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Where appropriate, lists of items under the headings shown in CAPITALS will be found on the pages indicated.

Earnings and Hours in April, 1952

IN April, 1952, an enquiry was made by the Ministry of Labour and National Service in order to obtain particulars of the average weekly earnings and working hours of manual wage-earners employed in manufacturing industries generally, and in a number of the principal non-manufacturing industries, in the United Kingdom. Statistics summarising the results of similar enquiries which had previously been made at half-yearly intervals have been published in earlier issues of this GAZETTE (see for instance the issue for March, 1952).

In the enquiry of April, 1952, forms were sent to employers who had previously supplied information and to about 3,000 additional employers, asking for particulars of the number of wage-earners at work in the last pay-week in April, 1952, of the aggregate earnings of those wage-earners in that week, and of the total number of man-hours worked in the week, classified under the following headings : men, 21 years and over ; youths and boys under 21 years ; women, 18 years and over ; and girls under 18 years. As in the case of the earlier enquiries, referred to above, the figures given were to include all wage-earners who were at work during the whole or part of the week in question, but were to exclude office staffs, shop assistants, and outworkers working at home on materials supplied by the employer ; managers, commercial travellers, clerks and typists, and salaried persons generally were also to be excluded. In cases where the works were stopped for the whole or part of the specified pay-week, as the result of a general or local holiday, breakdown, fire, strike or lock-out, the employers were asked to substitute particulars for the nearest week of an ordinary character. The wages shown were to be the total earnings, inclusive of bonuses, before any deductions in respect of income tax or of the workers' contributions to the national insurance schemes. The employers were asked to give separate particulars of the numbers and earnings of any men or women ordinarily employed as part-time workers for not more than 30 hours a week, and of the number of hours worked by such workers.

The total number of establishments to which forms were sent (excluding those which were found to be no longer in operation in April, 1952, or to be employing no wage-earners

within the scope of the enquiry) was about 62,000, of which approximately 59,700 furnished returns suitable for tabulation. The total number of wage-earners (including part-time workers) covered by returns showing the numbers employed and wages earned in the week was nearly 6½ million, and particulars of the aggregate man-hours worked in the week were obtained in respect of nearly all of these workpeople. It is estimated that the returns received covered rather more than two-thirds of the total number of wage-earners employed in the industries concerned at the time of the enquiry. The proportions varied in the different industries and in some cases were much more and in others much less than two-thirds. The average earnings of these workers in the last pay-week in April, 1952, are shown, industry by industry, in the Table on pages 305 and 306, together with the numbers of workpeople employed in those establishments from which returns were received. The average hours actually worked in each industry in the same week in April, 1952, and the average hourly earnings in that week, are shown on pages 307 and 308.

Weekly Earnings in April, 1952

The Table in the first column overleaf shows the average weekly earnings in April, 1952, in all the industries combined and in each of 19 broad groups of industries. The average earnings in this Table have been calculated by "weighting" the averages in each industry by the total numbers employed in April, 1952. This has been done in order to eliminate the effect of disparities in the proportion of returns received in the different industries.

In computing the averages for April, 1952, the earnings of women employed as part-time workers have been included on the basis of two part-time workers being taken as representing one full-time worker. The earnings of these women averaged 48s. 3d. and the hours worked averaged 22·0. Their inclusion, however, has little effect on the average earnings shown, for, if such part-time workers had been excluded from the statistics, the general average of 92s. 2d. would have been altered by only 4d. (to 91s. 10d.), and among the 19 groups of industries their exclusion would not in the majority of cases

NUMBERS EMPLOYED IN GREAT BRITAIN: INDUSTRIAL ANALYSIS

Table with columns for Industry, Males, Females, and Total, with sub-columns for End-May and End-June for the years 1951 and 1952. Rows include Mining, Non-Metallic Mining Products, Chemicals and Allied Trades, Metal Manufacturing, Engineering, Vehicles, Metal Goods, Precision Instruments, Textiles, Leather, Clothing, Food, Drink and Tobacco.

Numbers Employed in Great Britain: Industrial Analysis—continued

Table with columns for Industry, Males, Females, and Total, with sub-columns for End-May and End-June for the years 1951 and 1952. Rows include Manufactures of Wood and Cork, Paper and Printing, Other Manufacturing Industries, Building and Contracting, Gas, Electricity and Water, Transport and Communication, Distributive Trades, Miscellaneous Services.

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WAGES, DISPUTES, RETAIL PRICES

Contents of this Section

Table listing contents of the section: Changes in Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour (Page 328), Index of Rates of Wages (Page 332), Industrial Disputes (Page 333), U.K. Index of Retail Prices (Page 334), Retail Prices Overseas (Page 334)

Changes in Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour

RATES OF WAGES

Changes in August

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics,* the changes in the rates of wages reported to have come into operation in the United Kingdom during August resulted in an aggregate increase estimated at approximately £275,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 1,310,000 workpeople.

The principal increases affected agricultural workers in England and Wales, domestic staffs in hospitals and allied institutions, and workpeople employed in the iron and steel industry, goods transport by road, and hosiery manufacture in the Midlands. Others receiving increases included workers engaged in coal distribution and flour milling, brewery workers in London, and female workers in Northern Ireland employed in the manufacture of linen and cotton handkerchiefs and household goods and linen piece goods.

The minimum rates fixed under the Agricultural Wages Act for agricultural workers in England and Wales were increased by 5s. a week for men and 4s. for women. Domestic and similar grades of staff and ancillary workers employed in hospitals and allied institutions received increases in standard rates of 6s. a week for men and 4s. 6d. for women. In the iron and steel industry there were small increases payable under sliding-scale arrangements based on the index of retail prices. For adult workers engaged in the transport of goods by road the statutory minimum remuneration fixed under the Wages Councils Act was increased by 5s. a week. In hosiery manufacture in the Midlands the cost-of-living bonus was increased by 1d. in the shilling on basic rates, equivalent to an increase on current rates of approximately 3 per cent.

For workers employed in coal distribution in various districts in England and Wales the minimum weekly rates for adult workers were increased by 5s. In flour milling there were increases, payable retrospectively from the end of June, of 8s. a week for men and 6s. for women. Workpeople employed in breweries in London received increases in weekly rates of 6s. for men and 4s. for women. For female workers in Northern Ireland engaged in the manufacture of linen and cotton handkerchiefs and household goods and linen piece goods there were increases in the general minimum time rates for workers 18 years or over of 1d. or 1 1/4d. an hour, according to the period of employment, with corresponding increases for pieceworkers.

Of the total increase of £275,000, about £183,000 resulted from Orders made under the Agricultural Wages Act or the Wages Councils Acts; about £47,000 was the result of arbitration awards;

about £30,000 resulted from the operation of sliding scales based on the index of retail prices; about £8,000 was the result of direct negotiations between employers and workpeople or their representatives; and the remainder resulted from arrangements made by Joint Industrial Councils or other joint standing bodies established by voluntary agreement.

Changes in January-August, 1952

The following Table shows the numbers of workpeople in the United Kingdom affected by increases in rates of wages reported to the Department during the eight completed months of 1952, and the aggregate amounts of such increases. There were no decreases in wage rates during this period.

Table showing the numbers of workpeople in the United Kingdom affected by increases in rates of wages reported to the Department during the eight completed months of 1952. Columns: Industry Group, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by Increases, Estimated Amount of Increase in Weekly Wages (£).

In the corresponding months of 1951 there was a net increase of £3,713,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 8,504,000 workpeople.

HOURS OF LABOUR

No changes in hours of labour were reported during the month.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING AUGUST

(NOTE.—The figure in brackets below an item in the column headed "District" relates to the page in the volume "TIME RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR, 1ST OCTOBER, 1951," on which details for that date are given.)

Table showing principal changes in rates of wages reported during August, with columns for Industry, District, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, and Particulars of Change.

* The particulars of numbers affected by changes in rates of wages and working hours, and of the amount of change in weekly wages and hours of labour, exclude changes affecting clerical workers, for whom the information available is not sufficient to form a basis for statistics. The estimates of the effect of the changes on weekly wages are based on normal conditions of employment and do not take into account the effect either of short time or of overtime.

† Workpeople who receive two or more increases in wages during the period are counted only once in this column.

‡ These increases took effect under Orders issued under the Agricultural Wages Act. See page 337 and article on page 310.

§ Under sliding-scale arrangements based on the official index of retail prices.

|| Wages are subject to further flat-rate additions (not subject to sliding-scale arrangements) totalling 5s. 10d. a shift for underground workers 18 or over and surface workers 21 or over, plus 9d. to dual workers whose base rate is less than 8s. 1 1/4d. a shift, with proportional additions for younger workers, or additions varying at different mines on tonnage rates.

Principal Changes in Rates of Wages Reported during August—continued

Table showing principal changes in rates of wages reported during August—continued, with columns for Industry, District, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, and Particulars of Change.

*Under sliding-scale arrangements based on the official index of retail prices. †Wages are subject to further flat-rate additions (not subject to sliding-scale arrangements) of 1s. a shift for men, of 9d. for youths 18 and under 21 years, and of 6d. for boys.

‡Wages are subject to further flat-rate additions (not subject to sliding-scale arrangements) of 1s. a shift for men and youths 18 years and over, and of 6d. for boys.

§These increases affected employees of firms which are members of the Iron and Steel Trades Employers' Association.

||These increases affected mainly the employees of firms which are members of the Sheet Trade Board, the districts concerned being Staffordshire, Cheshire, Tees-side, South Wales and Monmouthshire and the Glasgow district.

¶These increases affected employees of firms which are members of the Iron and Steel Trades Employers' Association, the principal districts concerned being the North-East Coast, Cumberland, Lancashire, South Yorkshire (excluding Sheffield special steels district), Lincolnshire, South Wales and West of Scotland.

**These increases affected employees of firms which are members of the South Wales and Monmouthshire Iron and Steel Manufacturers' Association.

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