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

EMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT showed a further slight decline during September. Among the 11,500,000 workpeople insured against unemployment under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed at 22nd September, 1924, was 10.8, compared with 10.6 at 25th August, 1924, and with 11.7 in September, 1923. Among the members of those Trade Unions from which returns were received the percentage unemployed was 8.6 at the end of September, 1924, compared with 7.9 at the end of August, 1924. The total number of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 29th September, 1924, was approximately 1,205,000, of whom 915,000 were men and 220,000 were women, the remainder being boys and girls; at 25th August, 1924, the total was 1,152,000, of whom 876,000 were men and 203,000 were women, and at 1st October, 1923, it was 1,285,000, of whom 955,000 were men and 244,000 women.

The principal industries showing a decline in employment in September were coal and iron mining, pig iron manufacture, iron and steel manufacture, and the clothing trades; in the cotton, wool textile, building, brass, and pottery trades some improvement was reported. Employment was good in the tinsplate, steel sheet, brick, carpet and jute trades, with mill-sawyers, and with most of the skilled operatives in the building trades; and fair in the tailoring, silk, leather, furnishing, printing and pottery industries, and in certain branches of the metal trades. At iron and steel works and in the engineering and shipbuilding industries it continued bad.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are available, the changes in rates of wages reported in September resulted in an aggregate increase of nearly £57,000 in the weekly full-time wages of over 390,000 workpeople, and in an aggregate reduction of nearly £55,000 in those of 565,000 workpeople.

Among the workpeople whose rates of wages were increased, the pieceworkers and the higher-paid time-workers employed in federated shipyards obtained advances of varying amounts, ranging up to 4s. per week. Able seamen, firemen, trimmers, and other grades of men (except the "ordinary" seamen) employed in the merchant shipping service received increases, generally of 10s. on monthly rates and 3s. or 3s. 3d. on weekly rates. Other important classes of workpeople whose wages were increased included road transport workers in London, and iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England. There were also increases in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts for workpeople employed in the boot and shoe repairing, paper bag, paper box, and brush and broom trades, and for certain classes of male workers employed in the pressed or stamped metal wares trade.

The workpeople affected by reductions were mainly coal

miners in Durham, Northumberland, and the Yorkshire and East Midlands area, the percentage reductions in these districts being equivalent to amounts varying from 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ to 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. on current rates.

During the nine completed months of 1924 the changes reported to the Department have resulted in net increases equivalent to nearly £560,000 in the weekly full-time wages of over 2,660,000 workpeople and in net reductions of over £72,000 in those of 635,000 workpeople. In addition, the wages of 400,000 workpeople have been changed at various dates, but stand at the same level as at the beginning of the year. In the corresponding period of 1923 there were net reductions of over £500,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 3,160,000 workpeople, and net increases of over £300,000 in the weekly wages of 1,130,000 workpeople.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st October 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 76 per cent. above that of July, 1914, as compared with 72 per cent. a month ago and 75 per cent. a year ago. The rise in the percentage between 1st September and 1st October was due to increases, largely seasonal, in the prices of food; for food alone the average increase over the pre-war level was 72 per cent. at 1st October, as compared with 66 per cent. a month ago and 72 per cent. a year ago.

The statistics are designed to indicate the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families. Accordingly, in making the calculations, the changes in the prices of the various items included are combined in proportions corresponding with the relative importance of these 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 September, was 41. In addition, 34 disputes which began before September were still in progress at the beginning of the month. The number of workers involved in all disputes in September (including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes) was approximately 28,000; the estimated aggregate duration of all disputes during September was about 518,000 working days. These figures compare with totals of approximately 122,000 workpeople involved and 1,764,000 days lost in the previous month, when a general dispute in the building industry was in progress.

During the first nine months of 1924 the stoppages of work owing to trade disputes, so far as reported to the Department, have involved approximately 565,000 workpeople, as compared with 358,000 workpeople involved in the first nine months of last year. The aggregate duration of the stoppages in January to September, 1924, has been about 7,658,000 working days, as compared with about 8,347,000 days in the corresponding period of 1923.

MEMBERSHIP OF TRADE UNIONS, TRADE UNION FEDERATIONS, AND TRADES COUNCILS.

TRADE UNIONS.

In Tables which appear on page 379 statistics are given relating to the membership of Trade Unions in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at the end of 1923, based on information collected by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, and by the Registrar of Friendly Societies for Northern Ireland, from Trade Unions registered under the Trade Union Acts, and by the Ministry of Labour from unregistered Unions. They relate to all Unions of employees—including those of salaried and professional workers, as well as those of manual wage earners—which are known to include among their functions that of negotiating with employers with the object of regulating the conditions of employment of their members.

Totals for 1923, and Comparison with 1922.*

The total number of such Unions, known to the Department to have been in existence at the end of 1923, was 1,135, as compared with 1,176 at the end of 1922. The reduction was due partly to dissolutions and partly to amalgamations. The number of Unions dissolved in 1923, so far as reported to the Department, was 39, with an aggregate membership of over 6,300 at the end of 1922; and 24 were affected by amalgamations in which their number was reduced to 8 during 1923. On the other hand, 14 new Unions, with a total membership of 7,100, were reported as formed during the year.

The total membership at the end of 1923 was approximately 5,405,000,* as compared with 5,610,000 at the end of 1922, showing a decrease of 205,000, or 3.7 per cent. The number of male members was about 4,590,000, showing a decrease of 152,000, or 3.2 per cent., as compared with the previous year, and the number of female members was 815,000, showing a decrease of 53,000, or 6.1 per cent. The total of 5,405,000 includes about 29,000 members in Irish Free State branches, and 65,000 members in other overseas branches of certain Unions, in addition to a number of persons (principally teachers) who are members of more than one society, and are therefore counted more than once in the figures. When allowance is made for these cases the net number of members in Great Britain and Northern Ireland appears to have been nearly 5,300,000 at the end of 1923, as compared with about 5,500,000 at the end of 1922.

From the detailed Tables given on page 379 it will be seen that nearly all the main groups of Unions sustained reductions in membership in 1923, the principal exceptions being the mining and quarrying group, in which there was an increase of 70,000 (over 8 per cent.) and the railway group, which showed an increase of 35,000 (nearly 8 per cent.). The greatest reductions were in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding group, in which the membership fell by 153,000, or about 16 per cent. Other groups showing heavy reductions were builders' labourers (10,000, or over 17 per cent.), agriculture (13,000), and pottery and glass (6,000), both over 14 per cent., general labour (51,000), and linen and jute (4,000), both over 10 per cent.

In some groups the reductions were comparatively small, the bleaching, finishing, etc., hosiery, woodworking and furnishing, banking and insurance, and public administration groups all showing decreases of less than 3 per cent., while in the paper, printing, etc., group the decrease was only 0.1 per cent. The road transport and dock labour, etc., group and the boot and shoe group showed small increases.

The total female membership of all groups showed a larger proportional decrease in 1923 than the total male membership, mainly due to a heavy reduction (over 26,000, or 10.4 per cent.) in female membership in the cotton industry, in which there is a preponderance of female workers. The reduction in female Trade Union membership in this industry accounted for one-half of the total reduction in the female membership of all Trade Unions in 1923.

Comparison with 1913 and 1920.

The second of the detailed Tables given on page 379 shows the total membership (also sub-divided into male and female) in each of the main groups of Unions at the end of 1913 and of each of the years 1920-1923. Between 1920 (when the total membership reached its highest level) and the end of 1923, there was a substantial fall in membership in each group of Unions except teachers, in which the reduction was slight. The fall was greatest in the general labour and agricultural labour groups, which lost nearly two-thirds of their 1920 membership, and in the commerce and finance group, which lost nearly one-half.

In comparison with 1913 the mining and quarrying, cotton, and bleaching, dyeing, finishing, etc., groups showed little change in total membership in 1923, but all other groups showed considerable increases. The agricultural Unions had nearly four times, and the paper, printing, etc., group more than double, their pre-war membership.

The female membership of the general labour group in 1923 was little more than one-fourth that of 1920; in the commerce and finance group it was little more than one-third; and in clothing it was only about one-half. In the cotton group the decrease was over 20 per cent., but in the teaching group there

* The figures for 1923 are provisional and may be subject to slight revision when further information is available. The subdivision of the total membership into male and female is not exact, as estimates have been made for some Trade Unions which are unable to state precisely the numbers of males and females comprised within their membership.

was a slight increase. In comparison with 1913 there was only a small increase in the cotton group (6 per cent.), but in nearly every other group the female membership in 1923 was more than double the pre-war figure.

Totals for 1893-1923.

The following Table shows the total number of Unions known to the Department to have been in existence in Great Britain and Northern Ireland in each year from 1893 to 1923, and their aggregate membership to the nearest thousand. (The figures of membership include members in overseas branches and in Irish Free State branches of such Unions, but wholly exclude Unions having their head offices in the Irish Free State area):—

Year.	Membership† at end of Year.			Percentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on Total Membership of previous Year.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
1893	1,279	*	1,559	- 1.1
1894	1,314	*	1,530	- 1.9
1895	1,340	*	1,504	- 1.7
1896	1,358	1,467	1,609	+ 7.0
1897	1,353	1,584	1,731	+ 7.6
1898	1,326	1,609	1,753	+ 1.2
1899	1,325	1,762	1,912	+ 9.1
1900	1,323	1,869	2,023	+ 5.8
1901	1,322	1,873	2,025	+ 0.1
1902	1,297	1,858	2,014	- 0.6
1903	1,285	1,838	1,994	- 1.0
1904	1,256	1,803	1,968	- 1.3
1905	1,244	1,819	1,998	+ 1.6
1906	1,232	2,000	2,211	+ 10.7
1907	1,283	2,264	2,514	+ 13.7
1908	1,268	2,231	2,486	- 1.1
1909	1,260	2,215	2,478	- 0.3
1910	1,269	2,288	2,566	+ 3.5
1911	1,290	2,805	3,140	+ 22.4
1912	1,251	3,027	3,417	+ 8.8
1913	1,267	3,703	4,136	+ 21.0
1914	1,258	3,709	4,146	+ 0.2
1915	1,227	3,868	4,359	+ 5.1
1916	1,222	4,019	4,644	+ 6.5
1917	1,236	4,622	5,499	+ 18.4
1918	1,258	5,326	6,535	+ 18.8
1919	1,350	6,603	7,928	+ 21.3
1920	1,346	6,996	8,336	+ 5.1
1921	1,281	5,622	6,625	- 20.5
1922	1,176	4,742	5,610	- 15.3
1923	1,135	4,590	5,405	- 3.7

As will be seen from the following figures, a large part of the reduction in the total number of Trade Unions in recent years has been due to amalgamations.

Year.	New Unions formed (other than by amalgamations).	Reductions due to		Net Reductions.
		Dissolutions.	Amalgamations.	
1920	112	34	82	4
1921	25	72	85	115
1922	42	43	37	55
1923	14	39	16	41

FEDERATIONS OF TRADE UNIONS.†

Returns obtained by the Department from Federations of Trade Unions in Great Britain and Northern Ireland show that at the end of 1923 their gross total membership, as represented by payment of fees, was approximately 5,610,000. Corresponding figures are given below for the end of each year since 1913:

Year.	Number of Federations.†	Approximate Gross Total Membership.†
1913	127	4,373,000
1914	139	4,733,000
1915	150	4,946,000
1916	164	4,982,000
1917	181	6,480,000
1918	151	8,630,000
1919	134	9,895,000
1920	113	10,740,000
1921	103	8,629,000
1922	93	6,246,000
1923	87	5,610,000

The decline in the number of Federations between 1917 and 1923 is due largely to the merging of local into national Federations.

As there are many cases in which particular Trade Unions, or branches of Trade Unions, are affiliated to more than one Federation, a large number of Trade Union members are counted more than once in the gross membership given above, which for that reason exceeds the total number of members of all Trade Unions. In the following Table the membership of each federated Trade Union is counted only once, irrespective of the number of Federations to which the Trade Union was affiliated. The Table shows, for the years 1913, 1922 and 1923 (a) the total membership (to the nearest thousand) in each group, of those Trade Unions (or of those sections or branches of Trade Unions) which were affiliated to Federations, and (b) the percentage proportion of federated membership to the

Group of Trade Unions.	Membership of Trade Unions affiliated to Federations (000's omitted).			Percentage Proportion of Federated Membership to Total Membership (as shown on page 379).		
	1913.	1922.	1923.	1913.	1922.	1923.
Agriculture ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mining and Quarrying ..	905	835	898	98	99	98
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ..	523	469	366	96	56	51
Textile ..	422	629	588	81	96	97
Clothing (including Boot and Shoe) ..	97	139	140	91	84	87
Woodworking and Furnishing ..	55	88	82	92	94	92
Paper, Printing, etc. ..	82	178	178	98	99	99
Building ..	37	384	337	37	90	95
Railway Service ..	32	51	58	10	12	12
Other Transport ..	298	393	186	81	88	41
Commerce, Finance, etc. ..	15	80	69	11	34	31
Public Administration ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Services ..	116	156	162	49	43	46
Teaching ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous ..	47	111	102	46	67	66
General Labour ..	266	475	425	74	97	97
Totals ..	2,945	3,988	3,591	71	71	66

* Details of male and female membership are not available for years prior to 1896.
† See * note in previous column.

total membership of each group as shown in the Table on page 379.

Group of Trade Unions.	Membership of Trade Unions affiliated to Federations (000's omitted).			Percentage Proportion of Federated Membership to Total Membership (as shown on page 379).		
	1913.	1922.	1923.	1913.	1922.	1923.
Agriculture ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mining and Quarrying ..	905	835	898	98	99	98
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ..	523	469	366	96	56	51
Textile ..	422	629	588	81	96	97
Clothing (including Boot and Shoe) ..	97	139	140	91	84	87
Woodworking and Furnishing ..	55	88	82	92	94	92
Paper, Printing, etc. ..	82	178	178	98	99	99
Building ..	37	384	337	37	90	95
Railway Service ..	32	51	58	10	12	12
Other Transport ..	298	393	186	81	88	41
Commerce, Finance, etc. ..	15	80	69	11	34	31
Public Administration ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Services ..	116	156	162	49	43	46
Teaching ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous ..	47	111	102	46	67	66
General Labour ..	266	475	425	74	97	97
Totals ..	2,945	3,988	3,591	71	71	66

The figures given show that in most groups of Trade Unions the proportion of federated membership at the end of 1923 was not substantially different from that a year earlier, except in the "Other Transport" group, in which the proportion of the total Trade Union membership affiliated to Federations fell from 88 per cent. in 1922 to 41 per cent. in 1923, one large Union, which was affiliated to the National Transport Workers' Federation in 1922, having discontinued its federation in 1923.

The Federations with the largest membership at the end of 1923 were the General Federation of Trade Unions, to which nearly 120 Trade Unions were affiliated, the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, and the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades. The gross membership of these three Federations was over 2½ millions.

The Trades Union Congress, which in 1923 represented 167 organisations and a total membership of nearly 4,370,000, has not been regarded as a Federation for the purpose of the above statistics. Particulars of the 1924 Congress, with comparative statistics for 1924 and 1923, were given on page 316 of the September issue of this GAZETTE.

TRADES COUNCILS.

At the end of 1923 the number of Trades Councils in Great Britain and Northern Ireland known to the Department as existing wholly or partly for industrial purposes (including industrial sections of local Labour Parties) was 482, as compared with 504 in the previous year and 328 in 1913. A few Councils, existing solely for political purposes, are excluded from these figures. The total Trade Union membership represented for industrial purposes on these Councils, through payment of fees by local Trade Union branches or by local Trade Unions, as shown by returns obtained by the Department from the Councils, was approximately 2,309,000 in 1923, compared with 2,463,000 in 1922, and with 1,495,000 in 1913. These figures represent about 43 per cent. of the total membership of Trade Unions in 1923 and 44 per cent. in 1922, as compared with 36 per cent. in 1913. It should be observed that the number of members in respect of whom fees are paid is frequently considerably less than the full membership of the Trade Union or the Trade Union branch affiliated.

The following Table shows the geographical distribution of these Councils in 1913, 1922 and 1923:—

District.	Number of Trades Councils.			Total Trade Union Membership represented for industrial purposes, by payment of fees. (000's omitted).		
	1913.	1922.	1923.	1913.	1922.	1923.
Northern Counties and Cleveland ..	14	22	23	60	103	100
Yorkshire (excluding Cleveland) ..	35	41	38	152	251	223
Lancashire, Cheshire and Isle of Man ..	58	71	69	403	528	489
N. and W. Midland Counties ..	53	74	72	266	470	433
S. Midland and E. Counties ..	39	79	74	74	186	187
London ..	17	22	22	103	240	230
South-Eastern Counties ..	26	56	54	46	107	84
South-Western Counties ..	14	31	29	21	73	70
Wales and Monmouthshire ..	36	60	57	125	185	179
Scotland ..	35	46	42	230	299	287
Northern Ireland ..	1	2	2	14	23	27
Totals, Great Britain and Northern Ireland ..	328	504	482	1,495	2,463	2,309

It will be seen that there was a decline in membership in 1923 in each of the districts shown, except in the South Midland and Eastern Counties and in Northern Ireland.

UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS, 1921-1924.

PRIOR to 10th March last the unemployment returns published weekly by the Ministry of Labour included separate figures for (a) persons on the live registers of the Employment Exchanges and (b) persons working systematic short time and drawing benefit for intervals of unemployment. The persons recorded as working systematic short time included only those whose arrangements for short time working are such that it is known precisely in advance on what days work will be available. The figures under this head, therefore, covered only a small proportion of the total number of the persons working short time and drawing benefit for intervals of unemployment; in fact, during the six months ended 10th March, 1924, the figures in the weekly return varied between 47,833 and 75,361.

The differentiation of persons working "systematic short time" is not of any considerable value in itself, and actually tends to be misleading, because it may give rise to the erroneous impression that the figure under this head includes all persons working short time and drawing benefit. A much more important distinction would be that between persons "wholly unemployed" and those "working short time"; in many cases, however, elaborate investigation would be necessary in order to decide into which of these two groups particular individuals should be placed, and on this account it is thought to be impracticable to compile weekly statistics on this basis.

After careful consideration it was decided to publish in the weekly returns a single set of figures, compiled by adding to the figure which on the old basis would have been given under head (a), a figure representing so many of the persons working systematic short time as are not at work at the date of the return. The resulting total is greater than the figure which on the old basis would have been given under head (a) alone, but less than the sum of those given under heads (a) and (b).

The weekly return includes comparative figures on the new basis for previous weeks, but in view of the numerous requests which have been received for a complete statement for earlier periods the following Table has been prepared giving the weekly figures for Great Britain on the new basis for the period since the beginning of 1921:—

NUMBERS OF PERSONS REGISTERED AS UNEMPLOYED AT EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Date.	Number.	Date.	Number.	Date.	Number.	Date.	Number.
1921. Jan. 7	1,010,021	1922. Jan. 10	2,003,493	1923. Jan. 1	1,511,377	1924. Jan. 7	1,267,675
14	1,140,870	17	1,963,568	8	1,500,898	14	1,255,919
21	1,205,249	24	1,855,555	15	1,483,467	21	1,251,822
28	1,276,577	31	1,936,081	22	1,463,612	28	1,320,518*
Feb. 4	1,329,130	Feb. 7	1,929,821	Feb. 29	1,435,642	Feb. 4	1,248,475
11	1,380,938	14	1,925,273	5	1,409,961	11	1,188,673
18	1,424,320	21	1,891,485	12	1,387,450	18	1,160,067
25	1,465,316	28	1,859,137	19	1,364,193	25	1,154,504
Mar. 4	1,509,029	Mar. 6	1,828,223	Mar. 26	1,353,173	Mar. 3	1,134,742
11	1,584,500	13	1,798,619	5	1,343,725	10	1,113,825
18	1,661,844	20	1,772,712	12	1,327,082		

It should be noted that the figures here given relate to Great Britain only and do not include persons registered at Exchanges in Northern Ireland, as to whom statistics are not available, on this revised basis, for the whole period. The figures given on pages 351 and 367 of this issue as to the numbers of applicants for employment registered at Employment Exchanges cover, however, both Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

A similar practice is adopted in regard to the calculation of the percentages of unemployed persons in insured trades. Since June, 1923, these percentages have included persons claiming benefit in respect of systematic short time, and the following Table gives the percentages for each month since 1921, the percentages prior to June, 1923, having been re-calculated on the new system. As an indication of the extent to which these figures are representative of industry, it may be stated that the number of insured persons in Great Britain and Northern Ireland is 11½ millions and in Great Britain alone 11¼ millions.

PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED AMONG INSURED WORKPEOPLE.

Date (End of Month).	1921.		1922.		1923.		1924.	
	Great Britain and N. Ireland.	Great Britain	Great Britain and N. Ireland.	Great Britain	Great Britain and N. Ireland.	Great Britain	Great Britain and N. Ireland.	Great Britain
Jan. ..	10.6	10.6	17.0	13.1	12.9	11.9*	11.8*	11.8*
Feb. ..	12.4	10.6	16.4	12.2	12.0	10.7	10.6	10.6
Mar. ..	14.5	15.6	15.4	11.5	11.3	9.9	9.8	9.8
April ..	19.2†	15.4	15.2	11.4	11.2	9.7	9.6	9.6
May ..	22.3†	14.2	14.0	11.2	11.0	9.5	9.3	9.3
June ..	21.3†	13.3	13.1	11.3	11.1	9.4	9.3	9.3
July ..	16.9	12.8	12.5	11.5	11.4	9.9	9.7	9.7
Aug. ..	14.7	12.5	12.3	11.8	11.7	10.6	10.5	10.5
Sept. ..	13.5	12.4	12.2	11.7	11.6	10.8	10.6	10.6
Oct. ..	13.8	12.3	12.1	11.7	11.6	—	—	—
Nov. ..	16.4	12.7	12.5	11.5	11.4	—	—	—
Dec. ..	17.4	12.6	12.3	10.7	10.5	—	—	—

EMPLOYMENT OF EX-SERVICE MEN.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

On 30th September, 1924, the number of men in training was 7,386, and the number awaiting training 3,062. Since 1st August, 1919, 86,781 men have terminated training.

NATIONAL SCHEME (KING'S ROLL).

There are approximately 23,500 firms on the King's National Roll, the number of disabled ex-Service men employed by these firms being approximately 350,000.

The following statement gives particulars of the enrolment of Local Authorities in Great Britain:—

Local Authorities;	On the Roll.	Not on the Roll.		Total.
		According to present information employ only a small staff.	Not included in Cols. (2) and (3).	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
ENGLAND.				
<i>London.</i>				
County Council ..	1	—	—	1
Corporation of the City of London ..	1	—	—	1
Metropolitan Boroughs ..	28	—	—	28
Boards of Guardians ..	25	—	3	28
TOTALS ..	55	—	3	58
<i>Provinces.</i>				
County Councils ..	44	—	6	50
County Boroughs ..	79	—	—	79
Town Councils ..	178	9	39	226
Urban District Councils ..	428	217	75	720
Rural District Councils ..	181	123	276	580
Boards of Guardians ..	176	126	256	558
TOTALS ..	1,086	475	652	2,213
WALES.				
County Councils ..	7	—	5	12
County Boroughs ..	3	—	—	3
Town Councils ..	18	—	9	27
Urban District Councils ..	29	31	1	61
Rural District Councils ..	15	29	24	68
Boards of Guardians ..	12	16	19	47
TOTALS ..	84	76	58	218
SCOTLAND.				
County Councils ..	14	7	12	33
County District Committees ..	—	—	—	—
Town Councils ..	40	15	44	99
Parish Councils ..	78	70	53	201
Education Authorities ..	13	927	20	960
Education Authorities ..	7	—	30	37
TOTALS ..	152	1,019	159	1,330
GRAND TOTALS ..	1,377	1,570	872	3,819

* The figures are affected by the railway dispute.
† A general stoppage of work, owing to a dispute, was in progress in the coal mining industry.
‡ The Metropolitan Asylums Board is also on the Roll.

INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN 1923.

THE following particulars relating to Industrial Co-operative Societies have been compiled by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies from the statutory returns furnished to his Department. The figures relate only to such of the societies registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts as are primarily connected with industries other than agriculture and are co-operative in character.

Up to and including the year 1920 the figures given relate to Great Britain and Ireland; subsequent figures are exclusive of societies registered in Ireland.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

The number of Industrial Co-operative Societies in Great Britain (as described above), furnishing returns in 1923, was 1,529. The aggregate membership of these societies at the end of 1923 was 4,558,000. Their sales in the year amounted to £253,212,000,* and resulted in a net surplus (before deduction of interest on share capital) of £17,546,000. The total share, loan and reserve capital was £134,082,000. As compared with 1922 membership increased by 59,000, or 1.3 per cent., while capital was increased by £7,175,000, or nearly 5.7 per cent. Of this latter increase £3,226,000 was attributable to the Retail and Productive Societies, while additional loans and deposits received by the English and Scottish Wholesale Societies accounted for the remaining £3,949,000. The decrease in the value of sales, amounting to £4,100,000, or barely 1.6 per cent., was wholly attributable to the Retail Societies, both the Wholesale and Productive Societies showing increases. Although in the aggregate the sales of the Retail Societies showed a decrease in value, the decrease was not commensurate with the continued fall in retail prices, as measured by the Ministry of Labour monthly indices, and in many instances an increase was reported in the quantity of goods handled. There was an increase in the aggregate surplus on the year of £2,381,000. Of this increase the Retail Societies were responsible for about 82 per cent., and the Wholesale and Productive Societies for the remainder.

The total number of persons directly employed by societies at the end of 1923 (excluding coolie labour employed in the English and Scottish Wholesales' Joint Tea, etc., overseas Departments) was about 134,000, or nearly 4,000 more than in the preceding year. This increase was mainly attributable to the Wholesale Societies. In the aggregate, wages amounted to £24,097,000, a figure £1,239,000, or 4.9 per cent., less than that for 1922. The Retail Societies were largely responsible for this decrease.

While some of the societies are engaged only in distribution and some only in production, others are engaged in both forms of industry. In the following statistics production and distribution are dealt with separately.

PRODUCTION.

In 1923 there were 1,143 Industrial Co-operative Societies of various types engaged in production. The total number of persons employed in production by these societies was 74,329, the amount paid as wages during the year £9,350,000, and the value of productions £61,319,000.† The corresponding figures for 1922 were 1,146 societies, 71,093 employees, £9,650,000 wages and £62,609,000 productions. The increase in the numbers employed on production during 1923 was largely attributable to the English Wholesale Society.

In the following Table the value of productions of each group of societies, together with the totals for all societies, is shown for the years 1913-1923:—

Year.	Value of Productions.					Grand Totals of all Societies.
	Associations of Consumers.					
	Productive Departments of Distributive Societies.	Productive Societies.	Associations of Workers.			
	Retail Societies.	Wholesale Societies.	Corn Milling Societies.	Baking and other Consumers' Societies.		
1913	14,692,632	11,376,511	1,003,579	1,270,579	1,732,337	30,075,638
1914	15,705,339	12,790,390	1,035,044	1,281,950	1,778,664	32,601,387
1915	19,310,204	17,595,639	304,616	1,508,372	2,399,930	41,120,261
1916	22,855,734	27,120,357	241,894	1,764,125	2,592,210	49,574,320
1917	25,408,072	25,868,097	130,991	1,938,854	3,253,846	56,779,860
1918	23,883,206	24,900,938	264,653	1,871,021	3,687,060	54,606,878
1919	28,465,060	36,321,546	523,288	2,498,552	4,496,935	72,310,381
1920†	38,376,634	48,072,892	354,301	2,988,323	5,403,814	95,195,964
1921†	38,123,374	37,925,115	341,114	2,671,585	3,435,150	82,496,338
1922†	29,980,520	27,619,886	239,080	2,098,326	2,671,345	62,609,157
1923†	27,982,498	28,264,425	209,809	2,018,162	2,844,026	61,318,920

The decrease since 1914 in the productions of the Corn Milling Societies was due to the absorption of several of these societies by the English Wholesale Society.

* Including Farm and Dairy Produce valued at £1,524,000, and wholesale as well as retail sales.
† Including Farm and Dairy Produce valued at £1,524,000.

‡ Up to and including the year 1920 the figures given relate to Great Britain and Ireland; subsequent figures are exclusive of Societies registered in Ireland.

Between 1913 and 1920 the total value of productions was more than trebled, so that, even allowing for the increase in prices, a considerable expansion in production is indicated. The expansion was principally in the Wholesale Societies, where the value of productions had risen from £11,000,000 to more than £48,000,000, and the number of persons employed in production from over 20,000 to more than 35,000. In 1921, while the value of productions was maintained in the Retail Societies, there was a considerable reduction both in the Wholesale and in the Productive Societies. In 1922 each group showed a very substantial decrease. In the aggregate it amounted to nearly 20 millions sterling, or about 24 per cent., of the value in 1921. In 1923 the decrease was less than £1,300,000, and was wholly attributable to the Retail Societies, as both the Wholesale Societies and the Associations of Workers showed increases in the value of productions and in the number of persons employed. Two of the largest clothing manufacturing societies in Northamptonshire, and two newly registered building guilds, were mainly responsible for the increases in the Workers' Societies. But for comparatively large reductions in the case of a Baking Society the Consumers' Productive Societies also would have shown increases in production.

The following Table analyses, by groups of industries, the number of persons employed, the amount of wages paid and the value of productions in 1923:—

Groups of Industries.	Associations of Consumers.			Associations of Workers.		
	No. of Em-ployees	Wages.	Value of Pro- ductions.	No. of Em-ployees	Wages.	Value of Pro- ductions.
Food and Tobacco†	26,435	3,770,716	43,610,174	189	19,550	129,015
Clothing ..	20,100	2,113,890	5,497,774	4,599	464,040	1,596,930
Soap, Candles and Starch ..	1,847	244,986	2,345,996	—	—	—
Textiles ..	3,441	333,412	1,565,658	773	87,287	470,134
Mining and Quarry- ing ..	507	56,917	100,821	197	16,789	23,373
Building and Wood- working ..	8,138	1,149,419	2,676,944	736	105,353	204,895
Printing ..	2,737	362,048	1,089,368	965	148,818	300,063
Metal, Engineer- ing and Ship- building ..	1,721	233,503	683,406	367	40,256	77,629
Other Industries ..	1,369	161,723	904,753	208	21,403	41,987
Total 1923 ..	66,295	8,426,614	58,474,894	8,034	903,505	2,844,026
Totals 1922 ..	63,557	8,776,666	59,937,812	7,536	853,137	2,671,345
Percentage increase (+) or decrease (-)	+4.3	-4.0	-2.4	+6.6	+5.9	+6.5

In 1923 the Wholesale Societies returned a surplus on production of £536,000, as against £451,000 on the preceding year. In addition, credit was taken in 1923 for £199,000 profit on their joint tea, etc., account, as compared with £180,000 in 1922. The 150 Productive Societies returned a surplus of £247,000, or 4.8 per cent. more than in 1922. For Retail Distributive Societies the corresponding figure is not ascertainable.

Profit Sharing with Employees.—Of the 1,143 societies engaged in industrial production, 75, employing 9,692 persons in production, with wages amounting to £1,211,000, allotted a sum of £46,381 to these employees as a bonus on wages in 1923, this being equivalent to about 9½d. in the £. Rather more persons were employed in production in 1923, but the average rate of bonus on wages was practically the same as that for 1922.

Associations of Workers: Share of Employees in Membership, Capital and Management.—Eighty of the 93 Associations of Workers, with sales amounting to £2,963,000, or nearly 96 per cent. of the total sales of the associations at work, made returns showing the extent to which their employees shared in the membership, capital and management of the associations. The returns showed that the total membership of these associations in 1923 was 28,397, of whom 4,618, or 16 per cent., consisted of employees; 18,485, or 65 per cent., of other individuals; and 5,294, or 19 per cent., of other societies. Of the 7,633 persons employed by the associations 61 per cent. were members of the associations employing them.

Of the £1,581,000 share and loan capital, £276,000, or 17 per cent., belonged to employees; £673,000, or 43 per cent., to other individuals (including loans from non-members and bank overdrafts), and £632,000, or 40 per cent., to other societies. The number of committeemen of the associations was 681, of whom 294, or 43 per cent., were employees of the associations, 261, or 38 per cent., were other individual members, and 126, or 19 per cent., were representatives of other (shareholding) societies.

DISTRIBUTION.

At the end of 1923, 1,377 Retail and two Wholesale Societies were engaged in distribution. These societies had an aggregate membership of 4,513,000, a total share, loan and reserve capital of £130,475,000; sales amounting to £247,590,000, and a surplus

* Exclusive of coolie labour employed in the English and Scottish Wholesale Societies' Joint Tea, Coffee and Cocoa Departments.
† Includes Farm and Dairy produce valued at £1,524,000, in respect of which there were 2,931 employees with wages of £301,000 for 1923; also figures for the English and Scottish Wholesale Societies' Joint Tea, Coffee and Cocoa Departments.

(before deducting interest on share capital) of £17,299,000. The total number of persons employed in distribution (including those in the buying departments of the Wholesale Societies) was 109,693, and their wages for the year were £14,767,000. The corresponding figures for 1922 were: Membership 4,454,000, capital £123,463,000, sales £251,713,000, surplus £14,929,000, employees 109,146, and wages £15,707,000.

In the following Table the sales for each of the years 1913-1923 are shown separately for the Retail and for the Wholesale Societies:—

Year.	Retail Societies.		Wholesale Societies.	
	Number.	Sales.	Sales of English Society.	Sales of Scottish Society.
1913 ..	1,382	83,607,043	31,371,976	8,964,034
1914 ..	1,385	87,979,308	34,910,813	9,425,384
1915 ..	1,374	103,073,321	43,101,747	11,368,077
1916 ..	1,364	121,858,932	52,230,074	14,499,037
1917 ..	1,339	142,158,236	57,710,132	17,083,275
1918 ..	1,342	155,332,902	65,167,900	19,216,763
1919 ..	1,356	199,139,177	89,349,818	24,773,381
1920* ..	1,491	245,406,124	105,439,628	29,559,314
1921* ..	1,455	218,321,770	80,884,661	22,041,158
1922* ..	1,392	168,799,221	65,904,812	17,009,251
1923* ..	1,377	164,122,688	66,205,566	17,261,528

Profit Sharing with Employees.—Of the total of 1,377 Retail Societies in 1923, 76, employing 12,902 persons and paying wages amounting to £1,649,000 in their distributive departments, allotted out of the surplus a total of £45,512 to their employees as a bonus upon wages, this being equivalent to nearly 6½d. in the £, as compared with an average of 7½d. in the £ for 1922. Though more societies paid bonus in 1923, there was a decrease in the average rate of bonus, due almost wholly to one large society.

In addition in 1923, two Productive Societies, employing 157 persons in their distributive departments, with wages amounting to £29,000, allotted £730 to the employees in these departments as a bonus on wages, equivalent to about 6d. in the £.

Dividends on Purchases.—In 1923 the Retail Societies distributed an average dividend of approximately 1s. 4½d. in the £, an improvement on the corresponding figure of 1s. 3½d. for the preceding year. The Scottish Wholesale Society declared a dividend of 3d. in the £ for each half-year, as against 3d. and 2d. respectively for 1922. The English Wholesale Society was able to declare a dividend of 2d. in the £ on sales for the second half of 1923.

PROCEEDINGS OF JOINT INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS IN SEPTEMBER.

DURING the four weeks ended the 27th September fourteen meetings of Joint Industrial Councils and one meeting of an Interim Reconstruction Committee were reported to the Ministry of Labour.

A decision has been given by the independent Chairman of the Committee that has been dealing with questions of interpretation of the Award given on the 17th July, 1924, by the Special Committee of the National Joint Industrial Council for the Pottery Industry (see LABOUR GAZETTE for August, 1924, page 278).

The Award provided that an advance of 2½ per cent. should be given to operatives employed in general earthenware (including fine china); and the interpretation lays it down that the advance is not payable to operatives exclusively employed on fine china by employers manufacturing both earthenware and fine china.

A meeting of the Seed Crushing and Compound Cake Manufacturing Joint Industrial Council was held on 24th September, 1924. The Council dealt with a question in connection with the Home Office Order, of the responsibility for the washing of mill workers' overalls; also with the employment of unionists and non-unionists, and an application for an advance in wages.

The Joint Industrial Council for the Quarrying Industry held its quarterly meeting on the 23rd September, 1924, and gave attention to the question of the importation of foreign stone. Various questions arising out of proposed Safety Rules for quarries were also discussed.

The National Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities' Non-Trading Services (Manual Workers) further considered the disagreement between the two sides of the London District Council on a claim for increased wages and improved conditions of employment, which are contained in the "Municipal Charter" framed by the National Federation of National Workers (see LABOUR GAZETTE for September, 1924, page 320); but failed to come to a decision. It also considered the disagreement between the two sides of the Lancashire and Cheshire Provisional Council on a claim for a wages advance.

The Joint Industrial (District) Council for the Export Packing and Cloth Working Industries, at a meeting held on the 3rd September, adopted a new consolidated wages and conditions agreement; and discussed, amongst other questions, the Industrial Councils Bill, and a suggested scheme for the purpose of avoiding seasonal and casual employment.

* Up to and including the year 1920 the figures given relate to Great Britain and Ireland; subsequent figures are exclusive of Societies registered in Ireland.

NUMBERS EMPLOYED AND WAGES IN THE RAILWAY SERVICE.

A RETURN* has been compiled by the Ministry of Transport showing the total number of persons employed by the railway companies in Great Britain during the week ended 29th March, 1924, and the numbers employed in each of the principal grades, with corresponding figures for 24th March, 1923. The Return also gives a comparison of the rates of pay of some of the principal classes at 1st July, 1923, and 1st July, 1924, and of the average weekly earnings of selected grades at 24th March, 1923, and 29th March, 1924.

Numbers Employed.—The total number of persons employed in March, 1924, was 700,573, compared with 681,778 in March, 1923, 676,802 in March, 1922, and 735,870 in March, 1921. These numbers include all persons actually employed, except staff not directly employed by the companies (e.g., staff employed by contractors). In order to arrive at the number of full-time workers in March, 1924, all broken time has been aggregated in respect of each grade, and divided by the normal weekly hours, the resultant figure being added to the number of staff who were paid for a full week. In previous years persons who were paid for time equivalent to less than three days in the week were excluded from the returns. The numbers employed in some of the principal grades in March, 1924, and March, 1923, are shown below, separate figures being given for those paid at the rates for adults and those at juniors' rates respectively:—

Grade.	Week ended 29th March, 1924.		Week ended 24th March, 1923.	
	Adults.	Juniors.	Adults.	Juniors.
MALES:—				
Carters and vanguards ..	17,107	4,164	16,646	3,944
Checkers	11,118	41	10,887	9
Engine cleaners	7,687	3,698	9,495	2,739
Engine drivers and motormen ..	38,062	—	37,186	2
Firemen and assistant motormen ..	36,323	3	35,467	1
Guards, goods and passenger ..	24,806	1	24,472	5
Labourers	31,969	1,446	29,162	1,651
Locomotive shed staff (except labourers)	10,369	362	10,313	323
Officers and clerical staff	78,594	4,298	73,802	3,996
Permanent way men	65,535	216	63,490	203
Porters, goods and passenger ..	43,329	5,945	41,029	5,971
Shop and artisan staff (excluding supervisory staff, labourers and watchmen)	99,779	15,551	95,489	15,232
Shunters	18,040	14	17,927	83
Signalmen	29,265	—	29,253	—
Supervisory staff	15,472	—	15,296	—
Other grades (excluding those in ancillary businesses)	75,047	7,744	74,714	7,528
Staff employed in ancillary businesses:				
Dock and quay staff	16,925	240	14,065	226
Other	16,722	1,836	16,574	1,753
TOTAL—MALES	631,149	45,554	615,267	43,616
FEMALES:—				
Clerical and technical staff	8,823	882	8,256	566
Office cleaners and charwomen ..	3,469	—	3,357	4
Other grades (excluding those in ancillary businesses)	4,309	434	4,444	362
Staff employed in ancillary businesses (hotels, refreshment rooms, laundries, etc.)	5,731	222	5,697	209
TOTAL—FEMALES	22,332	1,538	21,754	1,141
GRAND TOTAL	653,481	47,092	637,021	44,757

The numbers of males employed in each of the principal departments in March, 1924, were as follows:—

Department.	Adults.	Juniors.
Officers, clerical and supervisory staff ..	100,272	4,362
Traffic department	114,933	8,346
Goods and cartage staff	61,845	7,027
Permanent-way section (conciliation grades)	65,584	208
Locomotive, carriage and wagon department	111,743	5,625
Shop and artisan staff	125,782	16,706
Other departments (excluding ancillary staff)	17,343	1,204
Staff in ancillary businesses (docks, hotels, refreshment rooms, etc.) ..	33,647	2,076

The numbers employed by the four railway groups in March, 1924, were: London, Midland and Scottish, 274,523; London and North Eastern, 207,528; Great Western, 117,113; and Southern, 70,494.

Wages.—The average weekly salary or wage, and the average weekly earnings, of adult males in the principal grades in March, 1924, and March, 1923, are summarised in the following Table. The average salary is calculated on the basis of 6/1313ths of the annual salaried rate, including residual bonus, if any. The average wage is based on the standard rate (plus bonus additions, if any, under sliding scale); in the case of mechanics and artisans it is arrived at by adding the war wage to the standard or basic rate. The average earnings represent salaries or wages, residual bonus (if any), war wage, piece-work earnings, tonnage bonus, payments for overtime, Sunday duty and night duty, commuted allowance and any other payments for work per-

* "Railway Companies (Staff)." H.M. Stationery Office; price 2s. 6d. net.
† Excluding railway employees of the Manchester Ship Canal Co., who numbered 1,424 in March, 1924.

formed; but exclude compensation allowance, travelling and out-of-pocket expenses, and meal and lodging allowances.

Class.	Week ended 29th March, 1924.		Week ended 24th March, 1923.	
	Average weekly salary or wages.	Average weekly earnings.	Average weekly salary or wages.	Average weekly earnings.
Carters	s. d. 52 5	s. d. 53 3	s. d. 54 8	s. d. 58 1
Checkers	54 8	59 5	56 10	59 11
Clerks	81 0	84 10	80 4	83 6
Engine cleaners	46 7	53 2	47 10	52 10
Engine drivers and motormen ..	86 10	106 0	86 8	101 7
Firemen and assistant motormen ..	64 11	78 6	65 1	75 10
Guards	63 7	75 6	63 8	72 6
Permanent way gangers	55 1	61 8	56 7	63 7
Permanent way undermen	49 10	56 5	51 4	56 7
Porters (goods staff)	50 1	53 10	51 7	53 4
Porters, grade 2 (traffic department)	46 5	50 9	47 4	52 0
Shunters, Class 1	65 0	74 7	64 9	74 5
Shunters, Class 3	55 0	63 0	55 6	61 2
Signalmen	58 7	68 4	59 4	68 4
Station masters, yard masters, etc. ..	103 11	112 2	104 0	112 10
Supervisory staff (inspectors and foremen)	95 9	106 1	96 5	104 10
Mechanics and artisans:—				
Erectors, fitters and turners (loco., carriage and wagon dept.) ..	62 9	79 1	62 7	77 1
Carriage and wagon builders and repairers	59 5	77 6	57 9	74 3
Machinists and machinemen (loco., carriage and wagon dept.)	54 10	73 0	54 7	69 0
Smiths (loco., carriage and wagon dept.)	63 3	82 0	63 7	77 4
Labourers (loco., carriage and wagon dept.)	45 10	56 7	45 11	54 3
Labourers (civil engineering) ..	45 10	51 3	46 0	49 8

A further Return* prepared by the Ministry of Transport shows the number of persons employed by the railway companies in Northern Ireland in the week ended 29th March, 1924, with particulars of the average weekly salary or wage and the average weekly earnings of the principal grades. The total number of employees was 7,569, of whom 265 were females and 239 were engaged in ancillary businesses. The average weekly wages and average earnings of some of the chief grades were as follows:—

	Average Wages.	Average Earnings.
	s. d.	s. d.
Porters	46 2	49 4
Signalmen	54 1	60 8
Goods porters	50 9	54 3
Engine drivers	86 3	98 0
Firemen	66 0	75 2

RATES OF WAGES IN THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES' NON-TRADING SERVICES.

The National Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities' Non-Trading Services (manual workers) have published a Schedule of the rates of pay agreed upon by the various Provincial Councils for workpeople employed in the non-trading departments of Local Authorities.

The twelve Provincial Councils cover almost the whole of England, the principal exceptions being certain of the Eastern Counties and the North and East Ridings of Yorkshire. In ten of the areas the various Local Authorities have been allocated by the Councils to one of a number of "zones," and for each "zone" rates of wages have been agreed upon, in eight areas for various occupations, and in two areas for general labourers only. In the case of the London area one set of rates only has been agreed upon, and in one area (Hertfordshire) a scheme has not yet been formulated.

The rates of wages in operation for general labourers at 1st March, 1924, as shown in the Schedule, are summarised below. The corresponding rates at the end of September have been added from other sources.

Area.	No. of Zones.	Weekly Rates of Wages of General Labourers.	
		1st March, 1924.	
		30th Sept., 1924.	
Northern	3	40s. 1½d. to 49s. 11½d.	40s. 1½d. to 49s. 11½d.
Lancs. and Cheshire ..	5	37s. to 51s. 10d.	36s. to 50s. 5d.
West Riding	7	39s. 2d. to 50s. 11d.	37s. 2½d. to 48s. 11½d.
East Midland	5	37s. 2½d. to 52s. 10½d.	37s. 2½d. to 52s. 10½d.
West Midland	7	33s. 11d. to 50s. 10d.	33s. 9½d. to 50s. 7d.
Middlesex	3	50s. 6d. to 55s. 6d.	49s. 6d. to 54s. 6d.
London	1	62s. 2d.	60s. 5d.
S. Home Counties	6	38s. 11d. to 55s.	38s. 11d. to 57s.
South Midland	6	36s. 9½d. to 47s. 2½d.	36s. to 46s. 3d.
West	6	36s. to 55s.	34s. to 53s.
South-Western	4	34s. to 54s.	32s. to 52s.

The Schedule also contains a synopsis of the cost of living sliding scale agreements in operation within each area.

* "Railway Returns." Published by H.M. Stationery Office; Price 15s. net.
† Obtainable (price 3s. 8½d. post free) from the Secretary to the National Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities' Non-Trading Services, Palace Chambers, Bridge Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

AMENDMENT OF GERMAN UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ORDER.*

A NEW Order, dated 9th August, 1924, makes certain changes in the Order of 16th February, 1924 (noted in MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE for February, page 46), of which the following are the more important.

(1) **New Rates.**—The rate of benefit for the breadwinner of the family is increased by 20 to 25 per cent. of the rates prescribed in the Order of 16th February, 1924, while the allowances in respect of dependants are increased by 50 per cent. Under the previous Order the total allowances in respect of a breadwinner's dependants might not exceed twice the amount of his or her personal benefit. Under the new Order the dependants' allowances in the case of a man must not exceed 1½ times his own benefit, while in the case of a woman they must not exceed the sum to which she as an individual is entitled.

In a circular accompanying the Order, the Minister of Labour instructs the Employment Exchange Committees that these rates are maxima, and that in localities in which rates of wages are low, the benefits should be fixed at a figure below current wages.

(2) **Difference between benefit for men and women.**—The difference between the rates for men and for women workers has in general been reduced from 20 to 10 per cent.

(3) **Rates on relief work.**—A circular of the Minister, dated 20th August, provides that both skilled and unskilled workers employed on relief works shall not receive more than 70 per cent. of the prescribed gross rates of wages paid to Government workers in the same locality, or the agreed local rates for similar work, whichever is less. An "output" bonus, not exceeding 30 per cent. of the breadwinner's benefit, may be added in suitable cases.

(4) **Juveniles.**—The new Order raises the age limit from which unemployment benefit may be paid from 16 to 18 years. Benefit may still, however, be paid to persons between 16 and 18 years if the competent Authorities of the particular State certify that local conditions are unfavourable to such persons obtaining employment. Moreover, young persons, even under the age of 16, may be employed on "duty work" of public utility (see MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE for June, page 198), and receive benefit in this way. As, however, the Reichstag has expressed the wish that the age limit should be fixed generally at 16 years, a recommendation to this effect has been issued to the various State authorities.

(5) **Short time workers.**—The Order of 16th February makes an end of the provisions for benefits for short time workers, as it was thought inadvisable to transfer this responsibility from industry to the State. Owing to the recent industrial depression many workers on short time are now receiving wages which are less than the benefit they would receive if totally unemployed. The relief of these workers is undertaken by the local Welfare Associations, which are distinct from the poor relief authorities. In consequence of this widespread distress, the Minister of Labour has issued regulations whereby the State authorities may grant subsidies up to 10 per cent. of unemployment contributions to Welfare Associations certified to be in need of financial aid, provided that the Employment Exchanges are satisfied that short time working is an economic necessity. Only half of the expenditure incurred by Welfare Associations for the relief of short time workers can be refunded, and relief may not be granted for a period exceeding one month. The new scheme is limited to a provisional period of three months.

LABOUR DISPUTES IN ITALY 1914-1923.

A STATISTICAL survey of labour disputes in Italy for the years 1914 to 1923 inclusive has been issued by the Italian Ministry of National Economy. The report distinguishes strikes from lock-outs and industrial disputes from agricultural. For economy of space the figures for strikes and lock-outs, given in separate tables in the source, have been added together in the statement below:—

Year.	Number of Disputes.		Number of Work-people Directly Affected.		Number of Working Days Lost.†	
	Industrial.	Agri-cultural.	Industrial.	Agri-cultural.	Industrial.	Agri-cultural.
1914	794	82	182,470	49,379	2,121,716	481,556
1915	541	68	132,192	47,798	673,150	199,415
1916	519	61	124,040	14,892	740,848	100,570
1917	445	27	168,806	6,191	832,067	18,217
1918	306	10	158,776	675	910,431	3,270
1919	1,671	208	1,054,280	505,128	18,998,236	3,436,829
1920	1,897	189	1,286,066	1,045,732	16,609,559	14,170,991
1921	1,111	89	704,843	79,295	8,555,209	407,393
1922	589	23	441,602	25,146	6,964,442	330,679
1923	214	1	73,248	110	447,437	540

It will be seen that as regards the number of disputes, work-people involved and working days lost, the years most seriously affected were 1919 and 1920, and, to a less extent, 1921 and 1922. The figures for 1923 show a remarkable decrease in the

* Reichsarbeitsblatt, 16th August, 1924. Berlin.

† I Conflitti del Lavoro in Italia nel decennio 1914-23. Rome, 1924.

† The total number of working days lost has been calculated in each dispute upon the basis of the number of days elapsing between the cessation of work and a gradual resumption of work or of time lost by workers as the result of the dispute, but after its termination.

amount of economic unrest as compared with the preceding year. The number of disputes—industrial and agricultural added together—decreased by about 65 per cent., the workpeople participating by 84 per cent., and the working days lost by 94 per cent.

Not only are the figures for 1923 the lowest for any year of the period under review, but they are considerably below the average for the pre-war decennium 1904-1913. One of the disputes of 1923—a strike in the building trades in Rome—accounted for 21 per cent. of the total number of days lost in industrial strikes in that year.

Out of the 8,087 industrial disputes which occurred during the ten years, 1,489 (or 18.4 per cent. of the total) terminated wholly in favour of the workpeople, 1,913 (23.6 per cent.) wholly in favour of the employers, and 4,366 (54.0 per cent.) were compromised; in the remaining 319 disputes (4.0 per cent.) the results were not known.

The agricultural disputes totalled 753 in the same period. In 137 of these (18.1 per cent.) the results were wholly in favour of the workpeople, in 93 (12.3 per cent.) wholly in favour of the employers, while in 493 cases (65.0 per cent.) there were compromises; the results of 35 disputes (4.6 per cent. of the total) were unknown.

INDUSTRIAL LABOUR IN PERSIA.*

INDUSTRY in Persia, which has languished for many years owing to want of capital and to bad economic conditions generally, is almost entirely confined to carpet and silk weaving. The former industry is mostly in the hands of British and American firms, who provide the wool and pay the weavers to do the work by contract, mostly in their own villages and houses. The average working day is of eight hours for a week of six days; but it varies with the light in summer and winter. Where so-called factories do exist the Persian Government has found it necessary to institute a law governing the conditions of the workers. This law lays down, *inter alia*, that the working hours for carpet and cloth weavers shall not exceed eight a day in all seasons, except in the case of persons working freely under contract. The minimum age for child workers is fixed at ten years; factories must be sanitary; they must be closed on Fridays and other religious and national holidays; women must be segregated from men; and a mid-day interval of one and a half hours must be allowed.

The silk industry is conducted on much the same lines as the home-weaving carpet industry. There is little or no foreign capital invested in it, and the work is done under contract by peasant women in their own homes.

There remains the Anglo-Persian Oil Company in South Persia, which is by far the largest industrial concern in the country; it employs more than 20,000 workmen. It is stated that an eight-hour day for six days a week is the rule here, and that any extra time worked is paid for on a fixed scale. The company has installed recreation rooms and other kinds of entertainment for its employees, whose existence, under trying climatic conditions, the company endeavours to make as comfortable as possible.

Persian holidays are very numerous, and H.M. Representative at Tehran states that if these were deducted from the yearly working hours of the people it would be found that the Persian workman—in whatever kind of labour he may be engaged—does not average a working week of more than forty hours. Workers in the towns have their own guilds and organisations, which look after the welfare of the individual members and generally protect their interests.

GUIDE TO OFFICIAL STATISTICS.†

THE Permanent Consultative Committee on Official Statistics has recently issued Vol. II. of its detailed annual survey of the statistics contained in official publications.

The object of the Guide is to direct the enquirer to the reports, returns, etc., which contain statistics bearing on his subject and at the same time to inform him precisely how the available statistics are analysed.

The statistical material published in the year under review is exhibited in the form of a "Subject Index," which shows against each entry the statistical treatment, as indicated above, of the various subjects. The publications to which reference is made are given separately, under the Departments responsible, in a "List of Publications." A feature of the "Subject Index" is the grouping of the material under twenty-five broad titles (e.g., Agriculture, Industry and Labour, Social Services, etc.), by means of a system of successive cross-references.

The scope of the publications reviewed in the "Subject Index" is wide. Not only are volumes of a research character, involving the use of statistical methods, included, but also volumes containing accounts as well as the more familiar returns in tabular form. While Vol. II. of the Guide is primarily concerned with the publications of 1923, a number of important non-periodical publications which appeared in the earlier months of 1924 are also included.

An important addition to the present issue of the Guide is an appendix dealing with selected publications issued prior to 1923 that are considered by the Departments concerned to be of permanent statistical interest.

Many of the volumes to which reference is made are of special importance to those interested in labour and industrial problems.

* Based on a Despatch from H.M. Representative at Tehran.

† Guide to Current Official Statistics. Vol. Two (1923). H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. net (post free 1s. 4½d.).

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

Summary: Average Increases since July, 1914.

All Items included	76%
Food only	72%

FOOD.

BETWEEN 1st September and 1st October there was a further advance in the general level of the retail prices of food. All the articles included in the statistics showed an upward movement in price except meat and margarine, the average prices of which showed no appreciable change. The most important increases were those in the prices of eggs (½d. each on the average), milk (¾d. per quart) and butter (1¼d. per lb.).

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 rose to about 72 per cent. at 1st October, as compared with about 66 per cent. at 1st September.

In the following Table is given a comparison of retail prices of these articles of food in July, 1914, and at 1st September and 1st October, 1924:—

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated—to the nearest ¼d.)			Average Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) at 1st Oct., 1924, as compared with	
	July, 1914.	1st Sept., 1924.	1st Oct., 1924.	July, 1914.	1st Sept., 1924.
Beef, British—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Ribs	0 10	1 6	1 6	+ 0 8	—
Thin Flank .. .	0 6½	0 10	0 10	+ 0 3½	—
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—					
Ribs	0 7½	0 10½	0 10½	+ 0 3	—
Thin Flank .. .	0 4½	0 5½	0 5½	+ 0 0½	—
Mutton, British—					
Legs	0 10½	1 8½	1 8½	+ 0 9½	—
Breast	0 6½	0 11½	0 11½	+ 0 4½	—
Mutton, Frozen—					
Legs	0 6½	1 0½	1 0½	+ 0 5½	—
Breast	0 4	0 5½	0 5½	+ 0 1½	—
Bacon (streaky)*	0 11½	1 5½	1 5½	+ 0 6½	—
Flour .. per 7 lb.	0 10½	1 5	1 5½	+ 0 6½	+ 0 0½
Bread .. per 4 lb.	0 5½	0 9½	0 9½	+ 0 4	+ 0 0½
Tea	1 6½	2 3½	2 3½	+ 0 9½	+ 0 0½
Sugar (granulated) ..	0 2	0 4½	0 4½	+ 0 2½	—
Milk .. per quart	0 3½	0 5½	0 6	+ 0 3	+ 0 0½
Butter—					
Fresh	1 2½	2 1½	2 3	+ 1 0½	+ 0 1½
Salt	1 2½	2 0	2 2	+ 0 11½	+ 0 1½
Cheese†	0 8½	1 1½	1 1½	+ 0 5	+ 0 0½
Margarine	0 7	0 6½	0 6½	- 0 0½	—
Eggs (fresh) .. each	0 1½	0 2½	0 2½	+ 0 1½	+ 0 0½
Potatoes .. per 7 lb.	0 4½	0 8½	0 9	+ 0 4½	+ 0 0½

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

Article.	Average Percentage Increase at 1st Oct., 1924, as compared with July, 1914.			Corresponding figure for 1st Sept., 1924.
	Large Towns (Populations over 50,000).	Small Towns and Villages.	General Average.	
Beef, British—	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Ribs	84	77	81	80
Thin Flank .. .	50	53	52	53
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—				
Ribs	43	41	42	42
Thin Flank .. .	11	17	14	14
Mutton, British—				
Legs	94	95	94	94
Breast	73	71	72	72
Mutton, Frozen—				
Legs	85	76	80	80
Breast	29	29	29	27
Bacon (streaky)*	59	54	57	55
Fish	129	108	118	106
Flour	61	65	63	60
Bread	68	64	66	64
Tea	50	58	51	50
Sugar (granulated) ..	140	126	133	125
Milk	81	84	83	83
Butter—				
Fresh	83	87	85	76
Salt	82	82	82	78
Cheese†	57	59	58	55
Margarine	- 4%	- 7%	- 5%	- 6%
Eggs (fresh) .. each	120	120	120	88
Potatoes	96	71	84	81
All above articles of Food (Weighted Percentage Increase).	74	70	72	66

* If this kind is seldom dealt with in a locality, the returns quote the price of another kind locally representative.
 † The description of cheese specified for quotation is Canadian or American, but where such cheese is seldom sold in a locality the returns quote the price of another kind locally representative.
 ‡ There was an increase of less than ¼d. per lb. in the average price.
 § Decrease.

RENT, CLOTHING, FUEL AND LIGHT.

As regards rents, inquiries which have been made into the changes which have taken effect under the Rent and Mortgage Interest Restrictions Acts indicate that the average increase in rents of working-class dwellings between July, 1914, and 1st October, 1924, was approximately 47 per cent. Of the total increase, about two-fifths is accounted for by increases on account of rates and water charges and about two-fifths is on account of the landlord's responsibility for repairs, increases on account of the higher level of mortgage interest permitted by the Acts falling within the remaining one-fifth.

As regards clothing, owing to the wide range of quotations, both now and before the war, to changes in qualities, and in stocks held by retailers, and to variations in the extent to which different articles and qualities have been affected by price changes, it is impossible to make an exact calculation of the increase in prices; but information as to the movements of prices of men's suits and overcoats, underclothing and hosiery, textile materials and boots, received from retailers in the principal towns, indicates that at 1st October 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, was between 125 and 130 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

In the fuel and light group there were some increases in the retail prices of coal between 1st September and 1st October, and at the latter date the average retail price of coal was between 95 and 100 per cent. above the level of July, 1914. The average price of gas remained between 45 and 50 per cent. above the pre-war level, and the prices of lamp oil, candles and matches also showed no appreciable change during the month. Taking the fuel and light group as a whole, the average increase at 1st October, as compared with July, 1914, was about 85 per cent.

ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance in pre-war working-class family expenditure, allowance being also made for the increase in the prices of soap, soda, domestic ironmongery, brushware and pottery, tobacco, fares and newspapers (averaging about 80 per cent.), the resultant general average increase for 1st October is approximately 76 per cent.* over the pre-war level, as compared with 72 per cent. a month earlier.

The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken in 1924 as in 1914) is to show the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working-class families (i.e., the standard actually prevailing in working-class families before the war, irrespective of whether such standard was adequate or not). Owing to the variations in the amounts of increase in the prices of different commodities it is probable that economies or re-adjustments in expenditure have been effected in many families, especially in those cases where incomes have not increased so much as prices. On the other hand, it is probable that the standard of living has been raised in some families in which wages have been increased in greater proportion than prices. No allowance is made in the figures for any such alterations in the standard of living, as to which trustworthy statistics are not available.

SUMMARY TABLE: 1915 TO 1924.

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

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

Month (beginning of)	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
January ..	10-15	35	65	85-90	120	125	165	92	78	77
February ..	15	35	65-70	90	120	130	151	88	77	79
March ..	15-20	35-40	70	90	115	130	141	86	76	78
April ..	15-20	35-40	70-75	90-95	110	132	133	82	74	78
May ..	20	40-45	75	95-100	105	141	128	81	70	71
June ..	25	45	75-80	100	105	150	119	80	69	69
July ..	25	45-50	80	100-105	105-110	152	119	84	69	70
August ..	25	45-50	80	110	115	155	122	81	71	71
September ..	25	50	80-85	110	115	161	120	79	73	72
October ..	30	50-55	75-80	115-120	120	164	110	78	75	76
November ..	30-35	60	85	120-125	125	176	103	80	75	—
December ..	35	65	85	120	125	169	99	80	77	—

NOTE.

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

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

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

EMPLOYMENT showed a further slight decline, on the whole, during September. The industries principally affected were coal and iron mining, pig iron manufacture, iron and steel manufacture and the clothing trades; in the cotton, wool textile, building, brass and pottery trades some improvement was reported. Employment was good in the tinplate, steel sheet, brick, carpet and jute trades, with mill-sawyers, and with most of the skilled operatives in the building trades, and fair in the tailoring, silk, leather, furnishing, printing and pottery industries, and in certain branches of the metal trades. At iron and steel works, and in the engineering and shipbuilding industries, it continued bad.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.*

Among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts, numbering approximately 11,500,000, and working in practically every industry except agriculture and private domestic service, the percentage unemployed at 22nd September, 1924, was 10.8, compared with 10.6 at 25th August, 1924, and 11.7 at the end of September, 1923. For males alone the percentage was 11.4 at 22nd September, as compared with 11.3 at 25th August, 1924; for females the corresponding figures were 9.0 and 8.8. Among members of Trade Unions from which returns were received the percentage of unemployed was 8.6 at the end of September, 1924, compared with 7.9 at the end of August and with 11.3 at the end of September, 1923. The number of workpeople registered at Employment Exchanges as applicants for employment was approximately 1,205,000 at 29th September, 1924, of whom men numbered 915,000 and women 220,000, the remainder being boys and girls. The corresponding total for 25th August, 1924, was 1,152,000, of whom 876,000 were men and 203,000 were women, and at 1st October, 1923, it was 1,285,000, of whom 955,000 were men and 244,000 women. (It should be noted that some unemployed persons—e.g., some of those who have not valid claims to unemployment benefit, or who are not insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, do not register at the Employment Exchanges.)

EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment at coal mines declined; it was slack in Northumberland, Durham, South Wales and Monmouthshire, and Scotland, and fair, on the whole, elsewhere. The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 27th September was 1,159,748, a decrease of 0.9 per cent. as compared with August, 1924, and of 0.8 per cent. as compared with September, 1923. The average number of days worked per week by the pits in the fortnight ended 27th September was 5.18, as compared with 5.17 in the fortnight ended 23rd August and 5.37 in September, 1923.

At iron mines employment was very bad in the Cleveland district, slack in Cumberland and Lancashire, and moderate in other districts. At the mines covered by the returns received there was a decrease of 6.8 per cent. in the total numbers employed compared with the previous month, and of 7.9 per cent. compared with September, 1923. The average number of days worked by the mines which were working was 5.40 in September, 1924, and 5.17 in September, 1923. At shale mines employment continued fair and at tin mines good. At limestone quarries employment was moderate in the Clitheroe area, fair in the Wear-dale area and fairly good at Buxton. At slate quarries employment was again good; at china clay quarries it continued fairly good.

Manufacture of Pig Iron, Iron and Steel, and Tinplate.—In the pig-iron industry employment was bad, and showed a decline as compared with the previous month. Of a total of 482 furnaces, the number in blast at the end of September was 170, compared with 173 in August and with 190 in September, 1923. At iron and steel works employment showed a further decline, and was bad on the whole. In the tinplate and steel sheet trade employment continued good on the whole. At the end of September 544 mills were reported to be in operation, as compared with 540 in August and 513 in September, 1923.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and other Metal Trades.—Employment in marine and general engineering continued bad; at textile machinery works short time was still in operation, and the seasonal decline at motor and cycle works became more pronounced. In electrical engineering employment continued fairly good. Employment in the shipbuilding trades continued very bad. Employment in the other metal trades remained moderate to fair on the whole, and showed little change as compared with the previous month. It was fair in the brass, cutlery and file, edge tool, farriery, hollow-ware, metallic bedsteads, sheet metal, stove and grate, and tube trades; moderate in the wire trade; and slack or bad in the anvil and vice, chain and anchor, jewellery and plated ware, lock, latch and key, needle and fishing tackle, nut, bolt and nail, and saddle and harness furniture trades.

Textile Trades.—In the cotton trade employment showed some signs of improvement, especially in the weaving section; in the Egyptian spinning section employment remained good; in the American spinning section organised short time continued to be worked. In the woollen and worsted trades employment showed a slight improvement as compared with August.

* These figures relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland and exclude workpeople on systematic short time. The figures given on page 353 relate to Great Britain only and include persons on systematic short time who were not at work on the dates of the returns.

Employment in the hosiery trade continued slack in the Nottingham district; in the lace trade it was bad generally, with much unemployment and short-time working. In the silk trade employment showed some decline in the Leek, Macclesfield and Congleton district, where it was fair; in the Eastern Counties it continued good; in the jute and carpet trades employment also continued good on the whole. In the Irish linen trade a slight improvement was reported. In the textile, bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc., trades, employment continued slack on the whole; with silk dyers at Macclesfield and Leek it was reported as fair.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the tailoring trade declined, but was fair on the whole. In the dressmaking and millinery trade employment remained moderate to fair; in the London blouse and light underclothing trade it showed an improvement, and was good; in the corset trade employment continued slack, and in the shirt and collar trade fair. In the felt hat trade employment showed a seasonal decline, and was quiet generally. In the boot and shoe trade employment continued moderate on the whole.

Leather Trades.—Employment in the tanning and currying section remained fair; in the portmanteau, truck and fancy leather section a slight improvement was reported, and employment was fairly good on the whole; with saddlery and harness makers it continued bad.

Building, Woodworking, etc.—Employment in the building trade showed a general improvement except in the painting and decorating section, where there was a slight seasonal decline. It was very good with bricklayers and plasterers, good on the whole with masons and carpenters and joiners, fairly good with slaters and plumbers, and slack on the whole with painters and builders' labourers. In the brick trade employment was good generally.

In the furnishing trades employment was fair, and showed a slight improvement except with upholsterers. With mill-sawyers employment showed a further improvement and was generally good; with coachbuilders it was fair, but a slight decline was reported. With coopers it was good generally; in Belfast, however, it continued bad. It was fairly good with brushmakers; with basket makers and packing-case makers it was slack.

Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.—Employment in the paper trade continued moderate on the whole. With letterpress printers employment was mainly fair; in London there was a slight decline with compositors and proof readers, but with electrotypers and stereotypers employment continued good. In the lithographic section employment remained fair generally, though at Manchester it was reported as bad, and short time was worked at Edinburgh and Glasgow. With bookbinders employment was fair and better than during the previous month in London, and moderate in the provinces.

Pottery and Glass.—In the pottery trades employment showed a slight improvement, and was good in the tile, sanitary earthenware and fireclay sections, and fair in the general earthenware, rockingham and jet branches of the industry. In the glass trades employment continued moderate.

Agriculture and Fishing.—In agriculture in England and Wales the supply of labour was generally sufficient for requirements, but in some districts more casual workers could have been employed when harvesting was possible. In Scotland there was some shortage of skilled harvest workers. In the fishing industry employment continued fairly good except in Scotland, where there was a seasonal decline.

Dock Labour and Seamen.—Employment among dock labourers was slack on the whole; with seamen it continued moderate.

The following Table shows month by month since September, 1923, (a) the percentages unemployed among members of those Trade Unions from which returns are obtained, (b) the percentages unemployed among workpeople covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and (c) the number of applicants for employment on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Date. (End of Month.)	Percentages unemployed among			Applicants for Employment on Registers of Employment Exchanges.*	
	Trade Unions making Returns.	Insured Workpeople.			
		Males.	Females.	Total.	
1923.					
September ..	11.3	12.3	10.0	11.7	1,271,157
October ..	10.9	12.4	9.8	11.7	1,296,050
November ..	10.5	12.1	9.7	11.5	1,256,730
December ..	9.7	11.2	9.1	10.7	1,288,822
1924.					
January ..	8.9	12.5	10.2	11.9	1,322,454†
February ..	8.1	11.1	9.5	10.7	1,155,904
March ..	7.8	10.3	8.8	9.9	1,057,031
April ..	7.5	10.2	8.4	9.7	1,052,472
May ..	7.0	9.9	8.1	9.5	1,022,370
June ..	7.2	10.0	7.8	9.4	1,015,350
July ..	7.4	10.5	8.1	9.9	1,052,457
August ..	7.9	11.3	8.8	10.6	1,152,433
September ..	8.6	11.4	9.0	10.8	1,204,836

* See note * in previous column.

† Figures inflated owing to effects of railway dispute.

TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES of UNEMPLOYED.

TRADE Unions with a net membership of 976,563 in branches covered by the returns received reported 84,214 (or 8.6 per cent.) of their members as unemployed at the end of September, 1924, compared with 7.9 per cent. at the end of August, 1924.

Trade.	Membership of Unions reporting at end of Sept., 1924.	Unemployed at end of September 1924.*		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage Unemployed as compared with a	
		Num-ber.	Per-cent-ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Coal Mining	145,148	16,433	11.3	+ 5.6	+10.4
Engineering and Ship-building	351,462	48,497	13.8	+ 0.2	- 8.6
Miscellaneous Metal	48,401	3,144	6.5	+ 0.3	- 3.0
Textiles:—					
Cotton	59,362	3,819	6.4†	- 0.4	- 2.3
Woolen and Worsted	12,993	330	2.7	- 0.5	- 1.7
Other	57,105	1,175	2.1	..	- 2.2
Printing, Bookbinding and Paper	99,027	3,328	3.4	+ 0.1	- 1.3
Furnishing	26,343	1,118	4.2	- 2.1	- 2.8
Woodworking	40,659	1,937	4.8	+ 0.3	- 0.8
Clothing:—					
Boot and Shoe	78,096	3,113	4.0	+ 0.3	- 1.8
Other Clothing	47,106	432	0.9	+ 0.2	- 1.5
Leather	5,921	431	7.3	+ 0.4	- 2.3
Glass	1,184	43	3.6	- 1.8	+ 1.6
Tobacco†	4,656	414	8.9	-11.3	-15.2
Total	976,563	84,214	8.6‡	+ 0.7§	- 2.7§

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED TRADES.

THE percentage unemployed among workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 10.8 per cent. (males 11.4 per cent., females 9.0 per cent.) at 22nd September, 1924, as compared with 10.6 per cent. (males 11.3 per cent., females 8.8 per cent.) at 25th August, 1924, and 11.7 per cent. (males 12.3 per cent., females 10.0 per cent.) at 24th September, 1923. Tables showing the numbers unemployed in the principal industries appear on pages 368 and 369.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

INFORMATION as to the state of employment in certain industries in September, derived from returns furnished by employers and employers' associations, is summarised below. Further details are given on pages 361 to 366

(a) CERTAIN MINING AND METAL TRADES.

Trade.	Workpeople included in the Returns for Sept., 1924.	Sept., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
			Month ago.	Year ago.
		Days Worked per week by Mines.	Days.	Days.
Coal Mining	1,159,748	5.18	+ 0.01	- 0.19
Iron	7,875	5.40	+ 0.09	+ 0.23
Shale	4,145	5.99	- 0.01	+ 0.16
		Furnaces in Blast 170	Number.	Number.
Pig Iron	—	544	- 3	+ 20
Tinplate and Steel Sheet	—	544	+ 4	+ 31
		Shifts Worked (one week).	Per cent.	Per cent.
Iron and Steel	61,403	322,626	- 4.2	- 2.2

(b) OTHER TRADES.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople Employed.		Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople.	
	Week ended 27th Sept., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended 27th Sept., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Textiles:—			£	Per cent.
Cotton	79,219	+ 0.5	142,260	+ 2.4
Woolen	14,891	+ 1.0	30,943	+ 0.8
Worsted	30,011	+ 1.2	56,237	+ 1.1
Boot and Shoe	51,112	- 1.0	114,733	- 1.1
Pottery	12,744	+ 0.9	23,774	+ 4.3
Brick	8,368	+ 2.0	21,623	+ 0.9
Total	196,345	+ 0.2	389,620	+ 1.1

* Short time and broken time are not reflected in the figures. In the mining and textile industries a contraction in the demand for labour is generally met by short-time working. Persons on strike or locked out are also excluded.
 † In addition to those shown, who were totally unemployed, a large number of the members of the unions reporting were "paid off part of each week, or alternate weeks or fortnights" or on "temporary stoppage benefit."
 ‡ The returns for the tobacco trade are supplied by unions whose members are mainly cigar makers.
 § The figures for August and September, 1924, exclude building and pottery trade operatives, for which returns are not available, but which were included in September, 1923. The percentage for September, 1923, excluding these returns would be 11.6, showing a decrease of 3.0.
 || Comparison of earnings is affected by changes in rates of wages.

EMPLOYMENT CHART.

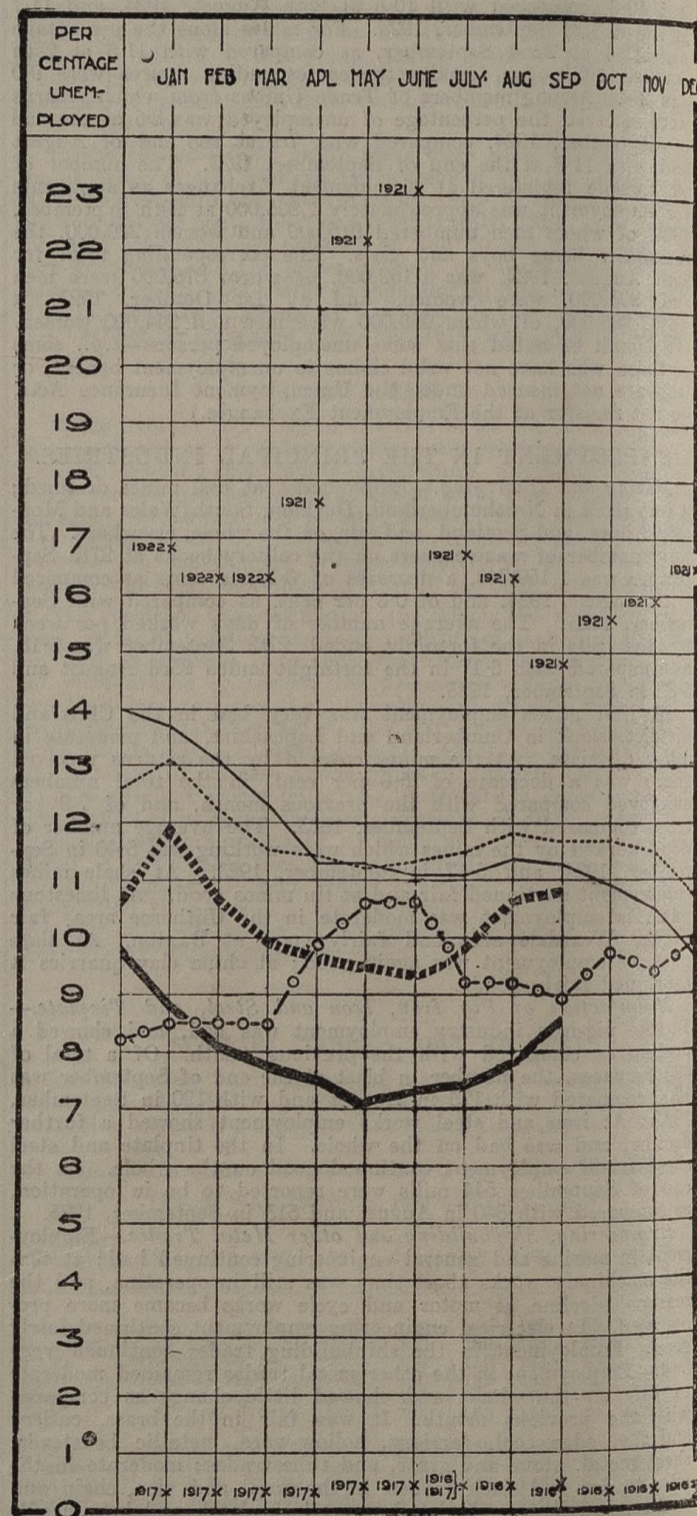
(1) PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AT THE END OF EACH MONTH AMONG MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS:—

Thick Curve ————— = 1924.
 Thin Curve ————— = 1923.
 Chain Curve - - - - - = Mean of 1919-23.

x The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of Trade Union members unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1894-1923.

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

Thick Dotted Curve - - - - - = 1924.
 Thin Dotted Curve - - - - - = 1923.



NOTE.

The figures relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Trade Union Returns are furnished by various Trade Unions which pay unemployment benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures. Detailed figures are given in the previous column.
 The figures for insured workpeople are briefly explained, and are analysed in detail on pages 368 and 369.

DETAILED REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

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

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT in the coal mining industry declined during September especially in Northumberland, Durham, South Wales and Monmouthshire, and Scotland, where it was slack; in other districts it was fair on the whole, except in Gloucester, Somerset and Kent, where it was affected by stoppages of work owing to disputes on questions of wages.

The total number of wage-earners on the colliery books at 27th September showed a decrease of 0.9 per cent. as compared with that at 23rd August, and a decrease of 0.8 per cent. as compared with that at 22nd September, 1923.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 8.1 at 22nd September, as compared with 7.7 at 25th August.

The following Table shows, for the principal coal-mining districts, the total number of wage-earners on the colliery books and the average number of days worked per week* during the fortnight ended 27th September, as shown by returns obtained from the Mines Department. Small numbers of workpeople employed at coal mines in raising or handling minerals other than coal are included in the totals:—

Districts.	Total Number of Wage Earners on Colliery Books at		Average Number of Days worked per Week by the Mines.*		
	27th Sept. 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	Fort-night ended 27th Sept., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
			Per cent.	Per cent.	Days.
ENGLAND AND WALES:					
Northumberland	59,423	- 3.5	5.13	+ 0.10	- 0.24
Durham	163,671	- 2.6	4.85	- 0.03	- 0.40
Cumberland and Westmorland	10,455	+ 1.2	5.35	+ 0.51	- 0.31
South Yorkshire	117,353	+ 0.4	5.46	+ 0.16	+ 0.66
West Yorkshire	70,319	- 0.3	5.18	+ 0.42	- 0.25
Lancs. and Cheshire	105,218	- 0.2	5.06	+ 0.35	+ 0.12
Derbyshire	66,364	+ 0.2	5.51	+ 0.60	—
Notts. and Leicester	67,198	+ 0.1	5.17	- 0.07	+ 0.03
Warwick	21,166	- 1.8	5.47	- 0.15	- 0.47
North Staffordshire	35,779	+ 0.2	5.59	+ 0.16	—
South Staffs., † Worcs. and Salop	36,053	- 0.7	5.75	+ 0.12	- 0.07
Glouc. and Somerset	14,820	+ 0.0	4.94‡	- 0.14	- 0.75
Kent	1,886	+ 3.5	2.47‡	+ 0.40	- 3.21
North Wales	18,515	+ 0.2	5.05	- 0.09	- 0.23
South Wales and Mon.	235,554	- 1.3	5.15	- 0.51	- 0.61
England and Wales	1,023,774	- 0.9	5.19	+ 0.01	- 0.19
SCOTLAND:					
Mid. & East Lothians	15,761	- 0.2	5.28	- 0.13	- 0.04
Fife and Clackmannan	30,493	+ 0.5	5.12	+ 0.16	- 0.08
Rest of Scotland	89,720	- 1.4	5.06	- 0.07	- 0.31
Scotland	135,974	- 0.8	5.10	- 0.02	- 0.22
GREAT BRITAIN	1,159,748	- 0.9	5.18	+ 0.01	- 0.19

The average number of coal-winding days lost in Great Britain during the fortnight ended 27th September, 1924, was 0.53 of a day per week, of which 0.49 was due to want of trade and transport difficulties. The figures for the fortnight ended 23rd August were 0.59 of a day lost, of which 0.48 was lost through want of trade and transport difficulties; for the fortnight ended 22nd September, 1923, the average time lost was 0.39 of a day, of which 0.27 of a day was due to want of trade and transport difficulties. The average non-winding time for each of the three periods under review was about one-quarter of a day per week.

The output of coal for Great Britain for the four weeks ended 27th September, 1924, was returned to the Mines Department at 20,430,300 tons, as compared with 18,928,500 tons in the four weeks ended 23rd August, 1924, and with 21,349,900 tons in the four weeks ended 22nd September, 1923.

The exports of coal, including coal shipped for the use of steamers engaged in foreign trade, and the coal equivalent of coke and manufactured fuel, amounted to 7,158,774 tons in September, compared with 7,005,123 tons in August.

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

IRON AND SHALE MINING.

Iron Mining.

EMPLOYMENT continued very bad in the Cleveland district, and about one-half of the mines were reported to be totally idle. It was again slack in Lancashire and Cumberland, and the numbers employed decreased very considerably owing to the closing down of a large mine. In other districts employment was moderate on the whole.

The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed in iron ore and ironstone mining and quarrying, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 22.9 at 22nd September, as compared with 20.1 at 25th August.

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

Districts.	Number of Workpeople employed at Mines included in the Returns.		Average No. of Days worked per week by the Mines.*		
	Fort-night ended 27th Sept., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	Fort-night ended 27th Sept., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
			Per cent.	Per cent.	Days.
Cleveland	3,740	+ 2.6	+ 1.5	5.16	+ 0.23
Cumberland and Lancashire	2,353	- 22.4	- 24.2	5.54	- 0.03
Other Districts	1,782	+ 0.9	+ 1.3	5.71	+ 0.07
ALL DISTRICTS	7,875	- 6.8	- 7.9	5.40	+ 0.09

Shale Mining.

At shale mines employment remained fair. At mines employing 4,145 workpeople during the fortnight ended 27th September, there was a decrease of 0.7 per cent. in the numbers employed compared with the previous month, and a decrease of 4.0 per cent. compared with September, 1923. The average number of days* worked per week by the mines was 5.99 in September, 1924, 6.00 in August, 1924, and 5.83 in September, 1923.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during September was bad and showed a decline as compared with August. The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 16.0 at 22nd September, 1924, as compared with 14.3 at 25th August, 1924.

Returns received by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers from 83 firms, employing 20,775 workpeople at the end of September, showed a decrease of 3.0 per cent. compared with August, but an increase of 3.3 per cent. compared with September, 1923.

The total number of furnaces in blast at the end of September, as shown by the Returns collected by the Federation, was 170, compared with 173 at the end of August and 190 at the end of September, 1923.

The following Table shows the number of furnaces in blast at the end of September, 1924, August, 1924, and September, 1923:—

District.	Total Number of Furnaces.	Number of Furnaces in Blast at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Sept. on a	
		Sept., 1924.	August, 1924.	Sept., 1923.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
Durham and Cleveland	111	42	44	39	- 2	+ 3
Cumberland and W. Lancs.	47	11	11	12	..	- 1
Other parts of Lancs. and Yorks. (including Sheffield)	35	12	12	15	..	- 3
Derby, Leicester, Notts., and Northants.	73	42	42	38	..	+ 4
Lincolnshire	23	11	14	17	- 3	- 6
Staffs., Shropshire, Worcester and Warwick	60	13	11	16	+ 2	- 3
South Wales	32	10	10	9	..	+ 1
Total, England and Wales	381	141	144	146	- 3	- 5
SCOTLAND	101	29	29	44	..	- 15
Total	482	170	173	190	- 3	- 20

* See note* in previous column.

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in September was slightly better than in August. The percentage of insured workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 7.3 on 22nd September, as compared with 7.6 on the 25th August.

Employment with wool sorters, although bad, with much short time, was slightly better, on the whole, than a month earlier. With wool-combers there was little change, the cross-bred section being again better employed than the merino section; much short time was still reported.

In the spinning departments employment in most sections was good, but it was poor with spinners of coloured yarns, mainly for the fine cloth men's wear trade and the Bradford coating trade.

In the manufacturing departments there was a slight improvement in the lining, stuff and gabardine trade of the Bradford district. Employment remained good in the fine cloth trade of Huddersfield, Halifax, Leeds and Keighley, and it was also good in the tweed trade of Huddersfield, the Colne Valley and the Heavy Woollen District. Employment in the low woollen trade of Morley and Leeds was reported as bad during September. In the flannel trade employment, with some exceptions, was described as good; in the blanket trade it was reported to be moderate to good, with a slight improvement on the previous month. At Trowbridge employment was reported as good.

In Wales the woollen trade was still depressed; at Newtown short time was worked in most of the mills.

In Scotland employment showed little change; at Galashiels temporary seasonal slackness continued, and employment was described as fair. At Hawick the tweed industry was reported as active.

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

Week ended 27th Sept., 1924.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.	
	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended 27th Sept., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.

WOOLLEN INDUSTRY.

Departments.	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Wool Sorting ..	496	- 2.2	+ 15.3	973	- 5.1	+ 9.7
Spinning ..	3,739	+ 2.4	+ 9.3	7,542	+ 2.9	+ 13.8
Weaving ..	5,401	+ 1.0	+ 1.5	10,482	+ 1.5	+ 10.9
Other Departments ..	4,221	+ 0.5	+ 3.8	9,680	- 0.5	+ 8.0
Not specified ..	1,034	+ 0.2	- 2.6	2,266	- 0.9	- 3.0
TOTAL ..	14,891	+ 1.0	+ 4.1	30,943	+ 0.8	+ 9.5

Districts.	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Huddersfield District ..	1,585	- 0.3	+ 4.3	3,831	- 2.3	+ 7.2
Leeds District ..	1,253	+ 5.4	+ 3.6	3,137	+ 9.5	+ 13.1
Dewsbury and Batley District ..	1,198	+ 3.0	+ 9.0	2,686	+ 2.6	+ 22.6
Other Parts of West Riding ..	2,046	- 0.2	+ 0.2	4,603	- 2.9	+ 5.8
Total, West Riding ..	6,082	+ 1.5	+ 3.6	14,347	+ 0.8	+ 10.6
Scotland ..	3,562	- 0.4	+ 5.1	7,160	+ 1.9	+ 12.2
Other Districts ..	5,247	+ 1.5	+ 4.0	9,436	+ 0.1	+ 5.8
TOTAL ..	14,891	+ 1.0	+ 4.1	30,943	+ 0.8	+ 9.5

WORSTED INDUSTRY.

Departments.	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Wool Sorting and Combing ..	4,405	+ 2.0	+ 5.4	10,743	+ 0.5	+ 16.4
Spinning ..	15,561	+ 0.4	- 2.3	24,202	+ 0.6	+ 6.7
Weaving ..	5,281	+ 2.4	+ 5.7	10,887	+ 1.1	+ 14.1
Other Departments ..	2,967	+ 1.0	- 3.1	7,428	+ 1.8	+ 4.3
Not specified ..	1,797	+ 2.5	- 8.3	3,027	+ 5.4	- 6.4
TOTAL ..	30,011	+ 1.2	- 0.4	56,287	+ 1.1	+ 8.6

Districts.	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Bradford District ..	15,000	+ 1.9	- 1.5	29,616	+ 1.1	+ 6.8
Keighley District ..	4,748	+ 0.7	+ 4.0	8,799	+ 1.3	+ 9.6
Halifax District ..	2,615	+ 2.2	- 2.1	4,527	+ 8.3	+ 16.8
Huddersfield District ..	2,836	+ 1.4	- 0.1	5,183	+ 1.4	+ 16.0
Other Parts of West Riding ..	3,347	- 1.1	- 0.4	5,636	- 4.0	+ 7.7
Total, West Riding ..	28,546	+ 1.3	- 0.4	53,761	+ 1.2	+ 9.0
Other Districts ..	1,465	- 1.1	+ 0.5	2,526	+ 0.1	+ 2.2
TOTAL ..	30,011	+ 1.2	- 0.4	56,287	+ 1.1	+ 8.6

Returns from firms in the woollen section, employing 13,886 workpeople, showed that about 23 per cent. of these workpeople

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

were on short time in the week ended 27th September to the extent, on the average, of 10 hours. In the worsted section returns from firms employing 27,522 workpeople in the same week showed that about 19 per cent. of these workpeople were on short time to the extent of about 10 hours on the average.

The following Table shows the number of men and of women registered as applicants for employment at Employment Exchanges at 1st September, 1924, in the principal centres, at which approximately 67 per cent. of the total number of applicants for employment in the woollen and worsted industries were registered:—

Departments.	Number of Applicants for Employment at 1st September, 1924.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 4th August, 1924.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Wool Sorting ..	380	3	383	- 10	-	- 10
Wool Washing and Preparing ..	654	134	788	+ 64	+ 5	+ 69
Wool Combing ..	862	791	1,653	- 3	- 73	- 76
Wool Carding ..	720	98	818	+ 52	+ 32	+ 84
Woolen Spinning ..	266	139	405	+ 49	+ 36	+ 85
Worsteds Drawing and Spinning ..	248	1,675	1,923	+ 18	- 81	- 63
Wool Winding and Warming ..	96	62	158	- 3	- 8	- 11
Worsteds Winding and Warming ..	40	446	486	+ 5	- 43	- 38
Woolen Weaving ..	248	1,005	1,253	- 51	+ 314	+ 263
Worsteds Weaving ..	133	1,274	1,407	+ 30	- 41	- 11
Other Processes ..	910	154	1,064	+ 239	+ 17	+ 256
Total ..	4,557	5,781	10,338	+ 390	+ 158	+ 548

The imports (less re-exports) of raw wool (sheep's or lambs') were 25,365,400 lb. in September, 1924, compared with 16,580,300 lb. in August, 1924, and with 1,789,700 lb. in September, 1923.

The exports of woollen and worsted yarns were 3,347,600 lb., compared with 3,856,000 lb. in August, 1924, and 3,868,900 lb. in September, 1923.

The exports of woollen and worsted tissues were 15,528,700 square yards, compared with 22,450,800 square yards in August, 1924, and with 17,991,400 square yards in September, 1923.

The exports of blankets were 203,691 pairs, 148,487 pairs, 114,843 pairs in September, 1924, August, 1924, and September, 1923, respectively.

BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during September remained moderate on the whole, and a good deal of short time continued to be worked. There was little change compared with the previous month, but a general improvement compared with September of last year.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, was 8.5 on the 22nd September, as compared with 8.7 on the 25th August.

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

Week ended 27th Sept., 1924.	Number of Workpeople.		Total Wages paid to all Workpeople.	
	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended 27th Sept., 1924.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.

England and Wales:—	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	£	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	
London ..	2,034	- 1.4	+ 10.4	4,572	- 1.6	+ 14.8
Leicester ..	7,954	- 3.7	- 3.6	17,999	- 7.4	+ 13.3
Leicester Country District ..	2,216	- 1.5	+ 0.2	4,964	- 5.2	+ 5.2
Northampton ..	6,699	+ 0.3	+ 1.3	16,831	+ 0.5	+ 10.6
Northampton Country District ..	7,847	+ 0.5	+ 4.9	17,750	- 2.5	+ 7.3
Kettering ..	3,262	- 0.1	+ 4.1	8,532	+ 0.4	+ 10.5
Stafford and District ..	2,683	- 0.7	+ 5.7	5,261	+ 4.0	+ 9.3
Norwich and District ..	4,524	- 2.2	+ 20.0	9,483	- 5.1	+ 33.7
Bristol, Kingswood and District ..	2,027	- 5.7	- 8.7	4,623	+ 2.5	+ 8.9
Leeds and District ..	1,951	- 1.4	+ 8.2	4,166	+ 8.4	+ 4.0
Lancashire (mainly Rossendale Valley) ..	4,651	+ 0.8	+ 6.3	9,989	+ 4.9	+ 12.9
Birmingham and District ..	1,095	+ 1.6	+ 9.3	2,128	- 8.5	+ 22.2
Other parts of England and Wales ..	1,562	+ 1.0	+ 5.4	3,025	+ 6.6	+ 15.8
England and Wales ..	48,505	- 1.1	+ 4.0	109,232	- 1.4	+ 12.4
Scotland ..	2,607	- 0.4	+ 1.2	5,501	+ 5.4	+ 2.2
Great Britain ..	51,112	- 1.0	+ 3.7	114,733	- 1.1	+ 11.7

Returns from firms employing about 38,400 operatives in the week ended September 27th showed that over 34 per cent. of these operatives were on short time in that week to the extent of about 12 hours each on an average.

BUILDING TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the building trade showed a general improvement during September except in the painting and decorating section, where there was a slight seasonal decline; it was good, on the whole, with skilled operatives, other than painters, but generally slack with unskilled workers, although there was some variation as between different centres and as between the various occupations. A little overtime was worked in some cases.

As regards individual occupations, employment was very good generally with bricklayers and plasterers, and good in most districts with masons and with carpenters and joiners; in a considerable number of districts a shortage of one or more of the foregoing classes of skilled operatives, especially of bricklayers and plasterers, was reported. Employment was fairly good with slaters and with plumbers; a slight seasonal decline was noticeable with painters, and employment was slack in most districts; it was also slack, on the whole, with builders' labourers.

The following Table shows the numbers and approximate percentages* of workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts who were unemployed at 22nd September, and the increase or decrease in the percentage as compared with 25th August:—

Occupations.	Total Number of Insured Workpeople Unemployed at 22nd Sept., 1924.	Approximate Percentage* Unemployed.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage as compared with 25th August, 1924.
Carpenters ..	2,866	2.3	- 1.5
Bricklayers ..	716	1.3	- 1.9
Masons ..	519	2.3	- 1.4
Slaters ..	257	4.9	- 2.7
Plasterers ..	314	2.0	- 3.0
Painters ..	12,969	12.1	+ 0.8
Plumbers ..	1,834	5.3	- 1.4
Labourers of above ..	25,803	10.1	- 1.3
All other occupations ..	25,134	26.3	- 1.1
Total ..	70,412	9.8	- 1.1
Divisions.			
London ..	18,589	11.5	- 1.4
South-Eastern ..	7,511	6.9	- 0.1
South-Western ..	6,589	7.6	- 0.8
Midlands ..	7,652	9.9	- 0.8
North-Eastern ..	7,731	9.1	- 0.9
North-Western ..	10,570	11.3	- 2.4
Scotland ..	5,951	9.0	- 1.3
Wales ..	2,811	10.7	- 0.5
Northern Ireland ..	3,008	23.6	-
Great Britain and Northern Ireland ..	70,412	9.8	- 1.1

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

Returns from Local Authorities in 139 of the principal urban areas in Great Britain (except the London County Council area), with a total population of 15,708,000, show that in September, 1924, plans were passed for buildings of an estimated cost of £4,426,500, as compared with £3,176,400 in August, 1924, and £4,379,400 in September, 1923. Of the total for September, 1924, dwelling-houses accounted for £2,715,800; factories and workshops for £391,300; shops, offices, warehouses and other business premises for £419,000; and other buildings and additions and alterations to existing buildings for £900,400. (For figures for the quarter ended September, 1924, in comparison with the corresponding quarter of 1923, see page 330.)

BRICK TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the brick trade in September was good generally, and showed little change as compared with the previous month; it was much better than a year ago. At Peterborough and Nottingham employment was very good.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed in the brick, pipe, tile, etc., trades, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges on 22nd September, was 7.7, as compared with 7.4 on 25th August.

The following Table summarises the information received as to the number of workpeople employed and the amount of wages paid by those employers who furnished returns for the three periods under consideration:—

Department.	No. of Members of Unions at end of September, 1924.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a	
		Sept., 1924.	Aug., 1924.	Sept., 1923.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Printing ..	77,211	3.0	3.0	4.3	-	- 1.3
Bookbinding ..	14,912	3.3	3.3	4.7	-	- 1.4

* Figures are not available as to the exact numbers of insured workpeople in each of the occupations shown in the first column of the Table in the building industry. For the purpose of computing the percentages given in the third column, the total numbers insured, in each occupation, have been estimated by applying ratios obtained from the exchange of unemployment books which took place in 1922 to the total number of insured workers engaged in the building industry as shown by the 1923 exchange of books. The estimated numbers so arrived at were given on page 20 of the January issue of this GAZETTE. In view of the possibility that some changes may have taken place, since 1922, in the ratios referred to, the percentages of unemployed, as given in the third column, should be regarded as only approximate.

Table with columns: Districts, No. of Workpeople, Total Wages Paid to all Workpeople. Rows include Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire, Midlands and Eastern Counties, South and South-West Counties and Wales, Scotland, and Total.

POTTERY TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in the pottery trades showed a slight improvement as compared with the previous month. It continued good in the tile, sanitary earthenware, and fireclay sections, and was fair in the general earthenware, rockingham and jet branches of the industry.

At Stoke-on-Trent employment was fairly good in certain sections of the trade, but at Hanley much short time was still worked; at Burslem and Longton an improvement was reported. At Derby, Worcester and Bristol employment was good, but at Glasgow it continued bad.

The percentage of workpeople unemployed, as indicated by the unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges at 22nd September, 1924, was 11.7, as compared with 13.4 at 25th August.

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

Table with columns: BRANCHES, DISTRICTS, Number of Workpeople, Total Wages paid to all Workpeople. Rows include China Manufacture, Earthenware Manufacture, Other Branches, Potteries, and Other Districts.

Returns from employers relative to short-time working showed that of 11,668 workpeople employed by firms furnishing information, 2,054, or 18 per cent., were working on an average 14 hours less than full time in the week ended 27th September, 1924.

SEAMEN.

DURING September employment with seamen continued moderate on the whole, but the demand for men showed a slight improvement as compared with the previous month.

On the Thames the demand for men was fairly good. It was generally fair on the Tyne and quiet on the Wear. Employment was moderate on the Tees and at Hull. It remained moderate on the whole at Southampton.

Employment was generally fair on the Clyde and quiet at Leith. At Belfast it improved in the middle of the month, and subsequently declined a little.

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 September :-

Table with columns: Principal Ports, Number of Seamen Shipped at the Ports shown. Rows include ENGLAND & WALES, SCOTLAND, and NORTHERN IRELAND.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT among dock labourers during September was slack on the whole. Among insured workpeople in the canal, river, harbour and dock service, 28.0 per cent. were unemployed at 22nd September, compared with 26.5 per cent. at 25th August.

London.—The following Table shows the average daily number of dock labourers employed at docks and wharves in respect of which returns were received for each week of the month :-

Table with columns: Period, Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London. Rows include Week ended, Average for 4 weeks, Average for August, and Average for Sept., 1923.

Tilbury.—The mean daily number of dock labourers employed in September was 793, as compared with 864 in the previous month and with 1,299 in September, 1923.

East Coast.—Employment with coal trimmers on the Tyne and Wear was slack, and worse than in August. With other classes of workers it was, generally speaking, moderate, there being a falling off in timber imports at several of the north-east coast ports.

Western and Southern Section.—At Liverpool employment continued slack, although a slight improvement was reported towards the end of the month. The average weekly number of dock labourers registered at the clearing houses under the Liverpool docks scheme as employed in the four weeks ended 29th September was 14,881, compared with 14,755 in the four weeks ended 25th August, and with 14,644 in September, 1923.

At the South Wales ports employment remained slack with coal trimmers and fair on timber cargoes. At Bristol and Avonmouth it continued fairly good. At Southampton it was fair, but showed a slight falling off, due to the termination of the soft fruit trade.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—At Glasgow good and Ayr employment was fair, and at Dundee good and better than in August. At Leith it was slack. At Belfast it continued good.

It will be understood that the numbers given are the numbers of separate engagements, and not of separate individuals.

* These figures relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland; they exclude workpeople on systematic short time, but include workpeople otherwise "suspended" or "stood-off." The figures which are published weekly in the Press, relating to Great Britain only, include workpeople on systematic short time and not actually at work on the dates of the returns, as well as those otherwise "suspended" or "stood-off." On 29th September these figures showed a total of 1,199,161, comprising 908,944 men, 223,935 women, and 71,487 juveniles, as compared with a total of 1,286,000, including 947,000 men, 229,000 women, and 72,000 juveniles at 31st December, 1923.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.*

THE number of applicants for employment on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 29th September, 1924, was 1,204,836, of whom 914,677 were men, 37,523 boys, 220,299 women and 32,337 girls.

The following Table summarises the work of the Exchanges during the five weeks ended 29th September, 1924 :-

Table with columns: Week ended, Applications from Employers, Vacancies Filled, Applications outstanding at end of week. Rows include 1st August, 1st September, and Total (5 weeks).

The figures above include casual occupations, such as dock labourers and coal porters. In the following paragraphs statistics of these occupations are not included.

A detailed analysis of the figures above is not yet available, but statistics for the four weeks ended 1st September are dealt with below :-

Applications from Workpeople.—The total number of 856,386 applications from workpeople during the four weeks ended 1st September showed a daily average of 35,683. Of this daily average, men accounted for 23,401, women for 9,220, and juveniles for 3,062.

Vacancies Notified.—During the four weeks ended 1st September, there were 38,500 vacancies notified, representing a daily average of 3,688. Of this daily average, 1,849 were for men, 1,066 for women, and 773 for juveniles.

Vacancies Filled.—The total number of vacancies filled during the period was 75,880, a daily average of 3,162, as compared with 5,276 for the preceding statistical month. Of this daily average, men accounted for 1,659, women for 833 and juveniles for 670.

Juveniles.—During the period, 38,549 applications were received from boys and 34,939 from girls. The number of vacancies notified for boys was 9,954, and 8,710 vacancies were filled.

Statistics relating to Building Trades (men) and to Domestic Service occupations (women) for the four weeks ended 1st September have been summarised under the principal occupations, and the outstanding features are dealt with below.

In the building trades, 6,587 vacancies were notified for men and 5,307 vacancies were filled. The principal occupations concerned were :- Carpenters, 1,432 vacancies notified and 1,054 filled; bricklayers, 744 vacancies notified and 399 filled; painters, 2,158 vacancies notified and 1,958 filled; and builders' labourers, 944 vacancies notified and 866 placings.

The number of men on the "live register" in the building trades was 59,541 at 1st September, compared with 58,500 at 4th August.

The number of vacancies notified for women in domestic service during the four weeks ended 1st September was 12,784. Of this number, 4,970 were for resident domestic servants, 3,254 for non-resident domestic servants, 2,586 for charwomen, and 1,422 for waitresses; other domestic occupations accounting for 550.

Of the 9,189 vacancies notified, 2,533 were placings in resident domestic service, 2,516 as non-resident, 2,336 as charwomen and 1,388 as waitresses.

The total number of women remaining registered on 1st September for work in domestic service was 29,443, compared with 24,873 on 4th August.

These figures relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland; they exclude workpeople on systematic short time, but include workpeople otherwise "suspended" or "stood-off." The figures which are published weekly in the Press, relating to Great Britain only, include workpeople on systematic short time and not actually at work on the dates of the returns, as well as those otherwise "suspended" or "stood-off." On 29th September these figures showed a total of 1,199,161, comprising 908,944 men, 223,935 women, and 71,487 juveniles, as compared with a total of 1,286,000, including 947,000 men, 229,000 women, and 72,000 juveniles at 31st December, 1923.

* These figures relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland; they exclude workpeople on systematic short time, but include workpeople otherwise "suspended" or "stood-off." The figures which are published weekly in the Press, relating to Great Britain only, include workpeople on systematic short time and not actually at work on the dates of the returns, as well as those otherwise "suspended" or "stood-off." On 29th September these figures showed a total of 1,199,161, comprising 908,944 men, 223,935 women, and 71,487 juveniles, as compared with a total of 1,286,000, including 947,000 men, 229,000 women, and 72,000 juveniles at 31st December, 1923.

THE following Table shows for each of the Employment Exchange administrative areas, and for the principal towns therein, the number of applicants for employment on the Registers of the Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 29th September, 1924.

Large table with columns: Area, Number of Persons remaining on Live Registers at 29th September, 1924, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with 25th Aug., 1924. Rows include London Division, South Eastern Division, South Western Division, Midlands Division, North Eastern Division, North Western Division, Scotland Division, Wales Division, Northern Ireland, and Total, Gt. Britain and Northern Ireland.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED INDUSTRIES.

THE statistics here presented show, industry by industry, the number of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, and the number and percentage of such persons who were unemployed on 22nd September, 1924. "Unemployed" as used in these statistics does not necessarily mean that the person is definitely without a job. Persons who on 22nd September, 1924, were not at work because they were suspended, "stood off," "furloughed," or on short time, and whose unemployment books were lodged at Exchanges, are counted in the statistics as "unemployed."

Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, substantially all employed persons, except outworkers and persons employed in agriculture and private domestic service, must be insured against unemployment. Employees of local 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, be excepted. Persons employed otherwise than by way of manual labour at a rate of remuneration exceeding in value £250 per annum are excepted, as are also juveniles under sixteen years of age.

The statistics take account only of persons insured under the Acts. Such persons number approximately 11,500,000 in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. This figure is computed annually, and is obtained from a count of the unemployment books which must be held by all insured persons, and which are exchanged at the beginning of each insurance year in the early weeks of July.* In arriving at the estimated number of current books regard is paid not only to those books actually exchanged, but also to those which are likely to be exchanged in the course of the insurance year.

Every insured person claiming unemployment benefit must lodge his unemployment book at an Employment Exchange when

making a claim. It is possible therefore to obtain from a count of the lodged books a record of unemployment in insured trades. The figures given of numbers unemployed are not, however, confined to persons in receipt of benefit. They include—

- (a) Insured persons unemployed and in receipt of benefit;
(b) Insured persons not in receipt of benefit, but known to be unemployed by reason of their maintaining registration at an Employment Exchange or otherwise;
(c) Insured persons who are not in receipt of benefit and are not maintaining registration, but whose unemployment books remain lodged at Employment Exchanges. Provided there is no definite evidence of employment these are counted in the statistics for two months after the insured person's last attendance at an Exchange.

Concurrently with the exchange of insurance books in the middle of July, 1923, opportunity was taken to revise the classification of insured workpeople so as to bring it, so far as practicable, into conformity with the industrial grouping adopted in connection with the 1921 census of population. At the same time the industrial classification was amended. Previously it had not been on a strictly industrial basis, but in some cases had followed an occupational grouping. At the exchange of books in 1923 all unemployment books were classified according to the industry of the employer, or, in the case of unemployed persons, of the last employer. As the composition of the several industrial groups has undergone modification the statistics subsequent to June, 1923, are not strictly comparable with those prior to that date.

Insured persons who are disqualified for the receipt of benefit under the trade dispute disqualification contained in section 8 (i) of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, are not included amongst the numbers unemployed.

NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.†

Table with 14 columns: Industry, Estimated Number of Insured Persons at July, 1923, Number of Unemployment Books Remaining Lodged at 22nd September, 1924, Percentage Unemployed at 22nd September, 1924, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 25th August, 1924. Rows include Fishing, Mining, Non-Metalliferous Mining Products, Brick, Tile, etc., Making, Glass Trades, Ammunition Explosives, Chemicals, etc., Metal Manufacture and Secondary Processes, Engineering and Ironfoundry, Construction and Repair of Vehicles, etc.

* A new insurance year began on the 7th July, 1924, and unemployment books began to be exchanged on that date. The results of the count of unemployment books exchanged, however, are not yet available.
† See note on page 369.

NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED.†

Table with 14 columns: Industry, Estimated Number of Insured Persons at July, 1923, Number of Unemployment Books Remaining Lodged at 22nd September, 1924, Percentage Unemployed at 22nd September, 1924, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 25th August, 1924. Rows include Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing, Metal Trades, Textile Trades, Leather and Leather Goods, Clothing Trades, Sawmilling, Furniture and Woodwork, Printing and Paper Trades, Other Manufacturing Industries, Gas, Water and Electricity Supply, Transport and Communication, Commercial, Banking, Insurance and Finance, Miscellaneous Trades and Services.

* See footnote * on page 368.
NOTE.—The percentage unemployed in Great Britain at 22nd September, as shown by the above figures, was 10.6, compared with 10.5 at 25th August and 9.7 at 28th July. A substantial part, probably rather less than one-half, of this increase, however, is not a real increase in unemployment but is due to an effect of the Unemployment Insurance Act of the 1st August in bringing into the records for the first time certain classes of unemployed persons (particularly those out of work owing to a trade dispute at their place of employment and those unemployed for short or uncertain periods) who previously, not being entitled to benefit, would not have registered.

TRADE DISPUTES.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of trade disputes involving a stoppage of work, reported to the Department as beginning in September in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 41, as compared with 53 in the previous month and 29 in September, 1923.

Table with 5 columns: Groups of Industries, Number of Disputes in progress in September (Started before 1st Sept., Started in Sept., Total), Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in Sept., Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in Sept.

Causes.—Of the 41 disputes beginning in September, 14, directly involving 500 workpeople, arose out of demands for advances in wages; 12, directly involving 1,100 workpeople, on other wages questions; 7, directly involving 1,200 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; and 8, directly involving 400 workpeople, on other questions.

PRINCIPAL TRADE DISPUTES IN PROGRESS DURING SEPTEMBER, 1924.

Table with 6 columns: Occupations and Locality, Approximate Number of Workpeople Involved (Directly, Indirectly), Date when Dispute (Began, 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.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

[Based on Returns from Employers and Workpeople.]

Rates of Wages.

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics* the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in September in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an aggregate increase of nearly £57,000 in the weekly full-time wages of over 390,000 workpeople, and in a reduction of nearly £55,000 in the weekly wages of 565,000 workpeople.

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

Table with 5 columns: Group of Industries, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by (Increases, Decreases), Amount of Changes in Weekly Wages (Increases, Decreases).

The reductions in the mining group were mainly accounted for by changes which occurred in the wages of coal miners in Durham, Northumberland and the Yorkshire and East Midland area, the percentage additions to standard rates being reduced by amounts equivalent to 1 1/2 per cent. on current rates in Durham, over 3 1/2 per cent. in Northumberland, and over 4 1/2 per cent. in Yorkshire and the East Midlands.

In the metal group of trades the principal body of workpeople affected were piece-workers and higher-paid time-workers employed in federated shipyards in England and Scotland, who received increases varying in amount up to 4s. per week.

The principal change in the clothing group affected workpeople employed in the boot and shoe repairing trade, for whom the minimum rates payable under the Trade Boards Acts were increased, the increase in the case of adult timeworkers amounting to 2s. or 3s. per week.

In the merchant shipping service there was an increase of 10s. per month in the wages of men, except ordinary seamen, on monthly articles; while men on weekly articles, other than ordinary seamen, received increases usually of 3s. or 3s. 3d. per week.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING SEPTEMBER, 1924.

Table with 4 columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Particulars of change (Decreases in italics).

* The particulars of numbers affected and amount of change in weekly wages exclude changes affecting Government employees, police, agricultural labourers, domestic servants, shop assistants and clerks, for which classes the information available is not sufficient to provide a basis for statistics.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING SEPTEMBER, 1924—(continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
MINING AND QUARRYING—(continued).				
Coal Mining (contd.)	Forest of Dean ...	1 Sept.*	Workpeople employed in or about coal mines, other than those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries	Decrease of 10.46 per cent. on the standard base rates of 1919, leaving wages 66.20 per cent. above the standard of 1919.*
	Radstock ...	28 Aug.		Decrease of 2.55 per cent. on the standard base rates of 1918, leaving wages 48.05 per cent. above the standard of 1918.
Coke and By-Products Manufacture	Durham ...	1 Sept.	Cokemen and by-product workers	New standard basis rates adopted, resulting in increases varying from 7½ to 9½ per cent. for by-product workers. Basis rates after change: fillers, 7s. 10½d. per shift; gas regulators, 6s. 5d.; loaders, 6s. 6d.; levellers (ramside and discharge side), hearthmen, valve cleaners, quenchers, and ram enginemen, 6s. 4½d.; cranemen, hydraulic main men, and sulphatemen, 6s. 3d.; stampermen, scrubbermen, and benzolmen, 6s.; conveyorgate men, and breeze ridders (hand), 5s. 9d.; coke screeners and labourers, 5s. 6d.†
	South Yorkshire ...			Decrease of 8.09 per cent. on the standard base rates, leaving wages 60.28 per cent. above the standard.
Iron Mining	Cumberland ...	15 Sept.	Iron ore miners ...	Decrease† of 2d. per shift in the bargain price (9s. 10d. to 9s. 8d.) and of 2d. per shift in the minimum wage (7s. 2d. to 7s.).
	Furness District ...	8 Sept.	Winding enginemen ... Other underground and surface workers	Decrease† of 1½d. per shift (8s. 7½d. to 8s. 5½d.). Decrease† of 1d. per shift for men and of ½d. per shift for boys under 16 years. Rates after change: underground 1st class or leading labourers, 6s. 2½d. per shift; joiners, 8s. 11½d. per shift plus 6d. per shift tool allowance; blacksmiths, 8s. 11½d. per shift. Decrease† of 3d. per shift in the bargain price (8s. 11d. to 8s. 8d.), of 3d. per shift in the minimum wage (8s. 2d. to 7s. 11d.), of 2d. per shift for surfacemen, and of 1d. per shift for boys under 16 years.
Quarrying	West Cumberland	8 Sept.	Limestone quarrymen ...	Decrease† of 1d. per shift for blacksmiths and joiners, of 1½d. per shift for other men, and of ½d. per shift for boys under 16 years. Rates after change: knobblers, 8s. 4½d. per shift; haulage enginemen, 8s. 0½d.; blacksmiths and joiners, 8s. 5½d.; day borers—1st class, 7s. 10½d.; day labourers, 7s. 2½d.; ruddmen, 6s. 8½d.
IRON AND STEEL SMELTING AND MANUFACTURE.				
Pig Iron Manufacture	West Cumberland and North Lancashire	2nd full pay day in Sept.	Workpeople (excluding skilled craftsmen and bricklayers on maintenance work, and labourers) employed at blast-furnaces	Decrease† of 3½ per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 33½ per cent. above the standard, plus, in some cases, an output bonus.
Iron and Steel Manufacture	North of England	29 Sept.	Iron puddlers ...	Increase† of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 57½ per cent. above the standard.
			Iron millmen ...	Increase† of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 55 per cent. above the standard.
ENGINEERING, SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING.				
Shipbuilding and Ship-repairing, etc.	Great Britain ...	3 Aug.	Caretakers of ships and watchmen employed in H.M. Dockyards and Admiralty Establishments	Increase of 2s. 4d. per week for caretakers and of 4s. per week for watchmen. Rates after change: caretakers, 43s. 9d. to 47s. 3d.; watchmen, 52s. 6d.
	North East Coast, Hull, Southampton, Cowes, Birkenhead, Barrow, Clyde and East of Scotland	1st full pay after 20 Sept.	Men employed in the shipbuilding and ship-repairing trade (except those whose wages are regulated by movements in some other industry)†	Pieceworkers: Increase in bonus of 4s. per week. Timeworkers whose bonus was reduced by over 6s. a week in the period November, 1922-January, 1923: Increase in bonus of such amounts, ranging up to a maximum of 4s. a week, as will (with the previous increases given in June last) restore the bonus to 5s. below the level of October, 1922.**
				Pieceworkers: Increase in bonus of 4s. per week. Timeworkers whose bonus was reduced by over 6s. a week in the period January to April, 1923: Increase in bonus of such amounts, ranging up to a maximum of 4s. a week, as will (with the previous increases given in June last) restore the bonus to 5s. below the level of December, 1922.††
	Belfast ...	25 Sept.	Workpeople employed in marine engineering	Pieceworkers: Increase in bonus of 2s. per week. Timeworkers: Increase of 2s. per week for men whose bonus was reduced by 10s. per week in 1923; in cases in which the reduction in 1923 was less than 10s. per week, an increase of such smaller amount than 2s. as will (with the previous increases in May last) restore the bonus to not more than 3s. below the level of December, 1922. Rates after change include: fitters, 58s. 9d., turners, 59s. 9d.†† Increase to a rate of 8s. per day.
	Tyne, Wear and Blyth District	20 Sept.	Boiler scalers and coverers, chippers and painters	Increase of 4s. per week. Rate after change: 1s. 2d. per hour.
	Tyne, Wear and Tees District	Sept.	Sailmakers ...	Increase of 4s. per week. Rate after change: 1s. 2d. per hour.

* At 1st September the Forest of Dean Colliery Owners' Association had not put into operation the provisions of the National Agreement of June, 1924, and the change described took effect under the arrangements in general operation prior to June. It is understood that the owners have agreed during the present month (October) to pay increased wages in accordance with the Agreement of June, 1924, such payments to be retrospective.

† The basis rates quoted are subject to an addition of 47 per cent. Future percentage additions are to vary monthly in accordance with the price (at ovens) of Durham by-product coke. The subsistence wage of 7s. 6.56d. per shift previously paid is now cancelled and a minimum wage of 40 per cent. on standard basis rates substituted.

‡ The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with selling prices.

§ It has been agreed between the West Coast Ironmasters' Association and the National Union of Blastfurnacemen that up to the beginning of the second full-pay in March, 1925, the wages of general labourers are to be stabilised at a minimum of 30s. 10d. per week of 47 hours, and the wages of shift labourers at a minimum of 6s. 10.35d. per shift (representing the rates already in operation).

¶ The scale percentage on bonus earnings paid to keepers, slaggers, fillers, enginemen, etc., is 7½ in the Workington Area, and 6½ in the Furness Area.

** Engineers were, in most cases, not affected by the change, except at Southampton and East Cowes.

†† This increase is the second instalment of an increase granted under an arbitration award, issued 6th June, to which the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation was a party with various trade unions. The previous instalment took effect from 1st full pay after 14th June. Timeworkers whose bonus was reduced by 6s. or less in November, 1923, received no advance in September, but some of these men participated in the advances in June which brought their bonus to not more than 3s. below the level of October, 1922 (see page 257 of the July issue of this GAZETTE).

‡‡ Timeworkers whose bonus was reduced by 6s. or less in January-April, 1923, received no advance in wages in September, but some of these men participated in the advances in June which brought their bonus to not more than 3s. below the level of December, 1922 (see page 257 of the July issue of this GAZETTE).

§§ An increase of 5s. per week for pieceworkers and for those timeworkers whose wage was reduced by 10s. per week in 1923 took effect from 1st May, 1924; in cases where the total reduction was less than 10s., a sum equivalent to half the amount of the reduction was restored. (See page 216 of the June issue of this GAZETTE.) The effect of this increase, with the later increase in September, was to bring the wages in the marine engineering section to the same position as in the shipbuilding section.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING SEPTEMBER, 1924—(continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
ENGINEERING, SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING—(continued).				
Shipbuilding and Ship-repairing (contd.)	Hull ...	1st full pay after 20 Sept.	Sailmakers ...	Increase of 4s. per week. Rates after change: machinemen, 59s. 1d.; bench hands, 57s. 1d.
	Clyde District ...	Week ending 27 Sept.	Sailmakers ...	Increase of 4s. per week. Rate after change: 56s. 6d.
	Dundee ... Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Walsall Districts	27 Sept.	Sailmakers ... Boat-builders ...	Increase of 1d. per hour. Rate after change: 1s. 3d. Increase of 1d. per hour or 4s. per week. Rate after change: 1s. 5½d. per hour.
Farrriery	Belfast ...	29 Sept.	Farrriers ...	Increase of 2s. 6d. per week. Rates after change: firemen, 65s.; fooromen, 60s.
	London ...	31 July	Temporary craftsmen employed at the Royal Mint.	Increase of 6s. per week.
	Great Britain ...	8 Sept.	Male workers employed in the stamped or pressed metal wares trade as braziers, burnishers, drop stampermen, dippers, dippers who are also bonzers, or as annealers or polishers.	Minimum rates fixed for a week of 47 hours, under the Trade Boards Acts, in lieu of the hourly rate previously paid, the new rates resulting in increases (based on a 47 hour week) of from 2s. 10½d. to 4s. 7d. per week for timeworkers 21 years of age and over, and from 9½d. to 2s. 0½d. per week for those under 21 years of age; piecework basis time rates correspondingly increased. Minimum time rates after change for a week of 47 hours for men 21 years of age and over; 55s. 6d. to 69s. 6d.*
Miscellaneous Metal Trades	Sheffield ...	1st full pay after 18 Sept.	Laminated spring fitters and vicemen, smiths and strikers.	Increase† of 1s. per week in flat rate bonus.
Wool and other Textile Industries	Lye, Stourbridge and Old Hill	1 Sept.	Frost cog makers ...	Increase of 12½ per cent. on existing rates.
	West Riding of Yorkshire	25 Aug.	Bricklayers, masons, carpenters and joiners, and labourers	Increase of ½d. per hour. Rates after change in principal towns: tradesmen, 1s. 8d.; labourers, 1s. 3½d.
TEXTILE TRADES.				
			Workpeople employed in the soft silk trade:— Timeworkers:— Females ...	Increase of 2s. per week for women 20 years of age and over, except in the case of those rated at 29s. up to and including 32s., whose wages were to be increased by 1s.; women 19 years of age to receive an increase of 1s. per week and a further increase of 1s. per week at 20 years of age. Increases corresponding to those granted to females.
			Males (except card cutters and designers) Card cutters ...	Increase of 5s. per week on all wages of less than £3, with 2s. 6d. per week increase on wages over £3. Increase of 5s. per week on all wages under 90s. per week.
			Designers ...	
			Pieceworkers:— Artificial silk winders ...	Piece-rate system to be adopted where possible, the prices to yield at least 20 per cent. over 27s. per week, with 27s. as an individual protective minimum for a full week.
			Male embroidery workers Weavers ...	Amended list of piece rates adopted. Addition of 10 per cent. to actual earnings after working on one loom for six working days if the standing loom is on shift work or on mounted harness work.
			Flax Dressers ...	Increase of 3s. 6d. per week.
			Female pieceworkers (other than weavers in certain districts)§	Piecework basis time rate fixed at 7½d. per hour under the Trade Boards Acts (see also p. 386).
			Workpeople employed in the hand frame section	Bonus of 7d. in the shilling on earnings increased to 9d. in the shilling.
CLOTHING TRADES.				
			Workpeople employed in the boot and shoe repairing trade:— Male and female workers wholly or mainly employed in making bespoke hand-sewn leather footwear (including bespoke hand-sewn surgical work) Male learners (other than male indentured apprentices); also female learners employed on benching and/or finishing Male workers 21 years and over employed in operating power sole-stitchers and Blake or other sole sewing machines on the Blake principle	Increase† in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively. (See p. 347 of September GAZETTE):— Increase† of 3s. per week. Minimum rate after change, 65s. Increase† of 1s. per week for those 14 and under 17, and of 2s. per week for those 17 and under 21 years. Minimum rates after change: 13s. at 14, increasing to 43s. at 20 years. Increase† of 2s. per week for those employed in operating power sole-stitchers or in operating both power sole-stitchers and Blake or other sole sewing machines on the Blake principle (72s. to 74s.); and of 3s. per week for those employed in operating Blake or other sole sewing machines on the Blake principle (67s. to 70s.). Increase† of 3s. per week (67s. to 70s.).
			Male workers employed as pressmen who are responsible for cutting and costing	Increase† of 2s. per week (72s. to 74s.).
			Male and female workers employed as foremen and managers	Increase† of 3s. per week (57s. to 60s.).
			All other male workers ... Female workers employed on benching and/or finishing in the repairing of leather footwear	Increase† of 3s. per week (57s. to 60s.).

* The rates are subject to a proportionate decrease according as the number of hours of employment in any week is less than 47.

† This change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.

‡ It is provided in the Trade Board Order that if this date does not correspond with the beginning of the period for which wages are paid by an employer who pays wages at intervals not exceeding seven days, the rate shall become effective as from the beginning of the next full pay period, but in any case not later than October 5th.

§ The new rate did not apply to weavers in districts outside Aberdeen, Barrow-in-Furness, Dundee, and Tayport, nor to hessian weavers in the districts named.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING SEPTEMBER, 1924—(continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
CLOTHING TRADES—(continued).				
Boot and Shoe Repairing (contd.)	Great Britain	1 Sept.	Workpeople employed in the boot and shoe repairing trade (contd.)— All other female workers ...	Increase* of 1s. per week for those 14 and under 17, and of 2s. for those 17 and over. Minimum rates after change: 13s. at 14, increasing to 42s. at 21 and over.
			Male indentured apprentices Piecworkers ...	Increase* of 2½ per cent. on piece prices for bespoke hand sewn, bespoke hand sewn surgical, bespoke pegged and bespoke rivetted work and certain classes of surgical repair work, leaving wages 5 per cent. below list prices, and of 5 per cent. for repairing (including surgical repair work other than the above), leaving wages 7½ per cent. below list prices.
FOOD, DRINK, AND TOBACCO TRADES.				
Baking and Confectionery	London	1st pay day in week ending 27 Sept.	Workpeople employed in the baking trade by co-operative societies	Minimum weekly rates adopted as follows:—table hands, 65s.; secondhands and doughmakers, 67s., 71s. or 75s.; foremen, 73s., 77s. or 81s.; singlehands and Scotch fores, 69s.; ovenmen, machine minders, stokers and other special grades, 68s. Rates also fixed for jobbers, allied workers, women and juveniles.
	Douglas and Ramsey Various towns in Yorkshire†	15 Sept. 30 Aug. ‡	Bakers and confectioners ...	Decrease of 5s. per week. Rates after change: forehands, 66s.; tablehands, 60s.
	Various towns in North Staffordshire and Cheshire§	1st pay day in Sept.	Adult male workers employed in the baking and confectionery trades by private traders	Increase* of 1s. 6d. per week. Minimum rates after change: forehands, 68s. 6d.; doughmakers and ovenmen, 63s. 6d.; tablehands, 58s. 6d.
Flour Milling	Belfast	19 Sept.	Bakers and confectioners ...	Increase* of 2s. 6d. per week for adult male workers, 1s. for women and for youths over 16 years, and 6d. for girls under 18. Minimum rates after change: adult males—forehands, 71s. or 74s.; singlehands, machinemens, etc., 69s.; secondhands, 67s.; tablehands, 65s.; females, 21 years, 38s.
Vehicle Building	Scotland¶	1st full pay after 6 Sept.	Workpeople employed in the flour milling trade	Increase of 2s. per week. Rates after change include: leading roller men, 58s. 6d.; grinders in corn mill and screensmen, 54s. 6d.; firemen, 59s. 6d.; labourers on heavy work, 50s. 6d.; packers, 52s. 6d.; labourers on light work, 47s. 6d.
			Apprentices employed in the vehicle building and wheelwright trades	New scale of minimum rates adopted, based on the current minimum rate for journeymen (at present 1s. 6d. per hour), varying from 17½ per cent. of minimum (i.e., 12s. 4d. per week) during first year to 45 per cent. of minimum (i.e., 31s. 9d. per week) during fifth year. Apprentices who would receive no advance, or whose advance would be less than 2s. under the above scale, to receive an advance of 2s. per week.
Mill Sawing	North East Coast and Hull Tyne District**	1 Sept.	Woodcutting machinists ...	Increase of ¼d. per hour. Minimum rate after change, 1s. 7½d.
	Sheffield and Rotherham	1st full pay after 9 Sept.	Labourers ...	Increase of 1d. per hour (1s. 3d. to 1s. 4d.).
	Scotland	1st full pay in Sept.	Machinists, sawyers, etc. ...	Increase of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: planing and moulding machinists, 1s. 6½d.; band and circular sawyers, 1s. 6d.; horizontal sawyers, 1s. 5½d. (see Decision No. 973 on p. 386).
			Woodcutting machinists ...	Increase of ¼d. per hour for journeymen and of proportionate amounts for apprentices. Minimum rate after change for journeymen, 1s. 5½d.
Packing Case Making	London	1 Aug.	Adult male workers ...	Increase of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: sawyers and case makers, 1s. 6d.; labourers, 1s. 2½d.
	Scotland (except Aberdeen) Edinburgh, Leith, Dunfermline and Dundee Glasgow and West of Scotland Aberdeen	1st full pay in Sept.	Apprentices and improvers ...	Increase of ¼d. or ½d. per hour. Rate after change at 21 years, 10½d.
			Female workers ...	Increase of ¼d. per hour for journeymen (1s. 5d. to 1s. 5½d.).
Packing case makers ...	Increase of 1d. per hour for journeymen (1s. 4d. to 1s. 5d.) and of ¼d. per hour for apprentices.			
Furniture Manufacture	Sheffield	1 Sept.	Packing case makers and woodcutting machinists employed in packing case shops	Increase of ¼d. per hour for journeymen (1s. 5d. to 1s. 5½d.) and of ¼d. per hour for apprentices.
	High Wycombe	Pay day in week ending 27 Sept.	Wholesale furniture trade:— Cabinet makers, chairmakers, carvers, upholsterers, and french polishers	Increase of ¼d. per hour (1s. 7½d. to 1s. 8d.).
Reading	25 Aug.	Skilled female workers ...	Increase of ¼d. per hour (9d. to 10d.).	
Cabinet makers, carvers, french polishers and upholsterers	Women timeworkers employed in the furniture trade	Increase* of ¼d. per hour (10d. to 10½d.).		
PAPER, PRINTING AND ALLIED TRADES.				
Paper Bag Making	Great Britain	1 Sept.	Workpeople employed in the paper bag making trade:— Male workers:— Machine tacklers, paper bag cutters, hydraulic pressers, slitters, stock-keepers, packers and despatchers, 21 years and over	Increase* of 1s. to 3s. per week. Increases* in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively. (See p. 347 of September GAZETTE):—

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING SEPTEMBER, 1924—(continued).

Industry.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of change. (Decreases in italics.)
PAPER, PRINTING AND ALLIED TRADES—(continued).				
Paper Bag Making (contd.)	Great Britain	1 Sept.	Workpeople employed in the paper bag making trade (contd.)— Male workers (contd.):— Other workers (except learners) ...	Increase* of 2s. 6d. per week (52s. 6d. to 55s.).
			Learners ...	Increase* of from 6d. to 2s. 6d. per week.
Paper Box Making	Great Britain	1 Sept.	Female timeworkers:— Other than learners ...	Increase* of 1s. 6d. per week (29s. to 30s. 6d.).
			Learners ...	Increase* of from 6d. to 1s. 6d. per week.†
			Female timeworkers:— Learners ...	Increase* in the minimum piecework basis time rate of 1s. per week (31s. to 32s.).
			Female pieceworkers ...	Increase* in the minimum rates fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of the following amounts for the classes named respectively (see p. 347 of September GAZETTE):—
Male timeworkers:— Die makers, forme setters, cutters, machine minders, and head stock-keepers, 18 years and over	Increase* of from 1s. to 2s. 6d. per week. Minimum rates after change: 18 and under 19, 32s., increasing to 49s. 6d. at 21 to 22, and to 68s. 6d. at 23 and over.			
Other workers (except learners) ...	Increase* of 2s. per week (49s. to 51s.).			
Learners ...	Increase* of from 6d. to 2s. per week.			
Male pieceworkers ...	Increase* in the minimum piecework basis time rate of 3s. per week (54s. 6d. to 57s. 6d.).			
Female timeworkers:— Learners ...	Increase* of 1s. per week (29s. 6d. to 30s. 6d.).			
Female pieceworkers ...	New scale of minimum weekly rates fixed, resulting in increases* of from 6d. to 1s. 6d. per week.† Increase* in the minimum piecework basis time rate of 1s. per week (31s. 6d. to 32s. 6d.).			
BUILDING AND ALLIED TRADES (See also page 378).				
Building	Beverley	1 July 1 Oct.	Building trade operatives ...	Increase of 1½d. per hour for craftsmen and 1½d. per hour for labourers.† Increase of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: craftsmen, 1s. 8d.; labourers, 1s. 3½d.
	Bridlington and Scarborough	1 Oct.	Building trade operatives ...	Increase of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: craftsmen, 1s. 7½d.; labourers, 1s. 2¾d.
	Driffield and Filey	1 July 1 Oct.	Building trade operatives ...	Increase of 2d. per hour for craftsmen and 1½d. per hour for labourers.†
			Building trade operatives ...	Increase of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: craftsmen, 1s. 6½d.; labourers, 1s. 2d.
	York	1 Oct.	Building trade operatives ...	Increase of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: craftsmen, 1s. 8d.; labourers, 1s. 3½d.
	Lancaster, Morecambe and District	22 Sept.	Building trade operatives ...	Increase of ¼d. per hour for craftsmen (1s. 7d. to 1s. 7½d.) and ¼d. per hour for labourers (1s. 2½d. to 1s. 2¾d.).†
	Macclesfield	8 Sept.	Building trade operatives ...	Increase of 1d. per hour for craftsmen (1s. 6½d. to 1s. 7½d.) and ¾d. per hour for labourers (1s. 2d. to 1s. 2½d.).†
	Leek	9 May 25 Aug.	Building trade operatives ...	Increase of 1d. per hour for craftsmen and ¾d. per hour for labourers.†
	Certain towns in the Eastern Counties Area§	1 Oct.	Building trade operatives ...	Increase of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change for craftsmen and labourers respectively: Grade A3 towns, 1s. 6½d., 1s. 2d.; Grade B, 1s. 6d., 1s. 1½d.; Grade B 1, 1s. 5½d., 1s. 1½d.‡
	Portsmouth	1 Sept.	Building trade operatives ...	Increase of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: craftsmen, 1s. 6d.; labourers, 1s. 1½d.
	Barnstaple, Stroud and Taunton	1 Aug. 1 Oct.	Building trade operatives ...	Increase of ¼d. per hour for craftsmen and ¼d. per hour for labourers.† Increase of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: craftsmen, 1s. 5½d. (painters at Stroud, 1s. 5d.); labourers, 1s. 1½d.
	Bridgewater, Burnham-on-Sea, Cirencester, Coleford, Lydney, Totnes, Weymouth and Yeovil	1 Aug. 1 Oct.	Building trade operatives ...	Increase of ¼d. per hour.† Increase of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: painters—Bridgewater and Burnham-on-Sea, 1s. 5d.; Totnes, 1s. 4½d.; other towns, 1s. 4d.; other craftsmen, 1s. 5d.; labourers, 1s. 1d.
	Rusham, Cheddar Valley, Midsomer Norton and Radstock	1 Aug.¶	Building trade operatives ...	Increase of ¼d. per hour for craftsmen and ¼d. per hour for labourers. Rates after change: craftsmen, 1s. 4d. (painters in the Cheddar Valley, 1s. 3d.); labourers, 1s.‡
	Exmouth	1 Aug.¶	Building trade operatives ...	Increase of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: craftsmen, 1s. 4½d.; labourers, 1s. 0½d.†
	Hereford, Ross-on-Wye and Swindon	1 Aug. 1 Oct.	Building trade operatives ...	Increase of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: painters, 1s. 5d.; other craftsmen, 1s. 6d.; labourers, 1s. 1½d.
	Plymouth, Devonport and District	1 Aug.¶	Building trade operatives ...	Increase of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: painters, 1s. 6d.; other craftsmen, 1s. 7d.; labourers, 1s. 2½d.†
	Swanage	29 Aug.	Building trade operatives ...	Increase of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: painters, 1s. 4d.; other craftsmen, 1s. 5d.; labourers, 1s. 1½d.
	Certain other towns in the South Western Counties¶	1 Oct.	Building trade operatives ...	Increase of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change for craftsmen and labourers respectively: Grade A2 towns, 1s. 7d., 1s. 2½d.; Grade B, 1s. 6d., 1s. 1½d.; Grade B1, 1s. 5½d., 1s. 1½d.¶
Wrexham	1 Oct.	Building trade operatives ...	Increase of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: craftsmen, 1s. 7½d.; labourers, 1s. 2¾d.	
Aberdeen	25 Aug.	Masons, joiners, slaters, plumbers and plasterers	Increase of ¼d. per hour (1s. 7d. to 1s. 8d.).	
Peterhead	5 Sept.	Masons, joiners and plumbers...	Increase of ¼d. per hour (1s. 7d. to 1s. 7½d.).	
Londonderry	1 Sept.	Building trade operatives ...	Increase of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: craftsmen, 1s. 7d.; labourers, 1s.	

* The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.
† Barnsley, Bradford, Bridlington, Doncaster, Halifax, Dewsbury, Huddersfield, Hull, Leeds, Sheffield, Wakefield, York.
‡ In some cases the change took effect a little earlier and in others a little later.
§ Macclesfield, Leek, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Congleton, Crewe, Winnington, Winsford, Sandbach, and Potteries District (including Stoke-on-Trent, Burslem, Fenton, Hanley, Longton, and Tunstall).
¶ The change took effect under an agreement made between the Scottish National Vehicle Builders' Association, and the National Union of Vehicle Builders and the Amalgamated Society of Woodcutting Machinists.
‡ Including Blyth, Dunston, Jarrow, Newcastle, North and South Shields, Seaham Harbour, Sunderland, Tyne Dock, and Tees District (including Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Stockton, and Thornaby).
** Including Blyth, Dunston, Jarrow, Newcastle, North and South Shields, and Tyne Dock.

* The change took effect under an arrangement whereby wages fluctuate in correspondence with the Ministry of Labour index number of retail prices.
† Except in the case of those starting at 14 years, for whom there was no change during the first six months of employment.
‡ This increase took effect as the result of a regrading under the Grading Scheme of the National Wages and Conditions Council for the Building Industry.
§ Grade A3.—St. Albans and Welwyn. Grade B.—Brentwood. Grade B1.—Baldock, Bedford, Biggleswade, Brantree, Cambridge, Chelmsford, Clacton, Princes Risborough, Stevenage, St. Albans and Welwyn. Grade B2.—Barnet, Hemel Hempstead, Hertford, Hitchin, Hoddesdon, Ingatstone, Ipswich, Letchworth, Luton, Stevenage, Stratford and Walton-on-the-Naze.
¶ A further increase of ¼d. per hour operated from 25th August under the terms of settlement of the National Dispute in the Building Industry (see p. 340 of September GAZETTE).
‡ Grade A2.—Newton Abbot, Paignton and Torquay. Grade B.—Gloucester (painters 1s. 5d.), Bath and Cheltenham. Grade B1.—Princetown.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING SEPTEMBER, 1924—(continued).

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, and Particulars of change. Includes sections for Transport Trades, Public Utility Services, and Miscellaneous Trades.

* A increase is the second instalment of an increase granted under a resolution of the National Maritime Board on 30th May, 1924. A previous increase, of similar amounts to the above, took effect on 5th June.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING SEPTEMBER, 1924—(continued).

Table with columns: Industry, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, and Particulars of change. Includes sections for Public Utility Services and Miscellaneous Trades.

* The Authorities affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the Provincial Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities' Non-trading Services in Middlesex, and include: Zone 1: Brentford, Chiswick (pay higher rates), Edmondton (pay higher rates), Friern Barnet, Tottenham (pay higher rates).

CHANGES IN WAGES TAKING EFFECT IN OCTOBER, 1924. The following groups of workpeople are affected by changes in wages already reported as having been arranged to take effect in October: Increases: Blastfurnace workers and iron and steel workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire; iron puddlers and millmen in the Midlands; ship repairers at the Bristol Channel ports; warehouse workers at Manchester. Decreases: Coal miners in Yorkshire and the East Midlands; blastfurnace workers in Cleveland.

RATES OF WAGES IN THE BUILDING TRADE IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The following Table shows the revised rates of wages as agreed upon by the National Wages and Conditions Council for the Building Industry, after the recent general increase of 1d. per hour, for craftsmen (bricklayers, masons, carpenters and joiners, woodcutting machinists, slaters, plumbers, plasterers and painters) and labourers in Great Britain (outside London). For particulars of the towns included in the various grades, after the changes referred to on page 340 of the September GAZETTE, and page 375 of the current issue, see below. The rates of wages in the London district are 1s. 7½d. for painters, 1s. 8½d. for other craftsmen, and 1s. 3½d. for labourers.

Table showing rates of wages for craftsmen and labourers across different grades (A, A1, A2, A3, B, B1, B2, B3, C, C1, C2) with columns for s. and d. for each category.

GRADING OF TOWNS.

The towns in which the above Grade rates have been reported to apply are shown below, divided into their main Area Groups. The principal exceptions are indicated in the notes appended to each Group. In towns marked * the rate for painters is 1d. less than that paid to other craftsmen, and in those marked † it is 1d. less than the craftsmen's rate.

NORTH EAST COAST:—

Grade A.—Alnwick, Annfield Plain, Barnard Castle, Bishop Auckland, Blackhill, Blyth, Chester-le-Street, Consett, Crook, Darlington, Durham, Gateshead, Hartlepool, Hebburn, Hexham, Jarow, Middlesbrough, Morpeth, Newcastle, North and South Shields, Seaham Harbour, Shildon, Stanley, Stockton-on-Tees, Sunderland, Thornaby, Wallsend, Whitburn, Whitley Bay, Willington and Wooler. Grade A2.—Berwick-on-Tweed.

YORKSHIRE:—

Grade A.—Barnsley, Batley, Beverley, Bingley, Birstall, Bradford, Brighouse, Castleford, Cleethorpes, Colne Valley, Crosshills, Dewsbury, Doncaster, Grimsby, Guiseley, Halifax, Harrogate, Hebdon Bridge, Holmfirth, Horbury, Huddersfield, Hull, Ilkley, Immingham, Keighley, Leeds, Mexborough, Mirfield, Morley, Normanston, Ossett, Pontefract, Pudsey, Rawdon, Rotherham, Scunthorpe, Selby, Sheffield, Shipley, Sowerby Bridge, Spen Leds, Wakefield, Wombwell, Yeaton, and York. Grade A1.—Bridlington and Scarborough. Grade A3.—Barnoldswick, Driffield, Filey, Goole, Skipton, Whitby and Worksoy. Grade B3.—Kirby Mounsey, Malton, Northallerton and Pickering.

[NOTE.—Malton was up-graded on 1st July from B3 to A3 by the Yorkshire Joint Regional Wages Committee, but pending the result of an appeal against the regrading, B3 rates are being paid.]

NORTH WESTERN COUNTIES:—

Grade A.—Accrington, Adlington, Alderley Edge, Altrincham, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Ashton-under-Lyne, Atherton, Bacup, Barrow, Birkdale, Bispham, Blackburn, Blackpool, Blackrod, Bolton, Broughton (Flints.), Burnley, Bury, Carlisle, Chester, Chorley, Clayton-le-Moors, Cleveleys, Clitheroe, Colne, Connaught Quay, Dalton-in-Furness, Darwen, Denton, Droylesden, Dukinfield, Eccles, Farnworth, Fleetwood, Frodsham, Glossop, Great Harwood, Haslingden, Hawarden, Helsby, Heywood, Higher Kinnerton, Horwich, Hyde, Kirkham, Leigh, Leyland, Littleborough, Longridge, Lytham, Manchester, Middleton, Mossley, Nelson, Oldham, Ormskirk, Oswaldtwistle, Padham, Pendlebury, Ponton, Preston, Prestwich, Queensberry, Radcliffe, Ramsbottom, Rawtenstall, Rishton, Rochdale, Runcorn, St. Annes-on-Sea, St. Helens, Saddleworth, Sale, Salford, Shaw, Shotton, Southport, Stalybridge, Stockport, Swinton, Thornton, Todmorden, Tyldesley, Walkden, Warrington, Westhoughton, Whalley, Whitefield, Widnes, Wigan and Wilmslow. Grade A1.—Lancaster, Macclesfield, Morecambe, and Wrexham. Grade A3.—Askan, Broughton-in-Furness, Buxton, Chapel-en-le-Frith, Cleator Moor, Congleton, Coniston, Crewe, Distington, Earsom, Grange-over-Sands, Harrington, Hayfield, Knutsford, Macclesfield, Maryport, Middlewich, Nantwich, New Mills, Northwich, Sandbach, Tarporley, Ulverston, Whitehaven, Winsford and Workington. Grade B1.—Colwyn Bay, Conwy, Holywell, Llandudno, Llandudno Junction, Mostyn, Prestatyn, Rhos and Rhyl. Grade B2.—Ambleside, Bowness-on-Windermere, Cockermouth, Grasmere, Kendal, Keswick, Langdale, Penrith and Windermere. Grade B3.—Bangor, Carnarvon, Holyhead and Llanfairfechan.

[NOTE.—In the Liverpool and Birkenhead districts the rates remain unaltered at 1s. 8½d. for carpenters and joiners, woodcutting machinists, and painters, 1s. 9d. for other craftsmen, and 1s. 3½d. for labourers. The new rate for plumbers at Warrington is reported as 1s. 9d.]

MIDLAND COUNTIES:—

Grade A.—Alreton, Belper, Bilston, Birmingham, Blackheath, Chesterfield, Coalville, Coventry, Derby, Heanor, Hincley, Ilkeston, Kenilworth, Langley Mill, Leek, Leicester, Lincoln, Long Eaton, Loughborough, Mansfield, North Staffordshire (Stoke-on-Trent, Burslem, Hanley and Newcastle-under-Lyme), Nottingham, Nuneaton, Oldbury, Ripley, Sutton Coldfield, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Swanwick, West Bromwich, Willenhall and Wolverhampton. Grade A2.—Brierley Hill, Burton-on-Trent, Cosley, Cradley Heath, Darlaston, Dudley, Gornal, Halesowen, Knowle, Melton Mowbray, Northampton, Old Hill, Rugby, Sedzley, Solihull, Stafford, Stone, Stratford, Swadincote, Walsall and Wednesbury. Grade A3.—Atherstone, Bewdley, Boston, Bromsgrove, Cannock, Droitwich, Gainsborough, Grantham, Hednesford, Kidderminster, Leamington, Lichfield, Louth, Malvern, Matlock, Newark, Oakengates, Peterborough, Redditch, Retford, Rugeley, Shifnal, Shrewsbury, Skegness, Sleaford, Southwell, Stourport, Stratford-on-Avon, Tamworth, Warwick, Wellington and Worcester. Grade B.—Kettering, Market Harborough, and Wellington. Grade B1.—Oakham, Oundle, Raunds, Rushden, Thrapston, and Uttoxeter. Grade B2.—Bridgnorth, Church Stretton, Horncastle, Ludlow, Newport, Spalding and Wirksworth.

[NOTE.—The new rate for plumbers at Chesterfield is reported as 1s. 9d. and at Stafford as 1s. 8d., and for labourers at Ludlow, 1s. 0½d.]

EASTERN COUNTIES:—

Grade A3.—St. Albans and Welwyn Garden City. Grade B.—Brentwood. Grade B1.—Baldock, Bedford, Biggleswade, Braintree, Cambridge, Chelmsford, Clacton, Colchester, Frinton, Halstead, Harpenden, Hatfield, Hertford, Hitchin, Hoddesdon, Ingatestone, Ipswich, Letchworth, Luton, Norwich, Southend-on-Sea, Stevenage, Stotfold, and Walton-on-the-Naze. Grade B2.—Dovercourt, Felixstowe, Gosleston, Harwich, Lowestoft, Newmarket and Yarmouth. Grade B3.—Amphill, Attleborough, Aylsham, Bishop's Cleeve, Braintree, Cromer, Dunstable, Ely, Fakenham, King's Lynn, Leighton Buzzard, March, Much Hadham, Puckeridge, Southwold, Standon, Stowmarket, Tring, and Woodbridge. Grade C1.—Aldeburgh, Halesworth, Leiston, Saxmundham, Wickham Market, and Wymondham. Grade C2.—Coltishall and Saffron Walden.

SOUTHERN COUNTIES:—

Grade A3.—Ashted † Cobham, Gravesend, Leatherhead, † Northfleet and Weybridge. Grade B.—Portsmouth. Grade B1.—Abingdon, Addlestone, Amersham, Ascot, Ashford (Middlesex), Bournemouth, Bracknell, Brighton, Byfleet, Chatham, Chalfont, Chesham, Christchurch, Didcot, Dorking, Eastbourne, Eastleigh, Egham, Eton, Gerrard's Cross, Gillingham, Gosport, Guildford, Henley, Hove, Maidenhead, Maidstone, Marlow, Oxford, Poole, Reading, Redhill, Reigate, Rochester, Slough, Southampton, Staines, Sunningdale, Sunninghill, Tilehurst, Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, Windsor, Woking, Wokingham, and Wycombe. Grade B2.—Bexhill, Bramley, Cranleigh, Fareham, Godalming, Haslemere, Littlehampton, New Forest (Brookhurst, Lymington, Lyndhurst, Milford, New Milton and Ringwood), Oxted, Sevenoaks, Winchester, Witley and Worthing. Grade B3.—Arundel, Ashford (Kent), Aylesbury, Bagshot, Banbury, Basingstoke, Bicester, Bletchley, Bognor, Bosham, Broadstairs, Buckingham, Burgess Hill, Camberley, Canterbury, Chichester, Crawley, Deal, Dover, East Grinstead, Faringdon, Faversham, Fenny Stratford, Folkestone, Hastings, Havant, Herne Bay, Horsham, Hythe, Lingfield, Margate, Midhurst, Milton Regis, Newbury, Newport Pagnell, Pangbourne, Petworth, Ramsgate, Sandgate, Sittingbourne, Stony Stratford, Thame, Walmer, Wendover, Westgate, Whitstable, Witney, Wolverton and Woodstock. Grade C1.—Andover, Hayward's Heath, Isle of Wight and Tidworth. Grade C2.—Alton, * Hartley Wintney, * Hawkhurst, Petersfield, Rye and Staplehurst.

SOUTH WESTERN COUNTIES:—

Grade A.—Bristol. Grade A1.—Devonport* and Plymouth.* Grade A2.—Newton Abbot, Paignton and Torquay. Grade B.—Bath, Cheltenham, Exeter,* Gloucester,* Hereford,* Swindon,* and Ross-on-Wye.* Grade B1.—Barnstaple, Princetown, Stroud, † Taunton and Weston-super-Mare. Grade B2.—Bridgwater, Burnham-on-Sea, Cirencester,* Exmouth,* Lydney,* Totnes,* Weymouth,* and Yeovil.* Grade B3.—Bovey Tracey,* Box,* Bradford-on-Avon,* Brixham, Cheddar Valley,* Corsham,* Melksham,* Midsomer Norton, Radstock, Trowbridge,* Wellington,* and Westbury.* Grade C1.—Calne,* Chippenham,* Crediton, † Cullompton,* Dawlish, Dorchester,* Frome,* Glastonbury, Minehead,* Shepton Mallet, and Street.

[NOTE.—The new rate for labourers at Plymouth and Devonport is reported as 1s. 3d.]

SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE:—

Grade A.—Aberdare, Ammanford, Barry, Bridgend, Burry Port, Cardiff, Ebbw Vale, East Glamorganshire and Monmouthshire Valleys, Garw Valley, Gorseinon, Llanelly, Maesteg, Merthyr, Neath, Newport, Ogmore Vale, Pontardawe, Pontypridd, Porthcawl, Port Talbot, Rhondda and Rhymney Valleys, Sirhowy Valley, Swansea and Swansea Valley. Grade A1.—Abergavenny. Grade A2.—Chepstow. Grade B.—Brecon, Builth, Carmarthen, Llandilo, Llan-drindod Wells, and Milford Haven. Grade B2.—Monmouth. Grade C.—Pembroke and Pembroke Dock.

[NOTE.—The new rate for labourers at Milford Haven is reported as 1s. 1½d.]

SCOTLAND:—

Grade A.—Airdrie, Alloa, Alva, Ayr, Barrhead, Bellshill, Bridge of Weir, Burntisland, Clydebank, Coatbridge, Dumbarton, Dundee, Dunfermline, Dunoon, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Glasgow, Gourcock, Grangemouth, Greenock, Haddington, Hamilton, Helensburgh, Irvine, Johnstone, Kilmarnock, Kirkcaldy, Lanark, Larbert, Largs, Leith, Leslie, Markinch, Motherwell, Musselburgh, Neilston, North Berwick, Paisley, Pencaitland, Perth, Port Glasgow, Renfrew, Rothesay, Stirling, and Wishaw. Grade A2.—Arbroath, Brechin, Montrose, and Peebles. Grade B.—Dumries, Galashiels, Hawick, Maxwelltown, and Selkirk.

[NOTE.—The rates quoted do not apply to plasterers and painters in Scotland, who are not affiliated to the National Wages and Conditions Council. The new rate for labourers at Perth and Irvine is reported as 1s. 3d., and at Arbroath, Brechin, and Montrose 1s. 1½d. In the case of plasterers a rate of 1s. 9d. per hour after the increase of 1d. in August (see p. 340 of the September GAZETTE) is payable at the following towns:—Airdrie, Alloa, Alva, Ayr, Clydebank, Coatbridge, Dumbarton, Dundee, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Glasgow, Greenock, Hamilton, Irvine, Kilmarnock, Kirkcaldy, Leith, Motherwell, Paisley, Perth and Stirling.]

MEMBERSHIP OF TRADE UNIONS.

[NOTE.—The figures given for 1923 are provisional and subject to slight revision when certain information, at present outstanding, has been received. Some Unions are unable to state exactly the number of males and females, respectively, comprised within their total membership, and in these cases estimates have been furnished. The totals shown for males and females, therefore, are only approximate. For the purpose of the analysis by groups of Unions, the total membership of each Union has been included in the group with which the majority of the members are believed to be connected, a separate group being made for Unions of general workers. A review of the figures appears on page 352.]

I.—NUMBER OF UNIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AT THE END OF 1923, WITH MEMBERSHIP (MALE, FEMALE AND TOTAL) AND PERCENTAGE INCREASE OR DECREASE IN MEMBERSHIP COMPARED WITH 1922.

Main table showing membership of trade unions in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at the end of 1923, compared with 1922. Columns include Group of Unions, No. of Trade Unions at end of 1923, and Membership at end of 1923 and 1922 (Males, Females, Total), plus Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Membership at end of 1923 compared with end of 1922.

II.—MEMBERSHIP (MALE, FEMALE AND TOTAL) AT THE END OF 1913 AND OF EACH OF THE YEARS 1920 to 1923.

Table showing membership of trade unions at the end of 1913 and of each of the years 1920 to 1923. Columns include Group of Unions, and Membership (Males, Females, Total) for each year.

* The figures are exclusive of the membership of General Labour Unions, for which see "General Labour." See also note in italics at head of page. † The total membership shown for all Trade Unions includes members in the Irish Free State and other overseas branches, numbering approximately the majority of whom were engineers or carpenters and joiners. ‡ The figures are exclusive of the membership of Unions confined to Government, bank, law, railway or shipping clerks, which are included under other groups. § The figures exclude Teachers', Tramway Workers', and General Labour Unions, for which see "Teaching," "Transport" and "General Labour." ¶ In compiling these figures, certain Associations, the majority of whose members are also members of the National Union of Teachers, have been omitted. Some of the Associations included have also members in the National Union of Teachers, and there is, therefore, some duplication of membership in the totals shown. The extent of such duplication is not ascertainable precisely, but from such information as is available it would appear that the net membership would probably be less than that shown by between 5,000 and 15,000, the great majority of whom would be females. †† Including General Engineering. ††† Comprising the Pottery and Glass, Leather, Food, Entertainment and Miscellaneous groups shown in the preceding Table.

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED.

RETURNS have been received from 139 Local Authorities in Great Britain giving the estimated cost of buildings for which plans were passed during the third quarter of this year.

Table with columns: District and Aggregate Population, Dwelling Houses, Factories and Workshops, Shops, Offices, Warehouses, Churches, Schools, and Public Buildings, Other Buildings and Additions and Alterations, TOTAL.

(a) THIRD QUARTER OF 1924.

Table showing building plan statistics for the third quarter of 1924, categorized by region (England and Wales, Scotland) and sub-region.

(b) THIRD QUARTER OF 1923.

Table showing building plan statistics for the third quarter of 1923, categorized by region (England and Wales, Scotland) and sub-region.

ASSISTED PASSAGES UNDER THE EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1922.

THE number of assisted passages granted during September, 1924, in connection with agreed schemes under the Empire Settlement Act, and the total number of such passages granted from the inception of these schemes, together with the number of departures during the same periods, are shown in the following Table :-

Table with columns: Assisted Passage Schemes, Assisted Passages Granted in Sept., 1924, Total Assisted Passages Granted (1922-1924), Departures in Sept., 1924, Total Departures (1922-1924).

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

* Particulars are not available for the London County Council area. † Revised figures;

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.*

THE total number of cases† of poisoning and of anthrax in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported under the Factory and Workshop Act during September, 1924, was 66.

Table with columns: (a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING, (b) CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF POISONING, (c) CASES OF ANTHRAX. Includes categories like Smelting of Metals, Plumbing and Soldering, etc.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.‡

THE number of workpeople, other than seamen, reported as killed in the course of their employment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during September, 1924, was 189, as compared with 192 in the previous month and with 162 a year ago :-

Table with columns: RAILWAY SERVICE, MINES, QUARRIES over 20 feet deep, FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS, PLACES UNDER SS. 104-106, FACTORY ACT, 1901.

* Based on Returns from the Home Office and from the Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland. † 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.

POOR LAW RELIEF IN GREAT BRITAIN.

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

THE number of persons‡ relieved on one day* in September, 1924, in the thirty-one selected areas named below was 691,729, or 5.4 per cent. less than in the previous month and 22.5 per cent. less than in September, 1923.

In the twenty-five selected areas in England and Wales the number of persons relieved in September, 1924, was 572,122, or 5.64 per 10,000 of the estimated population. In the six areas in Scotland the number relieved was 119,607, or 5.77 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Areas, Indoor, Outdoor, Total, Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a.

Table showing Poor Law Relief statistics for England and Wales, categorized by Metropolitan, West Ham, Other Districts, and Scotland.

* The figures for England and Wales relate to 27th September, and those for Scotland to 15th September. † These urban areas include in the case of England and Wales more than one Poor-law union, except in the Leicester, Birmingham, and West Ham districts; and more than one parish in the case of Scotland, except in the Aberdeen and Edinburgh districts. ‡ Exclusive of casuals, of lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses, and of persons receiving out-door medical relief only.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—While the percentages given in the following Summary Tables are derived from the most authoritative sources of statistical information, certain differences in the nature and scope of the data used, in the methods of combining such data and in the periods for which the rise is measured, suggest the need for caution in drawing conclusions from a comparison between the figures for any two countries. It is also to be observed that in every case the percentage calculation is based on the assumption that the standard of living is identical at the various periods compared.]

I.—FOOD.

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

Table showing percentage increase in retail food prices for various countries (United Kingdom, Foreign Countries, British Dominions, etc.) compared to July 1914.

* Exceptions to this are: France (other towns), 3rd quarter of 1914; The Hague, January to July, 1914; Milan, January to June, 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; Amsterdam, South Africa, average, 1914. † Figure for June. ‡ Fuel and lighting are also included in these figures. ¶ Figure for August.

II.—ALL ITEMS.

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

Table showing percentage increase in the cost of food and other household requirements for various countries (United Kingdom, Foreign Countries, British Dominions, etc.) compared to July 1914.

* A=Food; B=House-Rent; C=Clothing; D=Fuel and Light; E=Other or Miscellaneous Items. † Exceptions to this are: France, Spain, Belgium, April 1914; Greece, March, 1914; Milan and New Zealand, January to June, 1914; Germany, Egypt, Hungary, average, 1913-1914; Switzerland and Luxembourg, June, 1914; United States, 1913; Poland, January, 1914. ‡ Figure for 3rd Quarter. § Figure for June. ¶ Figure for May. †† Based on prices calculated on a gold standard.

parties to the National Agreement, as also were the employers of the applicants by reason of their being members of the Bristol Colliery Owners' Association.

"In my view, therefore, the stoppage of work was due to an employer acting in a manner so as to contravene a National Agreement to which the employers and employees were contracting parties and benefit is payable."

Case No. 8343.—Section 4 (1) of the Unemployment Insurance (No. 2) Act, 1924.—Trade Dispute—Alleged Contravention of Agreement Existing Between a Group of Employers to which the Employers and Employees were Contracting Parties.

A number of men who had been employed on maintenance and certain other incidental and ancillary work by three steel producing firms at Rotherham lost employment on the 16th August, 1924, in circumstances which were held to constitute a trade dispute. Their claims for benefit were accordingly disallowed under Section 8 (1) of the Principal Act, but they submitted that their case was governed by Section 4 (1) of the Unemployment Insurance (No. 2) Act, 1924.

The essential facts of the case are summarised in the Umpire's decision which is appended:—

Decision.—"On the facts before me my decision is that the claims for benefit should be disallowed.

"The applicants, who had been employed on maintenance work at certain steel works, lost employment on the 16th of August by reason of a stoppage of work which was due to a trade dispute at the works at which they were employed, but they claim that they are, nevertheless, entitled to receive unemployment benefit during the stoppage of work by virtue of Section 4 of the Unemployment Insurance (No. 2) Act, 1924, on the ground that (as they contend) the stoppage was due to an employer acting in a manner so as to contravene the terms or provisions of an agreement existing between a group of employers where the stoppage took place to which the employers and employees were contracting parties.

"The position is complicated by the fact that there are a number of different trade unions involved whose negotiations with the employers have not always taken place simultaneously, although to some extent the members of one union may have been doing the same kind of work as was done by some of the members of another union. It is further complicated by the fact that there are three employing firms, and one of them has not at all times acted with the other two, and has been for a part of the time a member of the Engineering Employers' Federation, of which the other two firms were not members.

"The cases of the various applicants are not the same, therefore, in all respects, but I have come to the conclusion that they are substantially the same as regards the main issue, and that it is only necessary to give one decision.

"Before considering the terms of the agreement which it is contended was contravened it will be convenient to consider to what the stoppage of work was due.

"A letter of the 5th of August, written by the Secretary of the Sheffield and District Joint Trades' Committee to the Secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Employers' Association, shows that the immediate cause of the stoppage was the dissatisfaction of the employees with the sliding scale on which wages had been paid for some time past, and that they had decided not to continue to work on the principle of a sliding scale and demanded the restoration of the district rates and conditions recognised in the engineering trade. The writer of the letter, however, in his evidence before me, stated that the real cause of the stoppage of work was the refusal of the employers to comply (a) as regards skilled men with the district conditions as to overtime and holidays, and (b) as regards the semi-skilled men with the district rate.

"These statements of the cause of the stoppage are not inconsistent. I have no doubt that the workers were anxious to get back to the terms and conditions of employment recognised in the engineering trade because those terms and conditions were more favourable as regards wages and payment for overtime and holidays than those on which they had been working for some time past.

"It appeared that for many years before 1920 the engineering rates and conditions had been generally recognised in the establishments in question for men engaged on maintenance work; but by an agreement of 17th September, 1920, a sliding scale arrangement had been arranged between two of the employing firms and their employees who were members of trade unions consisting mainly of skilled craftsmen, but which included some semi-skilled men. By a supplementary agreement of 21st September, 1920, the employers undertook that at no time would any man covered by the agreement of 17th September be paid less than the district (i.e., engineering trade) rate for his class of work.

"The agreement provided also that consideration was to be given to all the lower paid men employed on maintenance work, and in October, 1920, an agreement was made with the National Union of General Workers, which extended the sliding scale advances to labourers engaged on maintenance work, whether members of this union or not, whose pre-war base rate was below 27s. per week, and all other terms of the agreement of September, 1920, with the skilled and semi-skilled men were to apply to the labourers concerned.

"Under these agreements there was an advantage to all the men concerned so long as the price of steel did not fall heavily. The price fell, however, and the employers in the steel industry negotiated a national agreement, dated 18th July, 1921, known

as the 'grey booklet,' which applied a sliding scale without any lower limit determined by the engineering trade agreements to many classes of unskilled and semi-skilled workers engaged on maintenance work. This agreement was negotiated so far as the workmen were concerned, with the National Amalgamated Union of Labour, and the National Union of General Workers, and was afterwards accepted by the Workers' Union on behalf of its members. The employers considered, however, that the same principle must apply to all unskilled and semi-skilled men, whether members of these trade unions or of other trade unions.

"There was resistance, especially on the part of the craft unions whose local members had been parties to the agreement of September 17th, 1920, not because this affected the skilled craftsmen, but on account of those of the helpers who belonged to these unions. They contend that three months' formal notice to terminate the agreement of September, 1920, was not given, as required by that agreement, but that the new rates of wages were thrust upon their members. The employers say that they invited the Amalgamated Engineering Union to discuss the matter with them in the summer of 1921, and that the union representative refused to do so. They also state that when a dispute was coming to a head in January, 1923, they plainly told all the trade unions concerned that the 'grey booklet' terms must be applied generally. A stoppage of work lasting eleven weeks followed, and after that I am satisfied that the 'grey booklet' terms were in fact accepted, however unwillingly, as the terms of employment for the unskilled and semi-skilled men engaged in maintenance work at all three works. This continued to be the case until the stoppage of work occurred in August this year, after the expiration of a six months' notice to terminate the 'grey booklet' agreement.

"The Court of Referees recommended that benefit should be allowed to the members of those unions which were parties to the agreement of September, 1920, and also to members of the Enginemen's and Firemen's Union, but that benefit should be disallowed in the case of members of the National Union of General and Municipal Workers who were parties to the 'grey booklet' agreement of July, 1921.

"The above is a bare résumé of the main facts of the case as presented to me.

"At the Court of Referees it appears to have been argued by the employers that there was not, properly speaking, an 'agreement' since it was not officially negotiated and signed by the trade unions, but was made with a body of shop stewards as representatives of the workers at these two works.

"Section 4 of the Act of 1924, however, does not require that the agreement should be made by a representative body on behalf of the employees. It is sufficient if it is an agreement made 'between a group of employers' to which the employers 'and employees' are contracting parties. I have no doubt that there was here an agreement to which the employers and employees were contracting parties, and my only doubt is whether it was an agreement 'between a group of employers.' It is arguable that two firms, not acting as a federation, but coming together 'ad hoc' in this manner, do not constitute 'a group'; but I do not feel it necessary to decide that point because the claim, in my judgment, fails on other grounds.

"Assuming that the agreement of 17th and 21st September, 1920, was an agreement between a group of employers to which the employers and employees were contracting parties, the questions for decision are whether that agreement was at the time of the alleged contraventions an existing agreement, and if so whether it was contravened by the employers, and whether the stoppage of work was due to such contravention.

"As regards the skilled men, I think the Agreement of September, 1920, was up to the date of the stoppage of work an existing agreement. It is suggested that it was contravened by the employers refusing to observe the conditions as to payment for overtime and holidays recognised in the engineering trade. But I can find nothing in the Agreement which requires the employers to comply with these conditions, nor is this grievance even hinted at in the letter of 5th August, 1924.

"As regards the unskilled and semi-skilled men, I think it is clear that the agreement of 1920 was definitely superseded by the later agreement known as the 'grey booklet,' and I can see no ground for thinking that it was revived on the expiration of notice of the 'grey booklet.'

"It was not, therefore, after June, 1922, an existing agreement. The alleged contravention is the failure to pay to the semi-skilled men the engineering rates to which they were entitled under the Agreement of 1920. But if there were any contraventions they must have been whilst the agreement was in operation, that is to say, before June, 1922, and they were not in my opinion the cause of the stoppage of work in 1924.

"On behalf of the applicants, however, it was argued alternatively that apart from the agreement of September, 1920, there was a long standing custom to apply the engineering district rates and conditions to their employees engaged on maintenance work, and that from such custom an agreement to do so ought to be inferred. It may well be that so long as each firm followed that practice these rates and conditions would be impliedly incorporated in the contract of service of each employee, but I can find no evidence that Messrs. Steel, Peech and Tozer, Ltd., or the Parkgate Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., ever became parties to any 'agreement between a group of employers,' that they would observe such rates and conditions.

"With regard to Samuel Fox and Co., Ltd., the case is not so clear on the point of the overtime and holiday rates and conditions. This firm were members of the Engineering Employers' Federation in February, 1920, when what is known as the

'York Agreement' was negotiated. They have ceased to be members of that Federation, however, for at least three years.

"The 'York Agreement' appears to be a National Agreement, and at the time when it was made Samuel Fox and Co., Ltd., were apparently parties to it.

"In my opinion, however, they ceased to be contracting parties when they ceased to be members of the Engineering Employers' Federation. An agreement of this kind must be intended, I think, to bind the members of an employees' union only so long as they are members of that union, and the members of an employers' union only so long as they are members of that union.

"Accordingly, at any time when there may have been contraventions of the 'York Agreement,' to which the stoppage of work may have been due, the employers were no longer contracting parties to that agreement."

Case No. 8344.—Section 4 (1) of the Unemployment Insurance (No. 2) Act, 1924.—Trade Dispute—Whether Men were (a) Participating in or Financing or Directly Interested in the Dispute, or (b) Belonging to a Grade or Class Members of which were Participating in or Financing or Directly Interested in the Dispute.

This case relates to workmen who were employed at the steel works to which Case No. 8343 relates. The applicants lost employment in consequence of the trade dispute between the employers and the men referred to in Case No. 8343. In the present case the applicants were, however, engaged directly in the work of steel production, and they submitted that they were, therefore, entitled to benefit under the provisions of Section 4 (1) of the Unemployment Insurance (No. 2) Act, 1924. The appended Umpire's decision sets out the main facts and considerations in the case.

Decision.—"On the facts before me my decision is that the claims for benefit should be allowed.

"These applicants were engaged in the work of steel production until they lost employment on the 16th August by reason of a stoppage of work which was due to a trade dispute at the establishments at which they were employed. They were not themselves parties to the dispute, which related only to the terms and conditions of employment of the men engaged in maintenance work at the same establishments.

"The applicants claim that by Section 4 of the Unemployment Insurance (No. 2) Act, 1924, they are relieved from the disqualification for the receipt of benefit during the stoppage of work imposed by Section 8 (1) of the Act of 1920. Section 4 provides that the disqualification shall not apply in any case in which the insured contributor proves

"(1) that he is not participating in or financing or directly interested in the trade dispute which caused the stoppage of work, and

"(2) that he does not belong to a grade or class of workers members of which are participating in or financing or directly interested in the dispute.

"It is proved that these applicants are not themselves participating in or financing or directly interested in the trade dispute which caused the stoppage of work, and the only question I have to consider is whether they belong to a grade or class of workers members of which are either (a) participating in or financing the dispute, or (b) are directly interested in the dispute, and to decide this question I have to consider what is meant by a 'grade or class of workers.'

"The meaning of the expression 'grade of workers' is fairly well understood. The expression 'person in the same grade' is used in the Workmen's Compensation Acts, and there are decisions of the Court of Appeal upon that expression.

"The expression 'class of workers' gives rise to more difficulty. It is obvious that workers may be classified in a great variety of ways, such as according to the industries in which they are employed, or the particular branches of work in which they are employed, or the crafts which they follow, or according as they are skilled, semi-skilled or unskilled, and the Act itself gives no clear indication as to what is to be the basis of classification. In considering what basis should be adopted one must consider what basis will best give effect to what appears to be the object of the Section and adopt one which will not, on the one hand, defeat that object or on the other hand, extend its operation beyond what appears to have been the intention of Parliament.

"The adoption of some of the bases of classification which at first seem the most natural would result in reducing almost to nothing the effect of the section when considered in relation to the previous state of the law, and so would defeat its object; others would lead to such arbitrary and fantastic discrimination as cannot have been intended by Parliament. I have, therefore, to try to discover from the Act itself, read in the light of the Act of 1920 and the decisions thereon, what is the general nature of the relief intended to be given and to interpret the words 'grade or class' in such a way as to make that relief effective.

"The main purpose of Section 4 seems to be to give relief to those persons who are victims of a dispute in which they have no concern or interest and to no others. The section therefore first excludes from its operation persons who are themselves directly interested in or are participating in or financing the dispute.

"But a person who is not directly interested in a dispute may very well have an interest not very remote. For instance, if a dispute arises from a demand by a craft union for increased wages to be paid to its members the workers who are directly interested are the members of the union, but other men follow-

ing the same craft and doing the same kind of work for the same employers would probably get the benefit of any increase granted to the members of the union, and they would get it because they and the disputants are all ordinarily engaged on the same terms to do the same kind of work, and in that sense belong to the same grade or class of workers. So if the claim was made on behalf of a union representing all kinds of workers in an industry, workers in that industry who are not members of the union are indirectly interested, as they would probably get the benefit of any advance made to the members of the union. Accordingly, it seems to me that the intention of the Act is to exclude from benefit, in addition to the workers who are directly interested, those who are indirectly interested by reason of the terms and conditions of their employment being the same as those of the persons who are directly interested. Accordingly, I think that 'class of workers who are directly interested' includes all those workers the conditions of whose employment are the same or closely interdependent and who are paid at the same rate or at rates directly dependent one on the other, and who, therefore, may fairly be described as a 'class' having regard to the terms and conditions of their employment. But one cannot say that there is any definite and final classification of workers in any industry, and, when one is considering what is the basis of classification in connection with any particular dispute, one must see how the workers are classified for the purpose of the matter in dispute.

"The expression 'grade of workers' appears to be used as an alternative to 'class.' A dispute may affect a group of workers in industry who are more properly described as a grade rather than as a class. For instance, the two groups of casual labourers employed by the Port of London Authority, that is, those who have 'B' tickets and those who have not, although they would ordinarily be considered as all belonging to the class of casual dock labourers, have been held, for the purposes of the Workmen's Compensation Act, to belong to two distinct grades of casual labourers (see *Burnett v. Port of London Authority* (1913), 2 K.B. 115). What the Section means is that if the dispute relates only to men of a particular grade, one must see whether the applicant belongs to that grade; if the dispute relates to a class of workers one must see whether the applicant belongs to that class.

"In this case the dispute related solely to the terms and conditions of employment of the men engaged in maintenance work, and it related to all the men engaged in that work, whether skilled craftsmen, semi-skilled or unskilled men. These men had for many years been treated at the establishments in question separately from the men engaged in the production of steel; separate agreements had been entered into with them with regard to their rates of payment and so forth, and I think there was sufficient evidence that at these establishments and in the steel production industry generally the maintenance men are treated, as regards terms and conditions of their employment and rates of pay, as a class. This class comprises men belonging to many crafts and different degrees of skill, blacksmiths, blacksmiths' strikers, turners, fitters, electricians, semi-skilled labourers and unskilled labourers, whose rates of pay and the conditions of whose employment vary and who would in relation to some disputes be of different grades or classes, but as regards the present dispute, which was in substance a dispute as to whether the maintenance men should or should not be subject to the terms and conditions of the engineering trade, they stand together as one class.

"It is quite possible that among the applicants who are engaged in production work there may be found some unskilled men who are doing almost exactly the same kind of work as that which is being done by some of the unskilled men in the maintenance class, but they ought not as regards this dispute to be treated as belonging to the same grade or class. The proper classification, so far as this dispute is concerned is in respect of those men who are engaged in maintenance work and those who are engaged in steel production. Accordingly, I am satisfied that the applicants have established that they do not belong to the grade or class of workers members of which are 'directly interested' in the dispute.

"This, however, does not conclude the matter; I have still to consider whether the applicants belong to a class members of which are participating in or financing the dispute.

"It not infrequently happens that when there is a dispute with regard to some matter which directly affects only a particular grade or small class of workers, persons belonging to other grades or a much larger class participate in the dispute by striking work or by financing the dispute by contributing to the funds out of which strike pay is paid, and in this way members of those other grades or the larger class become involved in the dispute, although they do not belong to the class or grade which is 'directly interested.' And in such a case an applicant for benefit must show that he does not belong to any of those grades or that larger class, which is participating in or financing the dispute. The evidence as to what grades or classes of workers are, through their subscriptions to their Unions, financing this dispute is not very clear.

"It is necessary therefore to ascertain what class or classes of workers are financing this dispute and then to consider whether the applicant belongs to that class or any one of those classes. This dispute is no doubt being financed by a class of workers larger than that which is directly interested, and the evidence is not very clear as to what workers are included in that class, nor am I prepared to attempt an exact definition of it, but I think that on the evidence before me I am justified in saying that the applicants have proved that they do not belong to such class."

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