as compared with 22·9 at 25th July, 1932, and 22·0 at 24th August, 1931. For males alone the percentage at 22nd August, 1932, was 26·5 and for females 14·2. At 25th July, 1932, the corresponding percentages were 26·3 and 14·1.

Insured Persons in Work in Great Britain.—It is estimated that on 22nd August, 1932, there were approximately 9,280,000 insured persons aged 16 to 64 in work in Great Britain. This was 37,000 less than a month before, and 85,000 less than a year before.

Numbers Unemployed (excluding Persons normally in Casual Employment).—At 22nd August, 1932, there were 2,040,078 persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain who were out of a situation. This was 44,625 more than a month before, and 81,683 more than a year before. The total on 22nd August, 1932, included 1,672,677 men, 67,108 boys, 253,169 women and 47,124 girls. It was made up of 698,045 insured persons with claims for insurance benefit, 1,005,051 applicants for transitional payments, 200,764 other insured persons not in receipt of insurance benefit or transitional payments, and 136,218 uninsured persons.

Numbers Temporarily Stopped.—At 22nd August, 1932, there were registered as unemployed in Great Britain 517,526 men, 16,505 boys, 175,631 women and 9,633 girls who were on short time or were otherwise suspended from work on the definite understanding that they were shortly to return to their former employment. The total of 719,295 was 2,257 less than a month before, but 57,466 more than a year before. It included 618,168 insured persons with claims for insurance benefit, 49,835 applicants for transitional payments, and 51,292 persons not in receipt of insurance benefit or transitional payments.

Numbers Unemployed normally in Casual Employment.—At 22nd August, 1932, there were on the registers in Great Britain 98,842 men, 124 boys, 1,471 women and 18 girls who normally seek a livelihood by means of jobs of short duration; these are mainly employed in dock, harbour, river and canal service. The total of 100,455 was 5,678 more than a month before. It included 63,235 insured persons with claims for insurance benefit, 36,143 applicants for transitional payments, and 1,077 persons not in receipt of insurance benefit or transitional payments.

Comparisons of the numbers on the registers and of the percentages unemployed with those for a year ago are affected by the results of legislative and administrative changes.

Industries in which Principal Variations occurred.—Employment declined in the cotton, silk and carpet

industries, in textile printing, bleaching, dyeing, etc., in the clothing trades, except boot and shoe manufacture, in pig-iron and iron and steel manufacture and coal mining, in dock and harbour service, and the distributive trades. On the other hand, there was some improvement in linen and jute, hemp, rope, etc., electrical and wireless apparatus, pottery and earthenware, and leather and leather goods manufacture.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in August resulted in a decrease estimated at about £10,900 in the weekly full-time wages of nearly 150,000 workpeople, and in an increase of £750 in those of 10,000 workpeople.

The principal groups of workpeople affected by reductions included coal miners in Warwickshire; men in steel melting shops and in steel rolling mills in various districts in England and Scotland; iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen in the Midlands; employees of underground railways in London; and municipal employees in Lancashire and Cheshire. There were increases, under sliding-scale arrangements, in the wages of brush and broom workers in Great Britain.

During the first eight months of 1932, the changes recorded have amounted to net decreases of about £174,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 1,468,000 workpeople, and net increases of £1,725 in those of over 31,000 workpeople.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st September, 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 41 per cent. above the level of July, 1914; for food alone the average increase was approximately 23 per cent. These percentages were the same as those for the beginning of August. The corresponding figures for 1st September, 1931, were 45 and 28 respectively.

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 August was 37. In addition, 15 disputes which began before August were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workpeople involved in all disputes in August (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 155,000, and the aggregate duration of all disputes in August was about 1,281,000 working days; the bulk of these totals is accounted for by disputes in the cotton manufacturing industry.

UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG BOYS AND GIRLS.

RESULTS OF A SPECIAL INVESTIGATION.

In each issue of this GAZETTE, statistics are given showing the total numbers of unemployed boys and girls, under 18 years of age, registered as applicants for employment at Employment Exchanges, Branch Employment Offices, and Juvenile Employment Bureaux throughout Great Britain. During the past two years the total numbers on the registers have ranged, at different dates, from rather less than 100,000 to rather more than 140,000, a marked increase in the total after the end of each school term having generally been followed by a steady reduction during the period of the next school term.

In order that detailed information might be obtained as to the composition of this large body of unemployed boys and girls, a special investigation has been made by the Ministry of Labour into the personal circumstances and industrial history of a representative sample of nearly 5 per cent. of the juveniles, under 18 years of age, on the registers at 16th February, 1931.

At that date there were registered as applicants for employment 71,666 boys and 63,044 girls, of whom 3,446 boys and 3,060 girls were covered by the enquiry. For each case within the sample, particulars were extracted, from the available records, as to sex, age, marital state, industry and occupation, education, employment since leaving school, record of benefit and contributions, and employability. The assessment as to employability was made on the basis of physique, health, general appearance, and intellectual responsiveness. For certain of the particulars, including the assessment as to employability, an interview with the applicant was necessary. Some of the more interesting facts elicited by the investigation are summarised below.

AGE DISTRIBUTION.

The age distribution of the boys and girls within the sample was as follows:—

Age	Boys.		Girls.	
	Number	Per cent.	Number	Per cent.
14 years	17	17.9	21	21.9
15 "	9	9.6	11	11.8
16 "	25	25.2	24	24.8
17 "	47	47.3	41	41.5
TOTAL	100	100.0	100	100.0

It will be seen that boys and girls of 15 years of age, registered as unemployed, numbered little more than one-half as many as those of 14 years of age, and formed an even smaller proportion of those aged 16 years of age. Nearly one-half of all the boys, and over two-fifths of the girls, were 17 years of age.

POSITION IN REGARD TO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

Juveniles under 16 years of age are outside the scope of unemployment insurance. Moreover, insured boys and girls are not entitled to transitional payments, and they can claim insurance benefit only if they have paid not less than 30 contributions in the two years preceding the date of their claim; they would not, therefore, be classified as claimants until after the expiration of a period of at least 30 weeks from the date of their entry into insurance. Of those who were 16 or 17 years of age, the proportions who were (a) claimants to benefit, (b) insured non-claimants, and (c) uninsured, are shown below:—

	Boys.		Girls.	
	16 years.	17 years.	16 years.	17 years.
Claimants	32.0	87.8	27.9	80.3
Insured Non-claimants	48.3	8.6	41.8	11.3
Uninsured	19.7	3.6	30.3	8.4
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Of those aged 16 years, 80 per cent. of the boys, and 70 per cent. of the girls, were insured against unemployment, but only 32 per cent. of the boys and 28 per cent. of the girls of this age had claims to benefit. Of those aged 17 years, over 96 per cent. of the boys and nearly 92 per cent. of the girls were insured, and the proportions with claims to benefit were much higher than among those of 16 years, being 88 per cent. (boys) and 80 per cent. (girls).

PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED AT AGES 16 AND 17 YEARS.

By relating the numbers of insured juveniles, aged 16 and 17 respectively, on the register at 16th February, 1931, to the total numbers insured at those ages, as ascertained from a recent sample of the insured population, it is possible to compute the percentage rates of unemployment among insured juveniles at those ages. These figures bring out the fact that at February, 1931, the rate of unemployment among boys and girls aged 17 was double the rate among those aged 16. For both sexes about 5 per cent. were unemployed at age 16, and 10 per cent. at age 17.

EDUCATION.

School last attended.—The following summary gives an analysis of the boys and girls in the sample according to the kind of school they had last attended:—

	Boys.	Girls.
Elementary	76.2	75.0
Central	7.2	8.3
Higher Elementary	7.3	8.2
Secondary	6.7	6.7
Technical and Commercial	1.4	1.3
Special Schools (Mentally Defective, Blind, Deaf and Dumb, Cripple, Backward Children, etc.)	0.9	0.4
School not stated	0.3	0.1
TOTAL	100.0	100.0

The proportions who last attended schools of a grade higher than elementary are appreciably larger than were found at a similar enquiry made in 1925. At that time 83 per cent., both of the boys and of the girls, had last attended elementary or primary schools only; while in February, 1931, the corresponding percentages were 76 for boys and 75 for girls. An examination of the figures for various ages shows that among both boys and girls the percentage who last attended elementary schools was highest among those aged 17.

Voluntary Attendance at School.—75 per cent. of the boys, and 79 per cent. of the girls, in the sample, had not remained voluntarily at school after the normal leaving age. Of those who did remain, about one-half remained for not more than six months; about one in eight had remained for two years or more.

A comparison of the figures with those obtained at the similar enquiry of 1925 shows an increase in the proportion who had attended voluntarily at school after the normal school leaving age. The percentage who had no voluntary attendance at school after the normal leaving age was greatest among those of 17 years of age (over 79 per cent. of the boys and 83 per cent. of the girls). The sample included 106 boys, or about 3 per cent., and 49 girls, or about 1½ per cent., who were still at school, though available to leave and registered for employment.

Age on Leaving School.—81 per cent. of the boys, and 84 per cent. of the girls, in the sample, had left school before reaching the age of 14½ years; less than 10 per cent. of the boys, and less than 8 per cent. of the girls, had remained at school after attaining 15 years of age. Of those aged 17 years, over 82 per cent. of the boys, and 86 per cent. of the girls, had left school before reaching 14½ years of age.

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT RECORD.

Unemployment prior to First Job.—Of all the juveniles in the sample, over 15 per cent. of the boys and 21 per cent. of the girls had not had any employment. Among those who had been in employment, 67 per cent. of the boys, and nearly 50 per cent. of the girls, had been unemployed for not more than one month between leaving school and obtaining their first job. The figure for girls may be influenced by the tendency in some districts to remain at home for a time, after leaving school, before seeking employment.

Kind of Last Employment.—Of the boys in the sample who, though unemployed at the date of the enquiry, had previously been in employment, 13 per cent. claimed to have had apprenticeship or formal learnership in their last occupation; 44 per cent. claimed to have had other employment of a progressive character; 34 per cent. had been in non-progressive employment; and 9 per cent. had been in casual or seasonal employment. Among the girls who had at some previous time been in employment, 7 per cent. claimed to have been apprentices or learners; 53 per cent. claimed to have had other progressive employment; 31 per cent. had been in non-progressive employment; and 9 per cent. had been in casual or seasonal employment.

Unemployment since Last Job.—Of those juveniles who had previously been in employment, 47 per cent., both of the boys and of the girls, had been unemployed for not more than one month since their last job; 65 per cent. of the boys and 70 per cent. of the girls had been unemployed for not more than two months; and only 1 per cent. of the boys, and less than 2 per cent. of the girls, had been unemployed for twelve months or more, since their last job. The boys who had had apprenticeship or formal learnership, or other progressive employment, had been unemployed for a shorter time, on the average, than those who had had non-progressive or casual work. Thus, while 49 per cent. of the boys who had had apprenticeship or formal learnership or other progressive employment in their last job had been unemployed for more than one month, the corresponding figure for those with non-progressive employment was 56 per cent.; and for those with casual or seasonal employment 67 per cent. Among the girls with apprenticeship or formal learnership, 40 per cent. had been unemployed for more than one month; the corresponding percentage among those with other progressive employment being 49; among those with non-progressive employment, 57 per cent.; and among those with casual or seasonal employment, 77 per cent.

Attendance at approved courses of instruction.—Out of the total of 3,446 boys in the sample, 918, or about 27 per cent., were attending an approved course of instruction during unemployment, while an additional 88, or about 2½ per cent., had attended at some time or other. Among the girls, 517, or nearly 17 per cent., were attending an approved course of instruction, and an additional 63, or 2 per cent., had attended at some time or other.

Period of Employment since leaving School.—The average period of employment for the boys in the sample, including those who had had no employment since leaving school, was 20.8 months, and

for girls 17.2 months. The following Table shows the amount of employment obtained by those who had left school for various periods:—

Period since leaving School.	Average number of months of Employment.	
	Boys.	Girls.
Not more than 3 months	1.4	1.5
3-6 months	4.8	4.6
6-9 "	7.8	7.7
9-12 "	10.8	10.9
12-18 "	13.9	15.5
18-24 "	21.7	21.5
24-30 "	27.5	27.3
30-36 "	33.4	33.2
Over 3 years	40.5	40.6

Of the aggregate duration of employment which had been obtained by all the juveniles in the sample since leaving school, the proportions of different types were as shown below:—

	Boys.	Girls.
Apprenticeship or formal learnership	14.8 per cent.	11.3 per cent.
Other progressive employment	45.6 "	58.4 "
Non-progressive employment	37.0 "	27.8 "
Casual or seasonal employment	2.6 "	2.5 "
TOTAL	100.0	100.0

A detailed analysis of the statistics obtained on this subject shows that the proportion which employment of a progressive character formed of the total amount of employment obtained increased, whilst the proportion of non-progressive employment diminished, with the length of the period since leaving school.

Changes of Occupation.—Among the boys who had been in employment, 33 per cent. had not changed their occupation; 26 per cent. had had two occupations, over 17 per cent. three occupations, nearly 11 per cent. four occupations, and 13 per cent. more than four occupations. Among the girls who had been in employment, 39 per cent. had had only one occupation, 28 per cent. had had two occupations, 16 per cent. three occupations, 9 per cent. four occupations, and 8 per cent. more than four occupations.

Reasons for leaving Employment.—The chief reason for leaving employment was trade depression. Over one-fourth of all the jobs which had been lost were left on this ground. In order to throw some light on the question whether there was any definite tendency towards losing or leaving employment immediately after reaching 16 years of age, those jobs which were lost within three months before or after that age were specially marked on the schedule. The analysis shows that in these cases "too old" accounted among boys for a high proportion of jobs left; 21 per cent. of the jobs lost within three months before or after the 16th birthday were lost on this ground, as compared with 21 per cent. due to trade depression, and 16 per cent. left on "own accord." It is of interest to note that, among boys, the percentage of such jobs which were left on account of the worker being "too old" was 9 per cent. in progressive employments other than apprenticeship, etc.; 35 per cent. in non-progressive employments, and 6 per cent. in casual or seasonal employment. Among girls only 4 per cent. of the jobs lost within three months before or after the 16th birthday were lost because the applicant was "too old."

EMPLOYABILITY.

Of the total sample of 3,446 boys and 3,060 girls, 2,983 boys and 2,725 girls were interviewed in order to assess employability. The figures showing the results of the assessment are given in the following Table:—

Assessment of Employability.	Boys.				Girls.			
	Good.	Fair.	Poor.	Total.	Good.	Fair.	Poor.	Total.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Physique	68.1	26.1	5.8	100.0	72.7	23.4	3.9	100.0
Health	84.5	13.1	2.4	100.0	84.5	13.1	2.4	100.0
General Appearance	59.8	33.8	6.4	100.0	67.3	29.0	3.7	100.0
Intellectual Responsiveness	58.7	33.9	7.4	100.0	70.8	23.8	5.4	100.0
General	58.3	35.5	6.2	100.0	63.6	32.1	4.3	100.0

It will be seen that both among boys and among girls the assessments in respect of health gave the best results. Over 84 per cent. of both boys and girls were considered to have good health, as compared with 68 per cent. of boys and nearly 73 per cent. of girls with good physique. Under the headings "general appearance" and "intellectual responsiveness," less than 60 per cent. of the boys, and about 70 per cent. of the girls, were assessed as "good."

As regards physical defects, the commonest form of defect was poor eyesight among both boys and girls. In about two-thirds of the cases of poor eyesight it was considered that this defect would not restrict employment. Over 93 per cent. of the boys and nearly 94 per cent. of the girls apparently had no physical defect.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CONTRIBUTIONS AND BENEFIT.

To obtain a proper appreciation of the amount of insured employment obtained it is necessary to compare the number of contributions paid with the period of insurance within the scheme. None of the boys and girls in the sample could have been insured for more than two years, and the maximum number of contributions that could have been paid was therefore 104. The following Table gives an analysis in respect of boys and girls who entered insurance up to July, 1929, and who had therefore been insured for periods varying from a minimum of 84 weeks to a maximum of 104 weeks.

Total contributions paid.	Per cent.	
	Boys.	Girls.
0	1.4	1.0
1-24	11.1	10.4
25-48	34.4	31.8
49-72	49.5	54.1
73-96	3.6	2.7
97 or more		
TOTAL	100.0	100.0

During the period covered by the Table unemployment among juveniles showed a heavy increase. As a general rule very few boys and girls are continuously unemployed for considerable periods, and it would appear from the foregoing Table that during 1930 the increase in unemployment probably resulted from its spread to a much larger number of individuals who became intermittently employed, rather than from the lengthening of the period of unemployment among a slightly increased number of boys and girls.

Most juveniles enter insurance through reaching 16 years of age while in insurable employment, and those in the sample who entered insurance between July, 1930, and the early part of February, 1931, appear to have had an equally good employment record with those included in the foregoing Table. These could not have paid more than 32 contributions at the date of the enquiry. The figures are given in the following Table:—

Total contributions paid.	Per cent.	
	Boys.	Girls.
0	2.9	3.6
1-24	87.9	90.6
25-48	9.2	5.8
TOTAL	100.0	100.0

The following Table gives an analysis of the boys and girls who entered insurance up to July, 1929, as regards the amount of unemployment benefit drawn:—

Days of benefit drawn.	Per cent.	
	Boys.	Girls.
0	9.3	10.7
1-50	31.0	35.5
51-100	24.4	22.9
101-150	15.7	15.6
151-200	10.2	7.0
201-250	6.4	3.7
251 or more	3.0	4.6
TOTAL	100.0	100.0

After allowing for the period necessary for paying the qualifying 30 contributions, and for "waiting" periods, the maximum amount of benefit that could have been drawn would vary approximately between 315 and 435 days. The Table shows that approximately 65 per cent. of the boys and 69 per cent. of the girls drew not more than 100 days of benefit, and that the majority of these drew not more than 50 days.

NUMBERS EMPLOYED AND WAGES IN THE RAILWAY SERVICE.

THE annual Return* prepared by the Ministry of Transport relating to numbers employed and wages in the railway service in Great Britain has recently been published. The Return has been compiled to relate to the week ended 12th March, 1932. The details given in the Return include the total number of persons employed by the railway companies and the numbers employed in each of the principal grades in the specified week, with corresponding figures for the week ended 7th March, 1931. A comparison is also given of the average wages and average payments made to selected grades at the same dates, and the standard rates of wages are given for many grades other than mechanics and artisans.

Numbers employed.—The total number of persons employed† in each of the past 10 years was as shown below:—

March, 1923	681,778	March, 1928	677,148
" 1924	700,573	" 1929	642,137
" 1925	702,062	" 1930	656,530
" 1926	689,264	" 1931	615,592
April, 1927	683,077	" 1932	597,971

The numbers include all persons in the service of the companies in the specified weeks, except staff not directly employed by the

* Railway Companies Staff. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. net. (1s. 1d. post free).
† Excluding railway employees of the Manchester Ship Canal Co., who numbered 1,319 in March, 1932.

REPORTS ON INDUSTRIAL SURVEYS OF LANCASHIRE AND OF THE NORTH-EAST COAST.

The series of Reports on the industrial surveys of certain areas of Great Britain, undertaken by the Universities of the respective areas at the request of H.M. Government, is now complete. Notices of two of these Reports—those on the industrial surveys of South Wales and of South-West Scotland*—appeared in the July issue of this GAZETTE (pages 240-1), and a notice of the Report on the industrial survey of Merseyside† in the August issue; the present issue contains notices of the industrial surveys of the Lancashire area (exclusive of Merseyside) and of the North-East Coast area.‡

The two last mentioned Reports, which were prepared by the University of Manchester and by Armstrong College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (University of Durham), respectively, include a survey of the present industrial position of the areas, review the prospects of early expansion and of new developments, and attempt, so far as practicable, an assessment of the prospective employment capacity of the various industries in the areas, as a basis for an estimate of the volume of labour likely to be surplus to industrial requirements.

LANCASHIRE AREA (EXCLUDING MERSEYSIDE).

The survey area includes Lancashire south of Lancaster, and east of the area covered by the Merseyside Report. The industrial and residential fringe of Cheshire and Derbyshire which economically is bound up with Lancashire is also included. At the Census of 1931 the area contained 4,214,809 persons, or 10.6 per cent. of the total population of England and Wales; at July, 1930, it included 1,488,510 persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, or 12.0 per cent. of the total in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The Report is in two parts. Part I contains a summary of the present position, and a discussion of the long-period remedies which might be applied to the problem of surplus labour; while Part II deals in greater detail with some of the principal phases of the economic activity of the area, such as the fluctuations in population of Lancashire down to and since 1921; the industries of Lancashire generally; the cotton, metal and engineering, coal mining, clothing, and electricity supply industries; distribution; agriculture; employment with Local Authorities; local rates and industry. There are also nearly a hundred pages of statistical appendices.

The surplus of labour in the area, as measured by the volume of unemployment among the insured population in the survey area in 1929, is estimated at approximately 160,000 persons, or about 12 per cent. of the total insured population, of whom about 120,000 are males and 40,000 females. There is also an indeterminate amount of unemployment in the uninsured occupations.

Unemployment among insured persons in 1929 was heavily concentrated in a few staple industries. Among males, cotton and the industries which are greatly dependent upon cotton—general engineering and textile finishing—and coal mining accounted for 52 per cent. of the total unemployment in all industries; while 69 per cent. of the unemployment among insured females occurred in cotton and in textile finishing. Cotton alone was responsible for 17 per cent. of the total unemployed males and for 66 per cent. of the total unemployed females.

The rate of unemployment varied considerably from one part of the survey area to another. No less than one-fifth of the total unemployment was centred in the cotton weaving belt which lies to the north and north-east of industrial Lancashire, and contains the great centres of Burnley, Blackburn, and Preston, and numerous towns and villages surrounding them.

Between 1921 and 1931, the population of the area increased by about 80,000 (or a little under 2 per cent. of the 1921 total); on the other hand, the insured population increased by at least 5 per cent. between 1923 and 1929.

The Report draws very special attention to the low rate of migration of population from Lancashire. Between 1921 and 1931, the natural increase in the population of the county (i.e., the excess of births over deaths) was 238,000, or 4.9 per cent. of the 1921 total; the net loss by migration amounted to 132,000, or 2.7 per cent.; so that the actual increase in population was 106,000, or 2.2 per cent. This failure of migration to make a substantial contribution to the draining away of the surplus of labour in Lancashire is in striking contrast with the relatively high rates of migration in the depressed areas of North-East England and South Wales.

The extent of the surplus in the cotton industry in 1929 was about 63,000 persons (21,000 males and 42,000 females). This, however, makes no allowance for the common practice, in the weaving department of the industry, of employers reducing the number of looms which each weaver operates, while still running full time; this is a form of under-employment which does not appear in the unemployment statistics. It is suggested in the Report that an addition of from 10,000 to 15,000 should be made to the surplus stated above, to represent, in terms of totally unemployed persons, the amount of under-employment among weavers owing to this practice.

The surplus in the cotton industry consists predominantly of females, and contains an exceptionally large proportion of married women. There is also a high percentage of workers unemployed in the 18-24 age groups. Upon this point the Report observes: "This

* H.M. Stationery Office; price 3s. 6d. and 4s. 6d. net, respectively (3s. 9d. and 4s. 9d. post free).

† H.M. Stationery Office; price 2s. 6d. net (2s. 9d. post free).
‡ Industrial Survey of the Lancashire Area (excluding Merseyside) and Industrial Survey of the North-East Coast Area. H.M. Stationery Office; price 6s. and 7s. 6d. net, respectively (6s. 6d. and 8s. post free).

heavy incidence of unemployment upon workers during a period in their working lives when they should be rapidly approaching maturity of industrial skill and adaptability, and when they should be most capable of moving into other industries or localities, is extremely disquieting. Both in spinning and in weaving, the continued entry of juvenile labour into an already over-crowded industry in the last decade has tended to produce a 'banking-up' of young adult workers." It is suggested in the Report that more active measures ought to be taken to regulate the entry of young labour into the cotton industry.

The Report reviews the effect of certain possible technical changes on the demand for labour in the cotton industry, viz., high-draft spinning, high speed winding and warping, the "more looms per weaver" system, and the use of automatic looms. It is suggested that the "more looms per weaver" system is likely to create graver employment problems in the near future than the other changes.

Coal mining in Lancashire has been declining, relatively to the other principal coal-fields, for many years: the surplus in the years 1928-30 appears to have been about 20,000.

In the engineering trades, textile engineering has been particularly depressed for some years, with the result that unemployment has been far higher in the districts where textile engineering is most concentrated, such as Oldham, than in other areas, such as Manchester and Trafford Park. It is suggested that the surplus in engineering may be rather over than under 15,000. There are also smaller surpluses in the metal trades, and in the chemical industry, particularly at Widnes.

The Report then proceeds to consider what relief may be anticipated from those industries, other than those which have hitherto been the staple industries of Lancashire, which are expanding. It is shown that the expansion of these industries in Lancashire was approximately as great in Lancashire as in the rest of Great Britain up to 1929; though Lancashire failed to maintain its parity with other parts of the country in this respect in 1930 and 1931. Among the industries which have shown the greatest increase in Lancashire in the last few years have been Local Authority service (which now employs more persons in the survey area than coal mining, the textile finishing trades, or the clothing industry); the distributive trades; electrical engineering, and the manufacture of electrical cables, wire, flex, lamps, etc.; the tram and omnibus services; the manufacture of rainproof coats; and the manufacture of shirts and underclothing. Moreover, at least one area in Lancashire—the Trafford Park estate, near Manchester—has shown a remarkable development in a great variety of industries.

Nevertheless it is suggested in the Report that, at the present rate of growth, the expansion in these and other trades cannot make up for the shrinkage in the declining industries. In particular there are some areas which have not shared in any such growth; areas "which might be described, without any straining of language, as threatening to become partially derelict." This is especially true of some of the weaving towns and villages in the north-east of the area.

The Report then proceeds to consider various measures for relieving the position thus disclosed. Various means are suggested, for example, for overcoming the prevailing shortage of machinists in the clothing industries, including the setting up of clothing factories in the northern weaving towns, where there is a plentiful supply of female labour accustomed to working in factories.

The Report discusses the advantages of a system of industrial planning on a national scale. Local efforts to encourage the development of industry, such as that of the Lancashire Industrial Development Council, have to compete with other similar efforts in other districts; but a national scheme would be able to direct industry to those regions where there is a large surplus of industrial population. "It may seriously be questioned whether it will pay the nation in the future to allow the accumulation of capital invested in the region in the form of factories, machines, roads, railways, power stations, buildings, and houses to fall into disuse, and to permit the duplication of this equipment elsewhere." It is also suggested that the development of industries in the areas selected for special assistance might be promoted by financial inducements, such as rating relief, special schemes for the training of workers, and arrangements for obtaining capital at low rates of interest.

NORTH EAST COAST AREA.

The volume setting forth the results of the industrial survey of the North East Coast area contains the Report proper, followed by fifteen memoranda, dealing respectively with the general characteristics and the natural resources of the area; with agriculture, coal mining, the iron and steel, engineering and shipbuilding industries; with the chemical industry, the printing and allied trades, the food, drink and tobacco trades, and the minor industries and services; with transport, gas and electricity supply, and the distributive trades; and with labour. The Report itself is largely a commentary on the principal points brought out in the memoranda.

The following summary is almost entirely confined to the Report, and to the memorandum on labour.

The survey area includes the counties of Northumberland and Durham, together with the Cleveland district in the North Riding of Yorkshire. This area had, at the census of 1931, a population of 2,495,559 persons, or one-sixteenth of the total population of England and Wales. The population of the area increased more rapidly than that of the whole country between 1901 and 1911, and again between 1911 and 1921; but it increased by only 1 per cent. between 1921 and 1931, as compared with an increase of 5½ per cent. in England and Wales as a whole.

The same tendency is shown by the insurance figures, which indicate that the number of persons insured against unemployment

though showing an increase of over 30,000 between 1923 and 1931 in the North East Coast area, showed a relative decline, from 6.25 per cent. of the total for Great Britain in 1923 to 5.7 per cent. in 1931.

Insured women and girls in 1931 represented only 13.88 per cent. of the total number of insured persons in the North East Coast area, as compared with 27.83 per cent., or almost exactly double, in Great Britain.

The following Table shows the numbers of insured workers, and of insured employed workers, on the North East Coast in 1924 and in 1931, and the percentage change in the intervening seven years:—

Industry Group.	Numbers insured.		Number in 1931 as percentage of number in 1924.	Number of insured workers employed.		Number in 1931 as percentage of number in 1924.
	1924.	1931.		1924.	1931.	
Coal and coke ...	239,000	205,200	86.0	229,300	127,480	55.5
Iron and steel ...	46,000	35,600	77.5	35,300	20,900	59.0
Engineering ...	63,900	59,600	93.0	49,200	33,100	67.5
Shipbuilding ...	59,600	51,100	86.0	39,200	15,000	38.5
Chemicals ...	5,700	11,800	208.0	4,800	6,400	133.0
Shipping and water-side ...	23,200	28,700	124.0	18,000	15,400	85.0
Building and contracting ...	32,200	52,800	164.5	27,900	38,600	138.5
Woodwork, furniture, etc. ...	5,500	7,400	134.5	5,000	5,900	117.5
Printing and paper ...	7,600	9,500	125.0	6,800	8,100	118.5
Food, drink and tobacco ...	13,000	15,100	116.5	11,800	12,100	102.0
Distributive trades ...	65,800	89,700	136.5	61,000	76,300	125.0
Hotel, boarding house, club, etc., service ...	10,800	16,400	152.0	9,500	12,300	128.5
Road transport ...	10,500	18,300	173.5	9,100	15,000	165.5
All other industries and services ...	99,200	111,100	112.0	87,500	82,900	94.5
TOTAL ...	682,000	712,090*	104.4	594,540*	469,330*	79.0

The North East Coast figures are dominated by the four great industry groups of coal, iron and steel, engineering, and shipbuilding. These four groups showed great reductions in the numbers insured between 1924 and 1931, and much more serious reductions in the numbers of insured workers actually in employment. Moreover, the decline in these industries (except iron and steel) was even greater in the North East Coast area than in Great Britain as a whole.

The Report reviews the position of each of the principal industries in turn. In coal mining, the number of insured persons in the area had been reduced to just over 200,000 in 1931; and it is suggested that this does not show any considerable surplus over the number necessary to get an annual output of 50 million tons (equal to the output of 1924), which, it is thought, may be expected as an average during the next five years. The number insured in coal mining, however, shows a reduction of fully 40,000 on the numbers who were attached to the industry in 1924; and it is pointed out that, if these 40,000 persons have not been absorbed elsewhere, they must still be regarded as surplus to the coal industry of the area.

In the iron and steel industry it is suggested that there is a present surplus of about 2,000. But here also, if the workers who have left the industry since 1923 (the year of maximum employment) are still available, the surplus will be much larger, (say) 17,000.

In engineering, the percentages unemployed in the survey area tend to be higher than in the country as a whole; in marine engineering, which is specially important in the survey area, unemployment is very severe. It is suggested that the surplus of workers over what is required even in a good year (by post-war standards) may be about 6,000.

In shipbuilding, the North East Coast has fallen behind, both relatively to other shipbuilding areas of the country and relatively to other countries. It is suggested in the Report that, except for abnormally lean years, such as 1923 or 1931, the number of persons likely to be employed in the industry in the survey area will range from about 30,000 to about 40,000. This points to an unemployment percentage of about 25 per cent. in lean years, over and above the amount of labour which may be regarded as definitely surplus to the industry. The probable surplus, even in busy years, is put at about 13,000.

The increase in the chemical trades is due to recent developments at Billingham, on the Tees. The number of insured persons employed in the area increased from about 5,000 to 15,700 between 1923 and 1929, but declined to about 6,000 in 1931.

In the building trades, the number of insured persons increased between 1923 and 1930, but the number employed declined. In public works contracting the numbers insured have been affected in the last few years by attempts to provide employment on relief works.

In the distributive trades there has been a marked increase in the North East Coast area, as in all other parts of the country; but the increase on the North East Coast has not been quite so great as elsewhere.

An attempt is made in the Report to estimate the probable surplus of labour in all industries during the five years 1932-6. The maximum aggregate demand for labour in insured occupations in these years is put at 622,000 (males, 532,000; females, 90,000): these estimates are somewhat above the numbers actually in employment in 1924 and 1929. As regards the supply of labour, it is suggested that, in view of the great preponderance in the area of the heavy industries, the real problem is confined to male labour; and the probable number of male workers in insured occupations is estimated, on certain

* The figures given in the Report for the several industry groups appear to have been rounded off (with one exception) to the nearest hundred; hence the totals, in these three cases, do not exactly represent the sum of the group figures.

assumptions, at about 612,000. This points to a surplus of 80,000 male workers, or 64,000 if a margin of 3 per cent. be allowed for the irreducible floating reserve of labour.

The question of mobility of labour is considered at some length, and the conclusion is reached that there is a relatively high degree both of territorial and of occupational mobility in the area. The Report remarks on the comparative dearth in the area of subsidiary industries, and on its failure to attract new industries to any great extent. This may be due to its comparative isolation from other centres of population; and it is thought doubtful whether efforts to attract new large-scale industries are likely to have much success. The possible developments along which, in the opinion of the compilers of the Report, some relief may more probably be found are thus set forth:

"In our opinion such development as is possible is more likely to be brought about, not so much by the attraction of firms bringing in industries new to the area, as by the adaptation of existing works to meet new needs and new conditions. Such a transition from one kind of industrial activity to another under the stress of economic forces would be no new phase in the industrial history of this country. Other districts have had to effect a transition of this kind in the past; the North East Coast is faced with the necessity of doing so now. The transition will not be an easy one. It is not easy for an armament firm to adapt itself to peace conditions in which the demand for armaments is negligible. But certain armament firms are not without hope that the change can be made, and that in the making of locomotives, or other things, they may find new openings. It is along such lines as these that we look for the chief developments in the area in the near future."

MINES AND QUARRIES IN 1931. EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, HOURS, OUTPUT, ACCIDENTS, etc.

THE Eleventh Annual Report of the Secretary for Mines, for the year 1931, together with the Annual Report of H.M. Chief Inspector of Mines for the same year, has been published.*

COAL MINING.

State of Trade.—In a survey of the coal mining industry it is stated that the falling off in the demand for coal at home and abroad which showed itself early in 1930, continued to affect the production of British coal adversely throughout 1931, and the tonnage raised was abnormally low. The position in other countries was, on the whole, rather worse, and it is estimated that the world coal output in 1931 was approximately one-eighth lower than in 1930 and one-fifth lower than in 1929.

Employment was very irregular, particularly in some of the inland districts, which are mainly dependent upon the home trade. Thus, in Yorkshire, Lancashire, and the Midland counties, the time lost averaged about 1½ days a week, as in 1930; in the other districts taken collectively, which include the chief exporting districts, the time lost averaged about half a day a week. On the other hand, the decline in numbers employed, as will be seen from the figures given below, took exactly the opposite course, being greater in the exporting than in the home trade districts.

OUTPUT AND NUMBERS EMPLOYED.

The output of coal in Great Britain was rather less than 220 million tons in 1931 (nearly 10 per cent. lower than in 1930 and 15 per cent. lower than in 1929), and lower than in any post-war year except 1921 and 1926, when the mines were idle for considerable periods on account of labour difficulties.

The decline in output was greatest in South Wales and Monmouthshire (where output was interrupted for about three weeks in January by labour difficulties), the reduction as compared with 1930 being 18 per cent. Other districts in which the decline was heavy included Durham (16 per cent.), Yorkshire (9 per cent.), and Scotland (8 per cent.). In the remaining districts (the Midlands, Lancashire and Cheshire, Northumberland, etc.), most of which are mainly dependent upon the home trade, output declined by from 4 to 7 per cent. as compared with 1930.

During the first eight months of the year the number of wage-earners on the colliery books declined from 883,900 (i.e., about the lowest level reached in 1930) to 820,800, but during the last four months the number rose to 840,500. The decline in the average number of workpeople employed between the last quarters of 1930 and of 1931 in districts which are mainly dependent upon the home trade was 18,200, or 3.9 per cent., against 32,900, or 7.8 per cent., in the chief exporting districts.

WAGES AND HOURS, CASH EARNINGS, AND ALLOWANCES IN KIND.

Wages during 1931 remained, with few exceptions, at the minima provided for in the respective district agreements. The exceptions were Cannock Chase, Warwickshire, and North Staffordshire.

In a number of districts reduced minimum percentages came into operation as a result of the reduction of working hours under the Coal Mines Act, 1930.† In South Wales and Monmouthshire the minimum percentage was reduced from 28 to 20, with effect from 1st March. At the beginning of April the minimum percentage in Leicestershire was reduced from 40 to 32, in North Staffordshire from 35 to 32, and in South Staffordshire from 40 to 38. In South Derbyshire the minimum percentage was reduced from 35 to 29 in April and May, except for enginemen, firemen and mechanics. Reductions were also made, following disputes causing stoppages of work, in Cumberland, and in the East Bristol collieries.

* H.M. Stationery Office; price 3s. 6d. net (3s. 10d. post-free).
† 20 and 21 Geo. 5, Ch. 34. Notices of this Act appeared in the issues of this GAZETTE for December, 1929, page 439, and for August, 1930, page 281.

Table showing Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in numbers employed as compared with previous month for various departments like Bradford, Huddersfield, etc.

Table showing Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in numbers employed as compared with previous month for various departments like Huddersfield, Leeds, etc.

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 August, 1932:-

Table showing Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Registers at 22nd August, 1932, categorized by Department and Total.

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 25th July, 1932:-

Table showing increases and decreases as compared with 25th July, 1932, categorized by Department and Total.

The imports (less re-exports) of raw wool (sheep's or lambs') were 9,536,100 lbs., in August, 1932, compared with 23,626,000 lbs. in the previous month...

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues in August, 1932, were 8,197,200 square yards, compared with 7,618,900 square yards in the previous month...

The exports of blankets were 1,815 cwts., 2,333 cwts., and 1,770 cwts. in August, 1932, July, 1932, and August, 1931, respectively.

BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

The customary holiday at the beginning of August was extended by many firms. After the resumption of work, short time was general. Towards the end of the month there was a slight improvement in most districts, but employment generally remained bad.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 22.5 at 22nd August, 1932, as compared with 22.6 at 25th July, 1932, and with 20.0 at 24th August, 1931.

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

Table summarising information received from employers who furnished returns for the three periods, categorized by Department and Total.

Returns from firms employing about 56,800 workpeople in the week ended 27th August indicated that about 51 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time in that week, losing about 10 hours each on the average; there was practically no overtime.

Employment in London remained bad at most establishments, but a slight improvement was reported by some firms. At Leicester there was a reduction in the number of operatives temporarily stopped, but employment remained bad; in the week ended 27th August more than half of the workpeople covered by the employers' returns were on short time, losing over 11 hours each on the average.

There was little general change at Northampton; employment remained slack, and was worse than a year ago; in the week ended 27th August nearly 60 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the employers' returns worked short time, losing 10 hours each on the average.

At Stafford some firms extended the holiday stoppage. When the factories reopened, employment was moderate or fair at first, but there was some decline towards the end of the month.

In Bristol and Kingswood employment declined and was very bad, and much worse than a year ago; nearly all the workpeople covered by the employers' returns were on short time in the week ended 27th August, losing 12 hours each on the average.

Employment in the Lancashire slipper trade declined, but was better than a year ago; short time was largely worked. At Bury, however, employment remained fairly good, and a few firms at Waterfoot and Bacup were well employed.

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

There was a marked decline in Scotland (except at Maybole, where a slight improvement was reported), and employment was much worse than a year ago. About 56 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the employers' returns were on short time in the week ended 27th August, losing over 12 1/2 hours each on the average.

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 August, 1932:-

Table showing Numbers (excluding Casuals) on the Registers at 22nd August, 1932, categorized by Department and Total.

The following Table shows the increases and decreases as compared with 25th July, 1932:-

Table showing increases and decreases as compared with 25th July, 1932, categorized by Department and Total.

The exports of boots and shoes in August, 1932, amounted to 60,486 dozen pairs, or 12,998 dozen pairs less than in July, 1932, and 11,444 dozen pairs less than August, 1931.

POTTERY INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in North Staffordshire showed a slight improvement, but was still bad on the whole; in many cases the August holidays were extended and there was much short-time working. At Derby and at Bristol employment continued slack, with short-time working; and at Worcester also short-time working continued.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 32.8 at 22nd August, 1932, as compared with 33.8 at 25th July, 1932, and 36.1 at 24th August, 1931.

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

Table summarising information received from employers who furnished returns for the three periods, categorized by Branches and Districts.

Returns from employers relative to short-time working showed that, of 8,934 workpeople employed by firms making returns, 4,744, or 53 per cent., were working on an average 13 hours less than full time in the week ended 27th August, 1932; the amount of overtime worked was very small.

BRICK INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during August showed a slight decline on the whole and remained very slack generally.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, was 21.7 at 22nd August, 1932, as compared with 20.8 at 25th July, 1932, and 16.8 at 24th August, 1931.

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

Table summarising information received from employers who furnished returns for the three periods, categorized by Districts.

Returns from employers relative to short-time working, exclusive of time lost on account of bad weather, showed that, of 8,044 workpeople employed by firms furnishing information, nearly 7 per cent. were working on an average about 15 1/2 hours less than full time in the week ended 27th August, 1932; the amount of overtime worked was very small.

BUILDING.

EMPLOYMENT during August remained very slack or bad; it showed a decline in the Midlands and North of England and in Scotland and Wales, but there was some improvement in Southern England and Northern Ireland. The most marked variation was an improvement in the London Division, due to some extent to activity in the painting and decorating section.

As regards individual occupations, there was some improvement with carpenters, slaters, plasterers, painters, and plumbers, but a decline with bricklayers and masons. Employment was very slack with masons and bad with other classes. Compared with August, 1931, it was much worse with all classes, the decline being most marked with bricklayers, slaters and plasterers.

The following Table shows the numbers and percentages of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts who were recorded as unemployed, including those temporarily stopped, at 22nd August, 1932, together with the increase or decrease as compared with the previous month and with August, 1931:-

Table showing numbers and percentages of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, categorized by Occupations and Divisions.

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

Returns from Local Authorities in 144 of the principal urban areas in Great Britain (except the London County Council area) with a total population of 17,469,000, show that in August, 1932, plans were passed for buildings of an estimated cost of £3,289,700, as compared with £5,457,400 in July, 1932, and £3,156,800 in August, 1931.

x: immorality in industry?

PAPER MANUFACTURE, PRINTING, AND BOOKBINDING.

EMPLOYMENT during August in the paper-making industry remained moderate generally, though it declined slightly compared with July. It was better, however, than in August, 1931.

In the letterpress printing industry employment continued moderate on the whole, and remained about the same as during July. Compared with a year ago, it was worse. In London and at Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool and Edinburgh, employment was described as slack or bad; but at Leeds and Glasgow and in some of the smaller centres, it was reported as fair. With electrotypers and stereotypers employment was fairly good generally.

Employment in the lithographic printing industry was again slack generally, and remained about the same as during July. It was reported as fair at Bristol, and at a number of the smaller towns. Employment with lithographic artists remained slack to fair.

In the bookbinding industry employment was slack. It was slightly better than in July, but worse than during August, 1931.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in the paper and paper-board industries was 13.6 at 22nd August, 1932, compared with 13.1 at 25th July, 1932, and 15.0 at 24th August, 1931. In the printing and bookbinding industries the percentage was 10.4 at 22nd August, 1932, compared with 10.2 at 25th July, 1932, and 10.1 at 24th August, 1931. In the cardboard box, paper bag and stationery industries the percentage was 8.9 at 22nd August, 1932, compared with 9.4 at 25th July, 1932, and 12.1 at 24th August, 1931.

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

Table with 7 columns: Industry, No. of Members at end of August, 1932, and Percentage Unemployed at end of August, 1932, July, 1932, August, 1931, Month before, Year before. Rows include Letterpress Printing, Lithographic Printing, and Printing and Bookbinding.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT during August was slack generally, and worse than in the previous month. Among insured workpeople in the dock, harbour, river and canal service, 35.5 per cent. were unemployed at 22nd August, 1932, as compared with 32.9 per cent. at 25th July, 1932. On a comparable basis, the percentage at 22nd August, 1932, was greater by 2.4 per cent. than at 24th August, 1931.

London.—Employment remained very slack.

The following Table shows the average daily number of dock labourers employed at docks and wharves in respect of which returns were received. The figures exclude stevedores, lightermen, etc., and do not purport to indicate the total number of dock labourers employed in the port:—

Table with 7 columns: Period, Average Daily Number of Labourers included in the returns (Employed in Docks, Employed at Wharves, Grand Total), and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a Month before, Year before. Rows include Week ended (6th Aug., 13th, 20th, 27th), Average for 4 weeks ended 27th Aug., 1932, Average for July, 1932, and Average for Aug., 1931.

Tilbury.—The average number of dock labourers employed during August was 697, compared with 648 in July, and with 666 in August, 1931.

East Coast.—Except for a certain amount of activity with timber imports, employment at the North-East Coast ports remained only moderate. Employment continued moderate at Hull and fair at Ipswich; but at Grimsby it was slack, and it showed a falling off at Goole and at Kings Lynn.

Liverpool.—Employment was very slack and worse than in July. 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 August, 1932, was 9,129, compared with 9,680 in July, 1932, and with 10,332 in August, 1931. The average weekly amount of wages paid to these men through the clearing houses was £17,741 in the four weeks ended 26th August, 1932, compared with £19,769 in July, 1932, and with £22,648 in August, 1931.

Other Ports in England and Wales.—Employment showed some improvement at Swansea, Newport and Penarth, and continued fair at Cardiff. At Avonmouth it declined during the month. At Southampton and Plymouth employment was slack. It remained slack at Manchester.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—At Glasgow and Leith employment was moderate. It was fair at Grangemouth and Burntisland. At Belfast employment remained fair.

SEAMEN.

EMPLOYMENT during August remained very slack. The demand was extremely quiet generally, and the supply of seamen was substantially in excess of requirements.

Among insured workpeople in the shipping service the percentage unemployed at 22nd August, 1932, was 32.8, compared with 32.7 at 25th July, 1932, and 31.4 at 24th August, 1931.

The demand for men on the Thames was slack, apart from a temporary improvement about the middle of the month. On the Tyne it was quiet to moderate in the first half of August, but became slack thereafter; on the Wear it was generally poor. The demand on the Tees was very slack; at the Hartlepool it was quiet, more particularly in the latter half of the month. At Hull it was poor throughout the month. At Southampton the demand was quiet to moderate, with signs of improvement towards the end of the month. At Bristol, apart from a fair period early in August, the demand was extremely slack; at Avonmouth it was moderate throughout the month. At Newport and at Cardiff the demand was very slack; at Swansea a fair demand was maintained throughout the month. The demand on the Mersey was quiet to moderate, but showed some decline towards the end of the month; at Manchester it was fair during the first week, but slack thereafter. The demand on the Clyde was quiet to moderate, and showed some improvement in the later stages of the month; at Leith it was very slack generally. At Belfast, the demand was very poor throughout the month.

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 August:—

Table with 6 columns: Principal Ports, August, 1932, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month before, Year before, August, 1932, August, 1931. Rows include England and Wales (Liverpool, Manchester, London, Southampton, Tyne Ports, Sunderland, Hull, Middlesbrough, Bristol, Newport, Mon., Cardiff, Swansea), Scotland (Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth, Glasgow), and Northern Ireland (Belfast).

* 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.

COMPOSITION OF UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

On page 340 an explanation is given of the unemployment statistics published in the Press, and in this GAZETTE. The following Table gives an analysis relating to the 22nd August, 1932, of the composition of these statistics. Lines 1 to 4 make up the number of persons on the register; while, by omitting the uninsured persons (line 4) and including lines 5 and 6, the number of books lodged, or, in other words, the number of insured persons recorded as unemployed, is obtained:—

Table with 6 columns: Category, Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total. Rows include Claims admitted, Insured persons not entitled to benefit, Uninsured persons on Register, Two months file, Unemployed—Special Schemes, Persons on Register (lines 1-4), Books Lodged (lines 1-3, 5 and 6).

NUMBERS ON THE REGISTERS OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.*

ANALYSIS OF FIGURES FOR 22ND AUGUST, AND FOR 25TH JULY, 1932.

Table with 5 columns: Category, 22nd August, 1932, 25th July, 1932, Total. Rows include Persons normally in Regular Employment, Wholly Unemployed, Temporarily Stopped, Persons normally in Casual Employment, Total.

Table with 5 columns: Category, 22nd August, 1932, 25th July, 1932, Total. Rows include Men, Boys, Women, Girls, Total for Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

VACANCIES NOTIFIED AND FILLED.

(GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.)

Table with 7 columns: Period, Vacancies Notified, Vacancies Filled, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with year before, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with year before. Rows include Four weeks ended 22nd August, 1932, Period, 29th December, 1931, to 22nd August, 1932, Vacancies notified, Vacancies filled.

* The term "Employment Exchange," as used in this connection, includes Ministry of Labour Employment Exchanges and Branch Employment Offices, and also Juvenile Employment Bureaux under the control of Local Education Authorities which are exercising powers under Sec. 107 of the Education Act, 1921, and Sec. 6 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1923. † "Vacancies Filled" include certain types of cases (described as Class B placements) 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 August, 1932, the average number of such placings of men and women was 8,825 per week. ‡ The figures for 1931 cover 36 weeks, while those for 1932 cover 34 weeks.

NUMBERS ON THE REGISTERS IN THE PRINCIPAL TOWNS.

The following Table shows for each of the Employment Exchange administrative areas in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and for the principal towns therein, the number of persons registered at Employment Exchanges on 22nd August, 1932. In certain cases (e.g., Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield, Liverpool, Glasgow, etc.) the figures cover more than one Exchange area.

Large table with 6 columns: Area, Number of Persons on Register at 22nd August, 1932 (Men, Women, Juveniles, Total), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in totals as compared with 25th July, 1932, 24th Aug., 1931. Rows include London Division, South-Eastern Division, South-Western Division, Midlands Division, North-Eastern Division, North-Western Division, Scotland Division, Wales Division, Rest of Division, Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

[Percentage rates of unemployment for each of 714 towns in Great Britain are given in the monthly "Local Unemployment Index."]

GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

Main table on the left page showing employment statistics for Great Britain and Northern Ireland, including columns for industry, estimated number of insured persons, and percentages unemployed at 22nd August 1932.

* See note * on page 343.

Main table on the right page showing employment statistics for Great Britain and Northern Ireland, including columns for industry, estimated number of insured persons, and percentages unemployed at 22nd August 1932, with sub-sections for wholly unemployed, temporary stoppages, and total.

* The percentages at each date have been calculated on the basis of the estimated numbers of insured persons at the end of the preceding June, no allowance having been made for the monthly changes in the insured population between June of one year and May of the following year.

NUMBERS OF INSURED WORKPEOPLE UNEMPLOYED. PROPORTIONS IN VARIOUS INDUSTRY GROUPS.

Table showing proportions of insured workpeople unemployed in various industry groups, categorized by gender (Males/Females) and employment status (Wholly unemployed, Temporarily stoppages).

PRINCIPAL VARIATIONS IN NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED.

The following Table indicates for Great Britain and Northern Ireland the industries in which the numbers of insured persons recorded as unemployed at 22nd August, 1932, differed from the figures for 25th July, 1932, to the extent of 1,000 or more:—

Table showing principal variations in numbers unemployed, listing industries and their changes in numbers between 25th July 1932 and 22nd August 1932, categorized by gender and total.

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

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included ... 41%
Food only ... 23%

FOOD.

At 1st September the level of the retail prices of the principal articles of food was, on the average, about the same as a month earlier.

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 23 per cent. at 1st September, 1932, as compared with 23 per cent. at 2nd August, 1932, and 23 per cent. at 1st September, 1931.

In the following Table is given a comparison of retail prices of these articles of food in July, 1914, and at 2nd August, 1932, and 1st September, 1932:—

Table with columns: Article, Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated—to the nearest 1d.), Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) at 1st Sept., 1932, as compared with July, 1914, 2nd Aug., 1932, 1st Sept., 1932.

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

Table with columns: Article, Average Percentage Increase or Decrease (-) at 1st Sept., 1932, as compared with July, 1914, Large Towns (Populations over 50,000), Small Towns and Villages, General Average, Corresponding General Average for 2nd Aug., 1932.

* If this kind is seldom dealt with in a locality, the returns quote the prices of another kind locally representative.
† The description of cheese specified for quotation is Canadian or American, but where such cheese is seldom sold in a locality the returns quote the prices of another kind locally representative.

RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT.

As regards rents, inquiries which have been made into the changes which have taken effect under the Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Acts indicate that the average increase in the controlled rents (including rates) of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 1st September was approximately 48 per cent.

As regards clothing, owing to the wide range of quotations, both now and before the war, to changes in qualities and in stocks held by retailers, and to variations in the extent to which different articles and qualities have been affected by price changes, it is impossible to make an exact calculation of the increase in prices; but information as to the movements of prices of men's suits and overcoats, woollen and cotton materials, underclothing and hosiery, and boots, received from retailers in the principal towns, indicates that at 1st September 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 between 85 and 90 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

In the fuel and light group the prices of coal at the beginning of September were frequently higher than a month earlier and averaged about 80 per cent. above the level of July, 1914. The average price of gas remained between 45 and 50 per cent. above the pre-war level. For the fuel and light group as a whole (including coal, gas, oil, candles and matches) the average increase at 1st September, as compared with July, 1914, was approximately 70 per cent.

ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance in pre-war working-class family expenditure, allowance being also made for the increase in the prices of soap, soda, domestic ironmongery, brushware and pottery, tobacco, fares and newspapers (averaging approximately 70 per cent.), the resultant general average increase for 1st September, 1932, is approximately 41 per cent. over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 41 per cent. at 2nd August, 1932, and 45 per cent. at 1st September, 1931.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken in 1932 as in 1914) is to show the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families (i.e., the standard actually prevailing in working-class families before the war, irrespective of whether such standard was adequate or not). In view of the variations in the amounts of increase in the prices of different commodities it is probable that economies or readjustments in expenditure have been effected in many families, especially in those cases where incomes have not increased so much as prices. On the other hand, the standard of living may have been raised in many cases in which wages have been increased in greater proportion than prices. No allowance is made in the figures for any such alterations in the standard of living, as to which trustworthy statistics are not available.

SUMMARY TABLE: 1920 to 1932.

The following Table shows the average percentage increase, as compared with July, 1914, for all the items included in the statistics, at the beginning of each month, 1920 to 1932:—

Table with 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" has been published, and may be purchased, price 3d. net (3 1/2d. post free), from H.M. Stationery Office, at any of the addresses shown on the cover of this GAZETTE.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

N.B.—While the percentages given in the following Summary Tables are derived from the most authoritative sources of statistical information, certain differences in the nature and scope of the data used, in the methods of combining such data and in the periods for which the rise is measured, suggest the need for caution in drawing conclusions from a comparison between the figures for any two countries or cities. In every case the percentage calculation is based on the cost of a fixed list of commodities taken in identical quantities.

I.—FOOD.

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

Table with columns: Country, Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914, July, 1928, July, 1929, July, 1930, July, 1931, Latest figures available, Rise, Date.

II.—ALL ITEMS.

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

Table with columns: Country, Items on which computation is based, Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914, July, 1928, July, 1929, July, 1930, July, 1931, Latest figures available, Rise, Date.

* Exceptions to this are: Egypt, January, 1913, to July, 1914; France (other towns), August, 1914; Italy (all items), Milan and Rome, January to June, 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; Spain, South Africa, France (Paris, all items), Poland, 1914; Germany, average, 1913-1914; Amsterdam, 1911-1913; Belgium, April, 1914; Italy (food), United States (all items), Canada, 1913; Australia (all items), November, 1914. The Australian percentages for all items are a weighted average for the six capital cities. The percentages are calculated, in Czechoslovakia and Poland, on prices converted to their gold values, and, in the other countries, on prices in the ordinary currency.
† Fuel and light are also included in these figures.
‡ New series.
§ Figure for June.
|| A = Food; B = House-Rent; C = Clothing; D = Fuel and light; E = Other or Miscellaneous Items.
¶ Figure for 3rd Quarter.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

The number of workpeople, other than seamen, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, reported during August, 1932, as killed in the course of their employment was 131, as compared with 124 in the previous month and with 122 in August, 1931. Fatal accidents to seamen reported in August, 1932, numbered 19, as compared with 26 in the previous month and with 29 in August, 1931.

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

INDUSTRIAL DISEASES.

The total number of cases† of poisoning, anthrax, and epitheliomatous and chrome ulceration in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported during August, 1932, under the Factory and Workshop Act, or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, was 38; the total number of deaths† reported was 4. In addition two cases of lead poisoning (including one death) among plumbers not employed in factories came to the knowledge of the Home Office during August, but notification of such cases is not obligatory.

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

* Accidents occurring in the use or working of railways are included under "Railway Service."
† Cases include all attacks reported during the month, and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding 12 months. Deaths include all fatal cases reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not.

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