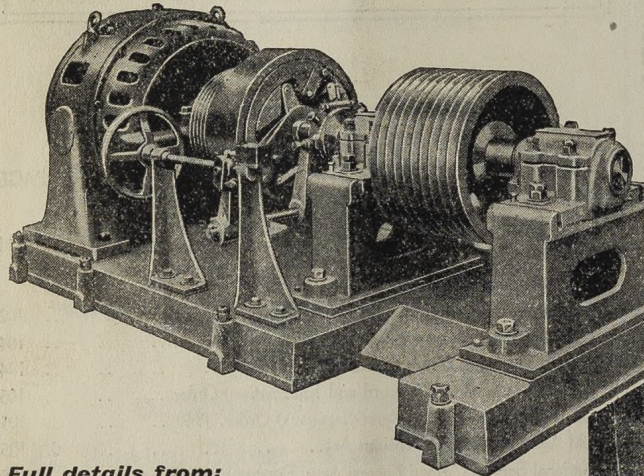


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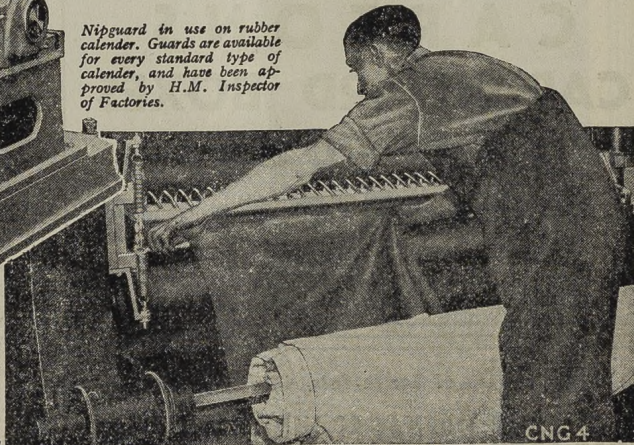
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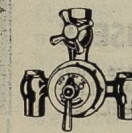
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EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, COST OF LIVING, AND TRADE DISPUTES IN MARCH.

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

THERE was a very substantial improvement in employment between 12th February and 11th March. Between these two dates the number of unemployed persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain fell by 382,887.* A large part of the increase in employment was due to the improvement in weather conditions, but in addition there was a general increase in industrial activity from other causes, and there were reductions in the numbers unemployed in nearly all industries.

As compared with 13th March, 1939, the number unemployed at 11th March, 1940, was lower by 605,716. Detailed figures are given below.

Numbers Wholly Unemployed (excluding Persons normally in Casual Employment).—At 11th March, 1940, there were 965,667 persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain who were out of a situation. This was 175,691 less than at 12th February, 1940, and 463,418 less than at 13th March, 1939.

Numbers Temporarily Stopped.—At 11th March, 1940, there were registered as unemployed in Great Britain 109,380 persons who were on short time or otherwise temporarily suspended from work. This was 205,692 less than at 12th February, 1940, and 121,865 less than at 13th March, 1939.

Numbers unemployed normally in Casual Employment.—At 11th March, 1940, there were on the registers in Great Britain 46,166 unemployed persons who normally seek a livelihood by means of jobs of short duration. This was 1,504 less than at 12th February, 1940, and 20,433 less than at 13th March, 1939.

Applicants for Benefit or Allowances.—The total of 1,121,213 persons on the registers at 11th March, 1940, included 976,830 applicants for unemployment benefit or allowances and 144,383 non-claimants.

Percentages Unemployed.—The number of insured persons, aged 16 to 64, recorded as unemployed in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 11th March, 1940, represented 7.7 per cent. of the total number of insured persons, aged 16 to 64, at July, 1939, as compared with 10.3 per cent. at 12th February, 1940. At 13th March, 1939, the percentage unemployed was 12.0. For persons insured under the general scheme the corresponding percentages were 7.8 at 11th March, 1940, as compared with 10.2 at 12th February, 1940, and 12.2 at 13th March, 1939. For persons within the agricultural scheme the percentages were 7.0, 11.1 and 7.9 respectively.

Industries in which the Principal Variations occurred.—The improvement in employment was most marked in building and public works contracting, and in agriculture and horticulture. The principal other industries in

which employment increased included coal mining, brick making, stone quarrying, iron and steel and metal goods manufacture, engineering, ship building and repairing, road transport, tailoring, printing and bookbinding, the distributive trades, and hotel and boarding house service.

WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in March are estimated to have resulted in an increase of about £144,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 590,000 workpeople, and in a decrease of £800 in those of 20,000 workpeople.*

The principal groups of workpeople whose wages were increased were coal miners in Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire, and South Derbyshire, workpeople employed in steel melting shops and rolling mills in various districts, timeworkers employed in the electrical cable-making industry, seamen, and road motor transport workers in certain areas. The decreases affected coal miners in Leicestershire and Somersetshire.

The changes reported in the first three months of 1940, in the industries for which statistics are available, are estimated to have resulted in a net increase of about £855,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 5,260,000 workpeople.

COST OF LIVING.

At 1st April, 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 78 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, as compared with 79 per cent. at 1st March.

For food alone, the index figure at 1st April was 58 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, as compared with 61 per cent. at 1st March.

The fall in the index figure for food was due mainly to a sharp decline in the prices of eggs. Among items other than food, the principal changes were increases, averaging about 2 per cent., in the prices of clothing.

TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in March, was 82. In addition, 15 disputes which began before March were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The approximate number of workpeople involved in these 97 disputes, including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, was 53,000, and the aggregate duration of the disputes in March was about 165,000 working days.

* The 20,000 workpeople whose rates of wages were reduced in March had received increases of greater amount in the first two months of 1940.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN 1939.

In the issue of this GAZETTE for January last, a summary was published giving preliminary statistics as to the changes in rates of wages and hours of labour in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during 1939. In the following article revised figures are given, in greater detail, with comparative statistics for previous years.

Changes in rates of wages and hours of labour come to the notice of the Department from a variety of sources, including (a) arbitration or conciliation proceedings; (b) Orders issued under the Trade Boards Acts; (c) returns and reports regularly supplied by many employers, employers' associations, and trade unions; (d) reports from the local officers of the Ministry; (e) reports in the press. On the receipt of a notification as to a change, enquiry forms are sent to the employers or their associations, and to the trade unions concerned, asking for particulars; and at the end of each month a summary of the information obtained is circulated for verification. The particulars thus collected are published each month in this GAZETTE (see, for example, pages 118 to 123 below), with a summary showing the approximate numbers of workpeople affected and the estimated total amount of increase or decrease in their weekly wages or hours of labour.

For the purpose of these statistics a change in a rate of wages is defined as a change in the rate of remuneration of a particular class of workpeople, apart from any change in the nature of the work performed. This definition excludes (a) changes in the average level of earnings due to changes in the proportions of higher and lower-paid workpeople; (b) changes in the rates of pay of individuals due to promotions or to progressive increments within the limits of fixed scales of wages; (c) changes in the terms of employment providing merely for compensation for extra work; (d) changes in earnings arising out of variations in the amount of work done or in the amount of employment available; and (e) changes in earnings arising from alterations in the system of payment (time-work, piece-work, etc.).

It should be noted that as the Department has no compulsory powers in regard to the collection of the information, it is dependent on the voluntary co-operation of the employers, employers' associations, and trade unions concerned for the supply of the particulars required. While this voluntary co-operation is very freely accorded, and the statistics, therefore, cover a very wide field, some changes in wages and hours of labour, especially among those affecting unorganised groups of workpeople and those arranged by individual firms, do not come to the notice of the Department, and are not included in the figures. Moreover, the statistics relating to the total numbers of workers affected, and the aggregate amount of increase or decrease in weekly wages, are exclusive of changes in the wages and hours of agricultural labourers, Government employees, domestic servants, shop assistants and clerks.

RATES OF WAGES.

There was little change in the general level of wages rates during the first eight months of 1939. After the outbreak of the war, however, and particularly during November and December, increases in wages were granted in many industries, and at the end of 1939 the average level of wage rates was appreciably higher than at the end of 1938. In those industries and services for which statistics are regularly compiled, the changes in rates of wages reported to the Department as taking effect in 1939 resulted in an aggregate net increase estimated at about £940,000 in the weekly full-time rates of wages of over 5,600,000 workpeople, and in a net decrease of £8,500 in those of about 66,000 workpeople. By the end of August over 1,300,000 workers had received net increases estimated to amount to £114,000 a week, and nearly 400,000 had sustained net decreases amounting to £40,000 a week. From September to the end of the year, nearly 4½ million workpeople in these industries, some of whom had already received increases earlier in the year, had their rates of wages raised by an aggregate of nearly £830,000 a week. As explained above, these statistics are exclusive of changes in rates of wages in agriculture and certain other employments, in which there was also some increase in wage rates during 1939. In all the industries (including agriculture) for which information is available, the average level of weekly full-time rates of wages at the end of 1939 is estimated to have been between 4 and 4½ per cent. higher than at the end of 1938.

MONTHLY CHANGES IN 1939.

The following Table shows the approximate numbers of workpeople, in the industries covered by the statistics, who were affected by changes in rates of wages reported to the Department as taking effect in each month of 1939, and the estimated amount of the change in their weekly wages. A considerable number of workpeople had their wages changed more than once during the year, and in such cases the same workers appear among the total number affected in two or more months.

Month.	Approximate Number of Workpeople whose Rates of Wages were		Estimated Weekly Amount of Change in Rates of Wages.	
	Increased.	Decreased.	£ Increase.	£ Decrease.
January ...	433,600	71,550	23,200	3,500
February ...	406,050	255,950	23,350	10,150
March ...	509,050	6,950	36,850	900
April ...	319,050	366,150	13,250	13,900
May ...	335,850	265,500	6,500	16,950
June ...	900,600	416,300	73,250	26,700
July ...	208,250	292,700	11,800	20,500
August ...	173,400	332,550	7,300	26,000
September ...	428,900	178,300	104,400	9,700
October ...	690,300	39,800	118,400	2,250
November ...	2,098,350	10,400	371,350	300
December ...	2,291,000	46,000	272,900	350

The increases in rates of wages were in excess of the decreases in each month of 1939, except in April, May, July and August. The effect of increases granted to meet the rise in the cost of living following the outbreak of the war is reflected in the figures for November and December. Of the relatively large numbers of workpeople affected by decreases in February and from April to September the great majority received increases of equal or larger amounts at other dates, with the result that the number of workpeople, covered by the statistics, whose rates of wages were lower at the end than at the beginning of 1939 was only about 66,000.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES IN INDUSTRY GROUPS.

The following Table shows the approximate numbers of workpeople affected by net increases and decreases in rates of wages, and the estimated net amounts of increase or decrease, in each of the groups of industries covered. It should be observed that, as the changes in the wages of adult men are usually greater than those affecting women, boys and girls, comparisons of the average amount of change per head to be deduced from the figures are affected by the varying proportions of men, women and young persons employed in the different groups of industries.

Industry Group.	Approximate Number of separate individuals reported as affected by		Estimated Net Weekly Amount of Change in Rates of Wages.		Estimated Net Weekly Increase in Rates of Wages of all Workpeople affected.
	Net Increases.	Net Decreases.	£ Increases.	£ Decreases.	
Coal Mining ...	783,000	1,800	174,200	200	174,000
Other Mining and Quarrying ...	44,200	5,100	6,500	700	5,800
Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc. ...	279,600	—	42,300	—	42,300
Iron and Steel ...	125,000	25,600	19,400	5,400	14,000
Engineering* ...	735,000	—	71,600	—	71,600
Shipbuilding ...	180,800	—	18,000	—	18,000
Other Metal ...	204,400	29,800	25,800	1,800	24,000
Textile ...	794,500	100	121,750	50	121,700
Clothing ...	415,100	—	78,100	—	78,100
Food, Drink and Tobacco ...	82,700	—	12,700	—	12,700
Woodworking, Furniture, etc. ...	179,400	—	25,500	—	25,500
Paper, Printing, etc. Buildings, Public Works Contracting, etc. ...	31,500	—	7,400	—	7,400
Gas, Water and Electricity Supply ...	79,900	900	12,050	50	12,000
Transport* ...	558,600	2,500	165,250	300	164,950
Public Administration Services ...	85,400	—	14,200	—	14,200
Other ...	137,000	—	48,000	—	48,000
Total ...	5,555,000	65,800	939,900	8,500	931,400

In addition to the numbers shown in the above Table, about 8,000 workpeople received increases and sustained decreases of equal amounts during the year.

Principal Changes in Rates of Wages.—Of the total number of workpeople, in the industries and services covered by the statistics, whose rates of wages were changed in 1939, all but a very small proportion obtained a net increase during the year.

In the coal mining industry there were increases in some districts and decreases in others during the first eight months of the year, as a result of fluctuations in the proceeds of the industry. Up to the end of August there were increases, as compared with the end of 1938, in Leicestershire, Warwickshire, North Staffordshire, Cannock Chase, the Forest of Dean, and Scotland, and reductions in Northumberland, Nottinghamshire, North Derbyshire and Somerset; in the principal other districts rates of wages were at the same level as at the end of 1938. In November a general flat-rate increase was granted of 8d. a shift to men and of 4d. a shift to youths and boys, with the result that the level of wage rates at December, 1939, was higher by 5 to 10 per cent., for most of the workers, than at December, 1938.

In the brick, pottery, glass, chemical, etc. industry group, workers engaged in the manufacture of heavy chemicals received increases, early in October, amounting in the case of men on time work to ½d. an hour; and drug and fine chemical workers received increases, in December, of 4s. a week for men and 2s. 6d. a week for women. In the pottery industry flat-rate increases were granted, in November, of 8d. a day for men, 6d. for women, and 4d. for workers under 21 years of age. Brickmakers in England and Wales were granted war bonuses in December of 3s. a week for lower-paid men, and 2s. for higher-paid men and for women.

In the iron and steel industry group, in which wages fluctuate in accordance with movements in selling prices, the changes during the first eight months of the year, for workers engaged in steel melting and rolling, resulted in a small net reduction in most districts. In November, however, a decrease due under the sliding scale was waived, and future increases were anticipated to the extent of 10 per cent., with the result that there was a net increase during the year of about 5 per cent. In the case of blastfurnace workers in most districts, iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England and Scotland, and the higher-paid workers in steel sheet and tinplate manufacture, there were net decreases during the first eight months of the year, and at the end of 1939 the level of wage rates was slightly lower than at the beginning of the year.

* Changes affecting workpeople employed in railway engineering workshops are included under "Engineering" and not under "Transport."

In the engineering industry a general increase was granted, in June, of 2s. a week for men with proportionate amounts for apprentices, boys and youths; and women and girls received an increase in October of 2s. a week for those 18 years of age and over and of 1s. for those under 18 years, followed in December by further increases, of varying amounts at many firms as a result of the adoption of a uniform standard scale of minimum time rates.

In the shipbuilding and shiprepairing industry a general increase of 2s. a week for men on time work and of approximately 4 per cent. for those on piece work was granted in September in settlement of a claim made in July.

In the textile industries, workpeople in the preparing and spinning section of the cotton industry received an increase, in October, of 22½ per cent. on standard piece price lists (equivalent, in most cases, to an increase of 12·64 per cent. on current wages), with additional increases for certain classes of workers, including ring spinners, ring doublers and piecers; and workpeople in the manufacturing section received an increase of 5 per cent. on current wages in November, with a further increase of 7½ per cent. to follow on 1st January, 1940. Woollen and worsted operatives in Yorkshire received an increase, in November, amounting generally to 11·84 per cent. for time workers and 10·87 per cent. for pieceworkers, and arrangements were made for future changes in wages to operate under a cost-of-living sliding scale. In the hosiery manufacturing industry in the Midlands the cost-of-living bonus was increased in November from 6d. to 7d. on each shilling earned. In the textile bleaching, dyeing and finishing trades, there were small net increases under the operation of cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements during the first eight months of the year, followed by a larger increase in November, with the result that at the end of the year wage rates had advanced by about 6 per cent. in Yorkshire and by 3s. 3d. a week for men on time work, 3s. 1d. for men on piecework and 1s. 11d. for women, in other districts, as compared with December, 1938.

In the clothing industries, increases in the wages of boot and shoe operatives, of 3s. and 2s. a week on time rates for men and women respectively and of 4½ per cent. on piece rates, took effect in December under a cost-of-living sliding scale. Rates of wages were increased, also in December, by 1½d. an hour for men and ¾d. an hour for women in the ready-made and wholesale bespoke tailoring trade, and by 10 per cent. in November in the wholesale mantle and costume trade.

In the building group of industries, building trade operatives received a general increase on 1st December of ½d. an hour, for both craftsmen and labourers, except in the Liverpool and Birkenhead districts where rates of wages had been increased in January, 1939. In addition there had been increases in certain districts in February, ranging from ½d. to 1½d. an hour, as a result of upgradings under the grading scheme of the National Joint Council for England and Wales. In the civil engineering construction industry, rates of wages were increased by ½d. an hour in December, and in Scotland there had been a previous increase of ½d. or 1d. an hour as from 1st January, 1939. Journeymen employed in electrical contracting in England and Wales and Northern Ireland sustained a reduction, in October, under a cost-of-living sliding scale of ½d. an hour, but this was accompanied by increases of ½d. or 1d. an hour in many districts as a result of re-allocations under the grading scheme of the industry: and it was followed, in November, by the granting of a cost-of-living bonus of 3s. 6d. a week.

In the transport industry group, seamen were granted "war risk money" of £3 a month or 14s. a week in September, and dock labourers received an increase of 1s. a day or 6d. a half-day in November. In the railway service there were increases of 1s. or 2s. a week in July for certain classes of lower-paid workers in the traffic grades, resulting from the adoption of a minimum rate of 45s. a week; in October there were further increases of 6d. to 5s. a week for a considerable number of men when the minimum was increased to 50s. in London, 48s. in industrial areas, and 47s. in rural areas.

Other increases in rates of wages during the first eight months of 1939 affected workpeople employed in flour milling, outside steelwork erection, tool making at Sheffield, bobbin making, brass working in Yorkshire, and the wool textile industry in Scotland. After the beginning of September increases were also granted to workpeople employed in shale mines and oil works in Scotland; china clay mining in Devon and Cornwall; quarrying in certain districts; glass bottle making in Yorkshire; cast stone and cast concrete products manufacture; paint, colour and varnish manufacture; soap and candle manufacture; match manufacture; railway wagon repairing; tinplate making (lower-paid workers); iron and steel wire manufacture; lock, latch and key making; file making at Sheffield; heating, ventilating and domestic engineering; the precious metal trades at Sheffield and Birmingham; woollen manufacture in the West of England; flax and hemp; silk manufacture at Leek and Macclesfield; certain sections of the lace trade; the linen trade in Northern Ireland; glove making; cocoa, chocolate, sugar confectionery and fruit preserving; beet sugar manufacture; seed crushing; furniture making in many districts; coopering; electricity supply; tramway and omnibus services; leather tanning and currying and various branches of the made-up leather trade; and the non-trading departments of local authorities in London and certain other districts.

In electrical cable making, paper making, cement manufacture, tube making in Scotland, and flannel manufacture at Rochdale there were increases in both periods. In a few industries (e.g., brush and broom manufacture and elastic web weaving at Leicester) there were increases and decreases of equal amounts prior to September and

increases after that date. In some other industries, including the wool textile industry at Leicester, pen-making at Birmingham, iron mining in Cleveland and Cumberland, and tinplate manufacture (higher-paid workers), there were net decreases in the earlier period followed by increases in the later period. In the case of coal tipplers generally and employees at waterworks in Yorkshire there were decreases in the earlier period, without any increase in the later period.

There were also increases in the baking trade in England and Wales in September, and in the rubber manufacturing trade in Great Britain in November, as a result of the application of the Trade Boards Acts to these trades and the adoption of general minimum rates of wages.

Industries in which Rates of Wages remained Unchanged.—The industries and services in which wages remained generally unchanged during 1939 included quarrying in various districts; railway workshops; brass working in Birmingham and district; the vehicle building and wheelwright trades; carpet making; printing and bookbinding; road motor goods transport; the non-trading departments of local authorities in many areas; water supply in various districts; public works construction in London; and gas supply. The statutory minimum rates fixed by many of the Trade Boards (e.g., those for cutlery, hollow-ware, tin box, laundering, retail bespoke tailoring, dressmaking, boot and shoe repairing, stamped or pressed metals, and milk distribution) also remained unchanged during 1939. In some of these cases, however, increases were arranged to take effect early in 1940.

There were also about 8,000 workpeople for whom there were two or more movements in wages during the year, which left the general level of wages the same at the end as at the beginning of the year. Of these the principal classes were felt hat makers at Denton, Stockport, etc., metallic bedstead makers, and waterworks employees in the South Midland Area.

Agricultural Labourers and Government Industrial Employees.—The foregoing statistics, as already explained, exclude (among other classes) agricultural labourers and Government employees. As regards agricultural labourers, in 6 of the 47 Agricultural Wages Committee Areas in England and Wales there were increases, during the first eight months of 1939, of 6d. or 1s. a week in the minimum rates fixed under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act, 1924, for adult male labourers. From the beginning of September to the end of the year, increases ranging from 1s. to 3s. 6d. a week were granted in 30 areas. At the end of 1939, the average of the minimum rates for ordinary labourers was 35s. 6d. a week, compared with 34s. 7d. at the end of 1938 and 34s. 9d. at the end of August, 1939. In Scotland the minimum rates of wages fixed under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) (Scotland) Act, 1937, remained generally unchanged during the year 1939, but arrangements have since been made for increases in all areas, as from March, 1940. As regards Government industrial employees, a number of classes of workpeople employed in H.M. Dockyards and other Government industrial establishments received increases in June, usually of 2s. a week.

METHODS BY WHICH CHANGES IN WAGES WERE ARRANGED.

In the case of those workpeople who received increases at certain dates and sustained reductions at other dates in 1939 the figures in the Table on page 102 relate to the net amount of the change in the year. The gross total of all the increases granted was £1,062,650, and that of all the decreases was £131,250 a week, the net effect being an increase, as shown, of £931,400 a week. The following Table gives the aggregate amounts of the total increase and total decrease which were effected by various methods during 1939, together with percentages showing to what extent each method contributed to the total. The figures in italics represent the changes which followed disputes causing stoppage of work.

Method.	Aggregate Weekly Amount of Changes in Rates of Wages effected by the Methods shown in the first column.			
	Increases.		Decreases.	
	Amount.	Percentage of Total.	Amount.	Percentage of Total.
Under sliding scales* based on:—	£	Per cent.	£	Per cent.
Cost of Living ...	151,000	14·2	5,600	4·3
Selling prices, proceeds of industry, etc. ...	154,500	14·5	125,200	95·4
Conciliation Boards* ...	26,000	2·5	50	0·0
Arbitration and Mediation ...	2,400	0·2	—	—
	(50)	(0·0)	—	—
By other methods:—				
Direct negotiation, etc. ...	591,600	55·7	400	0·3
	(1,000)	(0·0)	—	—
Joint Industrial Councils* ...	131,900	12·4	—	—
Trade Boards* ...	5,250	0·5	—	—
	1,062,650	100·0	131,250	100·0
	(1,050)	(0·0)	—	—

It will be seen that nearly one-third of the increases in rates of wages, and nearly the whole of the decreases, were due to the operation of sliding-scale arrangements under which wages rise or fall in accordance with changes either in the cost of living, in selling prices, or in the proceeds of the industry. Over two-thirds of the increases, however, were arranged by agreement between organisations of employers and workpeople, either directly or through Joint Industrial Councils or other joint organisations.

* Changes taking effect under sliding scales arranged by Conciliation Boards, Joint Industrial Councils, or Trade Boards are included under "sliding scales."

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS.

In the following Table the numbers of workpeople recorded as affected by changes in rates of wages in 1939, and the net amounts of increase or decrease, in the industries for which statistics are available, are shown in comparison with similar figures for previous years. In considering the figures given in this Table, it should be noted that the changes in wage rates reported to the Department are in the main those arranged between organised groups of employers and workpeople, and that many changes among unorganised workers, especially those affecting only employees of single firms, are not reported. Moreover, as already stated, certain large groups of workpeople are specifically excluded from the scope of the statistics. In view of these limitations the figures should not be regarded as affording more than a general indication of the direction of the movement of wages in any year, and a very rough measure of the extent of such movement in comparison with that of other years, and significance should not be attached to small variations between different years. It should also be observed that during the period 1915-1918 the number of female workers in industry was above the normal and the number of male workers considerably below normal; and as the amounts of increases or decreases in the rates of wages of female workers are generally smaller than those agreed upon for males in the same industry, the aggregate amount of the changes in those years was lower than it would have been if the pre-war proportions of male and female employees had been maintained. The relative levels of wages at the end of 1914 and 1939, therefore, cannot be accurately ascertained by deducting the aggregate amount of the reductions from the aggregate amount of increases recorded. The figures, however, afford an indication of the general trend of money rates of wages during the period covered.

Year.	Approximate Number of separate individuals* reported as affected by		Estimated Net Weekly Amount of Change in Rates of Wages.		Estimated Net Weekly Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Rates of Wages of all Workpeople affected.
	Net Increases.	Net Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.	
1915	4,305,000	...	867,100	...	+ 867,100
1916	4,848,000	250	885,250	50	+ 885,200
1917	6,362,000	75	2,986,200	5	+ 2,986,195
1918	6,924,000	...	3,434,500	...	+ 3,434,500
1919	6,240,000	100	2,547,200	60	+ 2,547,140
1920	7,867,000	500	4,793,200	180	+ 4,793,020
1921	78,000	7,244,000	13,600	6,074,600	- 6,061,000
1922	73,700	7,633,000	11,450	4,221,500	- 4,210,050
1923	1,022,000	3,079,000	169,000	486,000	- 317,000
1924	3,019,000	481,500	616,000	62,100	+ 553,900
1925	873,000	851,000	80,900	159,000	- 78,100
1926	420,000	740,000	133,000	83,700	+ 49,300
1927	282,000	1,855,000	30,700	388,500	- 357,800
1928	217,000	1,615,000	21,800	163,800	- 142,000
1929	142,000	917,000	12,900	91,700	- 78,800
1930	768,000	1,100,000	59,500	116,100	- 56,600
1931	47,000	3,010,000	5,150	406,300	- 401,150
1932	33,500	1,949,000	2,600	251,800	- 249,200
1933	179,500	894,000	17,250	82,500	- 65,250
1934	1,344,000	85,500	95,500	4,000	+ 91,500
1935	2,366,500	49,600	198,900	6,800	+ 192,100
1936	4,062,400	800	493,075	175	+ 492,900
1937	5,161,200	4,400	788,250	1,350	+ 786,900
1938	2,381,500	322,200	262,100	18,800	+ 243,300
1939	5,655,000	65,800	939,900	8,500	+ 931,400

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES IN 1940.

During the first three months of 1940 the changes in rates of wages reported to the Department, in the industries and services for which statistics are regularly compiled, are estimated to have resulted in an aggregate increase of about £255,000 in the weekly wages of nearly 5,260,000 workpeople. These figures (which are analysed by industry groups on page 118) are exclusive of changes in the rates of wages of agricultural labourers, Government employees, shop assistants and clerks, and the inclusion of these classes would considerably increase the numbers recorded as having received increases in rates of wages during the period. For example, of the total of 58 areas, in Great Britain, for which statutory minimum rates have been fixed for agricultural labourers, these minima were raised in 37 areas during the first three months of this year.

HOURS OF LABOUR.

In the industries for which statistics are available, approximately 380,000 workpeople were reported to have had their normal weekly hours of labour reduced by a little over 3½ hours a week, on average, during 1939.

The largest group affected were juvenile workers under 16 years of age, in the great majority of manufacturing industries, whose weekly hours were reduced to a maximum of 44 as from 1st July, 1939, under one of the provisions of the Factories Act, 1937. Other workpeople whose normal weekly hours were reduced included surface workers, not handling coal, employed at coal mines in Cumberland, and certain classes of surface workers employed at shale mines in Scotland.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople whose hours of labour were reported as changed in each of the years 1915 to

* In addition to the workpeople for whom figures are given in the above Table, there have been in each year since 1920 (except 1922) certain workpeople whose wages were increased and decreased by equal amounts during the year. The numbers of such workpeople are as follows: 1921, 110,000; 1923, 404,000; 1924, 372,000; 1925, 332,000; 1926, 447,000; 1927, 62,000; 1928, 187,000; 1929, 295,000; 1930, 85,000; 1931, 7,000; 1932, 16,000; 1933, 114,000; 1934, 122,000; 1935, 110,000; 1936, 21,000; 1937, 128,000; 1938, 161,000; 1939, 8,000.

† The statistics are exclusive of changes affecting agricultural labourers, Government employees, domestic servants, shop assistants and clerks.

1939 in the industries for which statistics are available, with the aggregate net amount of the change in weekly hours:—

Year.	Approximate Number of Workpeople whose Hours of Labour were		Aggregate Net Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Weekly Hours.
	Increased.	Reduced.	
1915	620	20,500	- 63,000
1916	1,300	22,000	- 100,000
1917	2,400	32,000	- 120,000
1918	1,750	148,000	- 568,000
1919	1,150	6,305,000	- 40,651,000
1920	2,000	570,000	- 2,114,000
1921	31,500	12,900	+ 14,500
1922	16,000	302,700	- 93,000
1923	325,000	9,600	+ 108,750
1924	13,150	16,150	+ 12,500
1925	1,300	3,925	- 11,750
1926	934,200	340	+ 3,984,650
1927	18,700	1,700	+ 59,000
1928	1,400	2,000	- 200
1929	4,050	1,950	+ 8,750
1930	13,175	349,225	- 873,500
1931	294,000	111,000	+ 142,000
1932	6,000	3,750	+ 7,000
1933	2,500	12,500	- 36,000
1934	520	5,000	- 11,500
1935	2,450	43,700	- 153,850
1936	600	160,600	- 804,500
1937	1,500	390,650	- 960,000
1938	1,950	166,650	- 371,100
1939	...	380,000	- 1,380,000

After the widespread reduction in hours of labour in the years 1919 and 1920 comparatively few workpeople were affected by changes in working hours until 1936, apart from building trade operatives and coal miners. The former constituted the great majority of those for whom changes were recorded in the years 1922 and 1923, while coal miners formed the majority of the totals shown for the years 1926, 1930 and 1931. The principal classes of workpeople affected in 1936 were boot and shoe operatives, seamen, and workers on morning and evening newspapers in the provinces; in 1937 those affected were mainly printers, coal miners in certain districts, and flour millers; and in 1938 they were mainly boot and shoe operatives and paper box and paper bag workers.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
BENEFIT: DEPENDENT CHILDREN.

A SUMMARY of the Reports of the Unemployment Insurance Statutory Committee on the financial condition of the Unemployment Fund at 31st December, 1939, appeared on page 76 of the March, 1940, issue of this GAZETTE. The Committee recommended that a sum of £37,000,000 out of the balance standing to the credit of the General Account should be allocated to the repayment of debt, thus making a net improvement in the income and expenditure account of the Fund of about £1,100,000 a year. They also found that there was some surplus for disposal on the Agricultural Account; and they made recommendations as to the way in which the sums available for disposal in both accounts should be used.

The Minister of Labour and National Service accepted the Committee's recommendations; a sum of £37,000,000 was allocated to the repayment of debt on 30th March, and a draft Order was laid before both Houses of Parliament for giving effect to the other recommendations of the Committee. The draft Order was approved by both Houses on 4th April, 1940, and the Unemployment Insurance (Increase of Benefit in respect of Dependent Children) Order, 1940,* was made by the Minister on 5th April.

The Order provides for the amendment of Section 37 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1935 (as previously amended) to provide an additional benefit of one shilling a week in respect of the first two dependent children, i.e., an increase from 3s. to 4s. It also provides for the amendment of Section 3 of the Unemployment Insurance (Agriculture) Act, 1936, so as to increase, from 35s. to 35s., the maximum weekly amount payable to a claimant for agricultural benefit. Both these amendments came into operation on 11th April, 1940.

FATAL ACCIDENTS AT MINES AND
QUARRIES IN 1939:
PROVISIONAL STATEMENT.

A "PROVISIONAL Statement of Number of Deaths by Accidents at Mines and Quarries in Great Britain, together with the Isle of Man, during 1939" has been issued by the Mines Department.†

The total number of persons killed by accidents which occurred during the year 1939 at mines and quarries in Great Britain, together with the Isle of Man, was 875; the corresponding figure for 1938 was 939.

Of the deaths caused by accidents in 1939, 772 were at mines under the Coal Mines Act, 1911, and of these 399 were caused by falls of ground.

* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1940, No. 569, H.M. Stationery Office, price 1d. net (1½d. post free).
† H.M. Stationery Office. Price 2d. net (2½d. post free).

FACTORY UNDERTAKINGS (RECORD
AND INFORMATION) ORDER.

THE Factory Undertakings (Record and Information) (No. 1) Order, 1940,* made by the Minister of Supply under the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939, gives power to require any person carrying on such an undertaking to furnish from time to time to the Minister of Labour and National Service such information with regard to the products manufactured and the labour employed as may be specified on forms to be issued to employers through the Employment Exchanges. The Order applies to all undertakings carried on in premises which are a factory as defined in the Factories Act, 1937.

The first returns obtained under the Order related to the first week in April and covered the engineering, motor vehicle and aircraft, and ship building and repairing industries. Other industries will be covered in subsequent returns. It is proposed that future returns from employers in the industries in question shall be obtained at quarterly intervals supplemented by a modified scheme for the intervening months, the details of which are not finally settled. To avoid the period of the exchange of unemployment books when the Employment Exchanges as well as employers will be working at great pressure, the second complete return will be obtained in respect of the beginning of June instead of July and thereafter it will be obtained at quarterly intervals.

The information required as to the products manufactured includes particulars of the main normal or peace-time products and the main products which have been or are being manufactured on Government account. The information required as to labour includes the approximate percentage of the total labour which is being employed on Government work, for the export trade, and for the home market respectively. In addition to giving the total number of men, women, boys and girls employed at the present time and in June, 1939, it includes particulars of the numbers in certain broad occupational groups. Office staffs and salaried persons are not included in the returns.

The returns will serve three main purposes:—

- (1) They will provide information about the proportion of the labour in certain vital industries which is employed on production for the war effort or in the export trade or for the home market respectively.
- (2) They will yield valuable information as to the distribution of skilled labour among the various industries.
- (3) The returns will also be of value to the Area Supply Boards in dealing with problems arising in connection with the planning of production.

The terms of the Order and of the form of return have been discussed with the organisations of employers and workers in the industries covered by the returns for the beginning of April. The making of returns is compulsory, but while penalties are provided for failure to comply with the Order, it is expected that employers will willingly co-operate in a measure which is designed to assist in making the best use of the labour available for the war effort.

The text of the Order is reproduced on page 125 of this issue of the GAZETTE.

CONTROL OF EMPLOYMENT
(ADVERTISEMENTS) ORDER, 1940.

THE Control of Employment (Advertisements) Order, 1940,† dated 4th April, which was made by the Minister of Labour and National Service under the Control of Employment Act, 1939,‡ provides that, on and after 24th April, 1940, employers in the building and civil engineering contracting industries may not, except with the consent of the Minister, publish any advertisement stating that they wish to engage carpenters, joiners, or bricklayers. The text of the Order is reproduced on page 125 of this issue of the GAZETTE.

Leaflets explanatory of the Order and forms of application for approval of advertisements are obtainable from any Employment Exchange.

OLD AGE AND WIDOWS' PENSIONS
ACT.

THE Old Age and Widows' Pensions Act, 1940, received the Royal Assent on 21st March.

Under Part I of the Act, the age at which contributory old age pensions are payable to women is to be reduced from 65 to 60. The ordinary rates of contributions are to be increased by 2d. a week for men and 3d. for women, of which employers are to pay 1d. in each case, and additional liability is assumed by the Exchequer. This Part of the Act comes into operation on 1st July, 1940.

Part II of the Act provides for the payment of supplementary pensions to old age pensioners and to widow pensioners over the age of 60. These supplementary pensions will be granted on the ground of need and will be administered, at the cost of the Exchequer, by the Assistance Board, hitherto known as the Unemployment Assistance Board. They will not be payable until after 3rd August, 1940.

* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1940, No. 451. H.M. Stationery Office, price 1d. net (1½d. post free).

† Statutory Rules and Orders, 1940, No. 522, price 1d. (1½d. post free).

‡ See the issue of this GAZETTE for October, 1939, page 360.

NATIONAL SERVICE (ARMED
FORCES) ACT.

FURTHER REGISTRATIONS.

A FURTHER registration of men liable to be called up for service under the National Service (Armed Forces) Act was held on 6th April. The men required to register were those, not already registered, who were born between 1st January, 1914, and 6th April, 1920, both dates inclusive.

Men aged 20 to 24, inclusive, having already been registered, the registration on 6th April related in the main to (a) men who reached the age of 20 between 10th March and 6th April, 1940, and (b) men who reached the age of 25 during the year 1939. The provisional total of men who registered on 6th April was 314,430.

Further registrations will be held on 27th April and 25th May, relating to men reaching the age of 20 since 6th April, 1940, and to men who reached the ages of 26 and 27 during the year 1939.

MEN IN MEDICAL GRADE III.

Men placed in Medical Grade III have not hitherto been called up for service. It has now been announced, however, by the Ministry of Labour and National Service, that men in Grade III who, but for defects of vision, would have been placed in Grades I or IIa shall be called up for Army Service in duties for which they are physically suitable. Arrangements will be made, as far as possible, to call up first any of these men who express a desire to be called up early.

Men who wish to be called up early should inform the Office of the Ministry of Labour and National Service at the address which is stated on their Registration Certificate Form N.S.2.

LIABILITY OF DOCTORS FOR SERVICE WITH
H.M. FORCES.

It has also been announced by the Ministry of Labour and National Service that qualified medical practitioners are liable for service under the National Service (Armed Forces) Act, and that arrangements are being made whereby doctors who have been registered under the Act may be called up for service in H.M. Forces in their professional capacity. Holders of full-time teaching appointments are, however, reserved from Military Service, if of or over the age of 25 years, under the Schedule of Reserved Occupations, and the arrangements described below will not apply to them.

The Government has entrusted the Central Medical War Committee, and the corresponding Scottish Committee, with the function of advising it, through the Ministry of Health, the Department of Health for Scotland and the Ministry of Labour and National Service, on the application to doctors of this liability for service with the Forces in the light of the medical needs of the civilian population.

These needs will be safeguarded by using the machinery of the Local Medical War Committees who will obtain the view of the doctors concerned as well as of local authorities, hospital and insurance committees.

The arrangements made by the Central and Local Medical War Committees for selecting doctors for service will be under the general supervision of the Ministry of Health and the Department of Health for Scotland.

These Committees will not review questions of personal hardship or conscientious objection. Individual practitioners will have the same rights as other persons registered for service to appeal on either of those grounds in accordance with the ordinary machinery provided under the National Service (Armed Forces) Act.

Medical men of all ages may volunteer for service in their professional capacity, and the Central Medical War Committees are open to receive applications from suitably qualified men up to age 55.

FOOD CONTROL.

MAXIMUM RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD.

Since the issue of the Orders referred to in the February number of this GAZETTE, further Orders have been made by the Ministry of Food relating to the prices of herrings, sausages and sausage meat, eggs and potatoes.

The *Herrings* (Maximum Prices) Order, 1939, was amended by an Order dated 29th February, which came into force on 4th March. This amending Order raised the maximum retail price of fresh herrings to 7d. per lb.

The *Sausages* (Maximum Prices) Order, 1940, dated 18th March, which came into force on 26th March, prescribed maximum retail prices for beef sausages, pork sausages, beef sausage meat and pork sausage meat, each in three grades varying according to meat content. The maximum prices range from 7d. per lb. for the lowest grade of beef sausages to 1s. 6d. per lb. for the highest grade of pork sausages. For sausage meat the prices are 1d. per lb. less than for sausages.*

The *Eggs* (Maximum Prices) (No. 4) Order, 1939, was amended by Orders dated 20th March and 5th April, which came into force on 26th March and 8th April respectively. These amending Orders each reduced the maximum retail prices of fresh eggs from Eire and near European countries by 3d. per dozen, the maximum prices of lower-priced categories of eggs remaining unchanged. The prices of eggs produced in Great Britain and Northern Ireland are not subject to control; the maximum retail prices of other eggs now range from 1s. 3d. to 2s. per dozen.

The *Potatoes* (1939 Crop) (Control) Order, 1940, was amended by an Order dated 18th March, which came into force on 21st March. The amending Order provided for certain increases in the maximum retail prices of potatoes. The maximum prices vary according to

* The retail prices of sausages and sausage meat had been previously subject to maxima which ceased to apply on 11th March.

district, variety classification and quantity bought. The maximum rate per 7 lb., for an amount less than 14 lb., varies from 8d. to 10d. in England. In Scotland and in Northern Ireland the rates are lower.

The *Imported Potatoes* (Maximum Prices) Order, 1940, dated 2nd April, prescribes maximum retail prices for imported new potatoes at 4d. per lb. from 5th April to 25th May and at 3½d. per lb. from 26th May to 15th June. These maxima do not apply to imports from the Channel Islands.

FOOD RATIONING.

The domestic ration of butter per person per week was increased from 4 ozs. to 8 ozs. on 25th March and pork was de-rationed from 9th April. The present domestic rations per person per week are:—

Meat (beef, mutton, lamb, veal):		
For persons over 6 years	...	1s. 10d. value.
" 6 years and under	...	11d. value.
Bacon or ham:		
Uncooked	...	8 ozs. free of bone.
Cooked	...	7 ozs. free of bone.
Butter	...	8 ozs.
Sugar	...	12 ozs.

Edible offals, canned and cooked meats, manufactured meat products and certain descriptions of bacon are free of the ration.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION.

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY.

THE 89th Session of the Governing Body was held in Geneva from 3rd to 5th February, 1940. Among the principal matters dealt with at the Session were the following:—

There was a long discussion on the subject of the programme and date of the 1940 Session of the International Labour Conference.

The first decision reached was that the Conference should be held in Geneva. It was also decided that the Conference should open on 5th June, 1940. Both these decisions were to be subject to any changes in the arrangements which the Emergency Committee or the Officers of the Governing Body might make if the international situation so required.

As regards the Agenda, it was generally agreed that the four items which had originally been selected* could not suitably be discussed in present circumstances.

After debate as to what could replace them, it was decided that the question of methods of collaboration between public authorities, employers' organisations and workers' organisations should be included in the programme of the Conference for discussion on the basis of a report to be prepared by the Office, but not with a view to the adoption of Conventions or Recommendations. The Conference will, as usual, discuss the Director's Report and will consider the Annual Reports submitted under Article 22 of the Constitution by States Members which have ratified Conventions.

Comprehensive proposals made by the Office for a programme of studies, technical consultations and publications in 1940 were generally approved, the principal decisions being as follows:—

(1).—That the Permanent International Committee on Migration for Settlement should meet in June, 1940, immediately after the Conference, with the following agenda:—

(i) Methods of international financing of projects for settlement, and in particular an examination of the basis for the organisation of an international institute for the financing of migration for settlement.

(ii) The technical selection of emigrants.

(iii) The methods of investigation by which the possibilities of settlement could be determined;

(2).—That the Committee of Experts on Safety in Coal Mines should meet in May, 1940, with a view to completing their work of drafting a Model Code on the subject;

(3).—That studies of the following subjects should be undertaken:—

Men disabled in war: their right to compensation and their vocational and social rehabilitation;

Problems of organisation of the labour market arising out of the war;

Vocational retraining as a continuous means of adapting the supply of labour to the demand;

The influence of the war and mobilisation on national regulations concerning hours of work and rest periods;

The influence of the war and mobilisation on the conditions of work of women;

The adjustment of wage rates to changing prices;

The adaptation of social insurance to mobilisation and war;

The organisation of medical labour inspection; and the factory doctor, his training and functions;

Safety in the loading and unloading of ships;

Agricultural problems of Central and South America;

Industrial relations in colonial territories;

The conditions of life of workers and their families (low-cost housing).

The decisions reached by the Assembly regarding the Budget of the Organisation for 1940 and the plan of expenditure for that year† were noted.

The Governing Body took note with satisfaction of various further Government declarations in support of the Organisation, including Statements made by the Foreign Secretary and the Minister of Labour in the House of Lords and the House of Commons, respectively, in November, 1939.†

* See the issue of this GAZETTE for February, 1939.

† See the issue of this GAZETTE for January, 1940.

The Governing Body, having noted that Italy ceased to be a Member of the Organisation on 15th December, 1939, her two years' notice of withdrawal having then expired, and that the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics "ceased to be entitled to automatic membership of the Organisation" on 14th December, 1939, considered how to fill the two vacancies on the Governing Body which had resulted, as both these States had held permanent seats as being amongst the eight States of chief industrial importance. The Governing Body decided to fill these vacancies on the basis of the list which had been drawn up in 1934-5, brought up-to-date in accordance with more recent statistical data. The result of this decision was that Italy and the U.S.S.R. have been replaced on the Governing Body by Belgium and the Netherlands.

It was decided that the next session of the Governing Body should be held in June, immediately prior to the Conference.

COMPULSORY EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN FRANCE.

DETAILED regulations have been issued for the practical application of the Decree-Law dated 28th February, 1940, which made provision for the compulsory employment of women in France (see this GAZETTE for March, 1940). The regulations, which are embodied in an Order of the Minister of Labour dated 28th March, 1940, supplemented by Instructions of the same date issued jointly by the Ministers of Labour, Marine, Munitions and the Air, prescribe, in principle, that undertakings engaged on work for the national defence are to employ women in specified proportions (varying, in most cases, between 50 and 90 per cent.) on specified operations in the chemical, metal and engineering, brick and tile and a few other industries, and as motor drivers, and in certain light labouring occupations and office employments. The operations and employments are, in general, such as are suited to unskilled and semi-skilled workers.

It is recognised that large bodies of untrained workers cannot be absorbed into employment unless an adequate period is allowed for the re-organisation of the undertakings concerned. At the outset, therefore, the regulations are to be applied with a certain latitude, and undertakings will be required to engage women workers only if, and to the extent, indicated by the Inspectors of Labour, in their capacity as heads of the labour mobilisation services for the Departments and in agreement with the technical services attached to the Ministries concerned with mobilisation. In selecting the undertakings and operations for which the employment of women workers is to be enforced, the Inspectors are to take into account the nature of the products manufactured, the condition of plant and equipment, the availability of female labour, and the efforts made by the undertakings, since the beginning of the war, to increase the number of women in their employment. During the initial period, the observance of the proportion of women workers prescribed for each occupation will be enforced as regards newly engaged workers only. Undertakings which fail to employ the proportion of women workers required of them are to be deprived of the supply of additional male workers, and the Inspectors of Labour may request the mobilisation authorities to withdraw men from employment in such defaulting undertakings.

Normally, undertakings are required to engage 50 per cent. of their female staff through the public employment exchanges; but, where a sufficiency of suitable labour cannot be thus obtained, the Inspector of Labour may authorise the undertaking to engage more than 50 per cent. of its women workers directly. Undertakings are to notify the public employment exchanges, every fortnight, of the number of women workers engaged directly and of the number who have been discharged. When engaging women workers, undertakings are asked to give preference to the wives of mobilised men without resources other than their separation allowances and to women registered for employment who are not eligible for unemployment assistance. When determining the operations on which the employment of women is to be obligatory and the proportions to be so employed, the Inspector of Labour is to fix a time limit within which the women are to become adapted to their new work. The time limit, which will vary according to the nature of the work, will be a few weeks in most cases; but, for a few operations, it may extend to three months or more.

WAGES IN THE BELGIAN COAL-MINING INDUSTRY.

IN accordance with the wage regulation provisions of the existing collective agreement, workers in the Belgian coal-mining industry received in December, 1939, an increase in wages of 2½ per cent. on account of the rise in the cost of living. The coal-owners proposed to compensate themselves by increasing the price of coal. The Government, however, refused to sanction the increase in the price of coal, and the coal-owners, in consequence, gave notice to terminate the collective agreement. Negotiations were re-opened in the present year, and a new collective agreement for the coal-mining industry was signed on 20th March. By this agreement, a further increase in wages of 2½ per cent. was granted as from 10th March, 1940, the Government having sanctioned certain increases in the price of coal. It was further provided that, for the period of the war, wages in the industry should be adjusted for every fluctuation of 5 per cent. in the official retail prices index figure, to be ascertained at monthly intervals on the basis of the average retail prices index figure for the three preceding months. The wage increase accorded by the new collective agreement is additional to the general increase of 1.5 per cent. granted in January to underground workers in coal mines on account of the increase of half-an-hour a day in their working time (see this GAZETTE for February, 1940).

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—GENERAL REVIEW.

THERE was a very substantial improvement in employment between 12th February and 11th March. Between these two dates the number of unemployed persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain fell by 382,887. A large part of the increase in employment was due to the improvement in weather conditions, but in addition there was a general increase in industrial activity from other causes, and there were reductions in the numbers unemployed in nearly all industries.

As compared with 13th March, 1939, the number unemployed at 11th March, 1940, in Great Britain was lower by 605,716.

The following Table gives an analysis of the numbers of persons on the registers at 11th March, 1940, with comparative figures for 12th February, 1940, and 13th March, 1939:—

	Wholly Unemployed (including Casuals*)	Temporarily Stopped.	Total.	Decrease (-) as compared with 12th Feb., 1940.
GREAT BRITAIN.				
Men	672,930	69,374	742,304	- 316,195
Boys	24,172	1,501	25,673	- 13,469
Women	275,088	36,615	311,703	- 41,519
Girls	39,643	1,890	41,533	- 11,704
Total	1,011,833	109,380	1,121,213	- 382,887
Decrease (-) as compared with:				
12th February, 1940	- 177,195	- 205,692	- 382,887	—
13th March, 1939	- 483,851	- 121,865	- 605,716	—

GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.				
Men	722,670	70,575	793,245	- 323,410
Boys	26,560	1,540	28,100	- 13,992
Women	290,844	38,237	329,081	- 43,162
Girls	40,862	1,971	42,833	- 12,061
Total	1,080,936	112,323	1,193,259	- 392,625
Decrease (-) as compared with:				
12th February, 1940	- 186,018	- 206,607	- 392,625	—
13th March, 1939	- 494,934	- 125,794	- 620,728	—

The improvement in employment was most marked in building, public works contracting, and agriculture and horticulture. The principal other industries in which employment increased included coal mining, brick making, stone quarrying, iron and steel and metal goods manufacture, engineering, ship building and repairing, road transport, tailoring, printing and bookbinding, the distributive trades, and hotel and boarding house service.

The following Table shows the numbers of unemployed persons, aged 14 and over, on the registers of Employment Exchanges in each administrative division at 11th March, 1940, and the decreases compared with 12th February, 1940:—

Division.	Numbers on Register at 11th Mar., 1940.	Decrease (-) as compared with 12th Feb., 1940.	Division.	Numbers on Register at 11th Mar., 1940.	Decrease (-) as compared with 12th Feb., 1940.
London	239,011	- 42,762	Scotland	155,178	- 29,091
Eastern	57,398	- 30,731	Wales	99,083	- 21,901
Southern	64,121	- 23,765	Great Britain	1,121,213	- 382,887
South-Western	34,935	- 11,092	N. Ireland	72,046	- 9,738
Midlands	56,108	- 42,958	Gt. Britain and N. Ireland...	1,193,259	- 392,625
N.-Midlands ...	50,193	- 38,344			
North-Eastern ...	85,366	- 42,226			
North-Western ...	184,697	- 62,727			
Northern	97,123	- 31,290			

The numbers unemployed showed marked decreases in all divisions. The decreases were numerically greatest in the North-Western, Midlands, London and North-Eastern Divisions; there were also proportionately large decreases in the North-Midlands, Eastern and Southern Divisions.

The number of insured persons, aged 16 to 64, recorded as unemployed in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 11th March, 1940, represented 7.7 per cent.† of the total number of insured persons, aged 16 to 64, at July, 1939†, as compared with 10.3 per cent. at 12th February, 1940. At 13th March, 1939, the percentage unemployed was 12.0. For persons under the general scheme the corresponding percentages were 7.8 at 11th March, 1940, 10.2 at 12th February, 1940, and 12.2 at 13th March, 1939. For persons within the agricultural scheme the percentages were 7.0, 11.1 and 7.9 respectively.

* The total number of unemployed casual workers in Great Britain at 11th March, 1940, was 46,166, including 44,474 men, 69 boys, 1,602 women and 21 girls. The total for 11th March was 1,504 less than at 12th February, 1940, and 20,433 less than 13th March, 1939. In Great Britain and Northern Ireland the total number of unemployed casual workers at 11th March, 1940, was 48,366.

† It is probable that there have been considerable changes, since July, 1939, in the total numbers of insured persons and in their distribution between different industries, owing partly to recruitment for the Forces and partly to transfers into the munitions industries. The percentages of unemployment in February and March, 1940, compiled on the basis of these figures and given in this GAZETTE, are subject to revision, therefore, when information as to the effect of these changes becomes available from the next annual exchange of unemployment books, in July, 1940.

CHANGES IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

Mining and Quarrying.—In the coal mining industry unemployment showed a decrease in nearly all districts. The percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, was 6.0 at 11th March, 1940, as compared with 8.1 at 12th February, 1940, and 12.5 at 13th March, 1939.

Employment in the iron mining industry showed an improvement; the percentage unemployed was 4.1 at 11th March, 1940, as compared with 6.7 at 12th February, 1940, and 16.5 at 13th March, 1939. Employment also improved considerably at stone quarries, but it declined at slate quarries. In the other mining and quarrying industries employment showed considerable improvement.

Pig Iron, Iron and Steel, and Tinplate.—Employment in the pig iron industry continued very good. The percentage unemployed at 11th March, 1940, was 5.0, compared with 6.2 at 12th February, 1940, and 16.7 at 13th March, 1939.

There was also an improvement in iron and steel manufacture, and employment was very good. At 11th March, 1940, the percentage unemployed among insured workpeople was 7.8, as compared with 10.0 at 12th February, 1940, and 14.8 at 13th March, 1939.

Employment in the tinplate industry showed a considerable improvement. The number of tinplate mills in operation, at works in respect of which information has been received, was 348 in the week ended 16th March, 1940, as compared with 306 a month before and 294 a year before. The percentage rate of unemployment among insured persons was 12.9 at 11th March, 1940, compared with 19.6 at 12th February, 1940, and 23.6 at 13th March, 1939.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and Other Metal Industries.—In the engineering industry as a whole the numbers recorded as unemployed showed a decrease. There was an improvement in employment in the general, electrical, marine and constructional sections of the industry in all districts. In motor vehicle, cycle and aircraft manufacture employment also improved generally. Reports of shortages of skilled labour were received from many centres, and further extensions of overtime and night shift working occurred. The percentage unemployed among insured persons in the engineering industry as a whole (excluding motor vehicle, cycle and aircraft manufacture) at 11th March, 1940, was 2.7, as compared with 3.3 at 12th February, 1940, and 7.4 at 13th March, 1939. At these dates the corresponding percentages in the motor vehicle, cycle and aircraft industry were 2.7, 3.4 and 4.4, respectively.

Employment in the shipbuilding and ship-repairing industry showed an improvement. The percentage unemployed among insured persons was 7.9 at 11th March, 1940, as compared with 10.2 at 12th February, 1940, and 23.6 at 13th March, 1939.

There was a decrease in the numbers unemployed in the other metal industries, especially in the manufacture of iron and steel tubes and in the stove, grate, pipe and general ironfounding industry.

Textile Industries.—There was a decrease in March in the numbers of persons recorded as unemployed in both the spinning and weaving sections of the cotton industry, and employment was good. Shortages of skilled operatives were reported in both sections. The percentage unemployed among insured persons in the industry as a whole was 5.4 at 11th March, 1940, as compared with 6.3 at 12th February, 1940, and with 17.5 at 13th March, 1939. In the preparing and spinning departments, the corresponding percentages were 5.2, 6.0 and 15.9, and in the manufacturing department they were 5.6, 6.6 and 19.3.

In the wool textile industry employment continued at a very high level and overtime was worked by many firms. Shortages of skilled workers and of juveniles were again reported. The percentage unemployed at 11th March, 1940, was 2.9, as compared with 3.4 at 12th February, 1940, and 12.1 at 13th March, 1939. Unemployment in the carpet industry decreased, the percentage unemployed at 11th March, 1940, being 5.4, as compared with 6.4 at 12th February, 1940, and 9.0 at 13th March, 1939.

Employment also improved in most of the other textile industries; the improvement was most marked in the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc. trades. Shortages of skilled labour in the hosiery industry were again reported.

Clothing Trades.—Employment was good in most sections of the clothing trades. In the tailoring trades there was a further improvement, and the numbers unemployed decreased in all divisions. There was also a further decrease in unemployment in dressmaking and millinery, and in the hat and cap industry. In the other dress industries employment showed little change. In the clothing trade, as a whole (exclusive of the boot and shoe industry), the percentage rate of unemployment among insured workpeople at 11th March, 1940, was 6.0, as compared with 8.3 at 12th February, 1940, and 8.7 at 13th March, 1939.

In the boot and shoe industry the numbers unemployed showed a slight decrease in almost all districts. At 11th March, 1940, the percentage unemployed in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 4.4, as compared with 5.0 at 12th February, 1940, and with 8.5 at 13th March, 1939.

Leather Trades.—In the leather tanning, currying and dressing trade (including fur dressing) the numbers unemployed showed a slight decrease as compared with a month ago. In other sections of the industry the numbers unemployed decreased slightly in practically all areas. The percentage rate of unemployment in the leather trades, as a whole, was 4.4 at 11th March, 1940, compared with 5.3 at 12th February, 1940, and with 10.0 at 13th March, 1939.

Building, Woodworking, etc.—There was a marked decrease in the numbers unemployed in the building industry at 11th March, 1940, as compared with 12th February, 1940. The decrease, which was mainly due to the improvement in weather conditions, occurred in all administrative divisions and affected all occupations. In the building industry, as a whole, the percentage unemployed fell from 26.4 at 12th February, 1940, to 13.2 at 11th March, 1940; at 13th March, 1939, the corresponding figure was 16.0.

In brick manufacture the numbers unemployed also showed a marked decrease. The percentage unemployed fell from 17.3 at 12th February, 1940, to 9.5 at 11th March, 1940; the figure for 13th March, 1939, was 11.2.

Unemployment also fell in the furnishing trades, and in the sawmilling and coachbuilding industries.

Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.—Employment in the paper-making industry showed an improvement as compared with February and was better than a year ago. There was also a further improvement in employment in the printing and book-binding industries, but short-time working continued. The percentage unemployed in the paper and paper-board industries was 2.7 at 11th March, 1940, compared with 3.4 at 12th February, 1940, and with 6.7 at 13th March, 1939. The corresponding figures for printing and bookbinding were 9.3, 10.7 and 7.6, respectively; for the cardboard box, paper bag and stationery industries they were 5.1, 5.7 and 6.7 respectively.

Pottery and Glass.—In the pottery industry unemployment showed a considerable decrease. The percentage unemployed among insured persons, aged 16-64, was 14.3 at 11th March, 1940, as compared with 19.6 at 12th February, 1940, and 19.8 at 13th March, 1939.

Employment in the bottle-making section and other sections of the glass trades showed an improvement.

Fishing.—The number of fishermen recorded as unemployed showed a decrease. The percentage rate of unemployment in the fishing industry at 11th March, 1940, was 19.7, as compared with 23.1 at 12th February, 1940, and 29.3 at 13th March, 1939.

Dock Labourers and Seamen.—There was a reduction in unemployment in dock, harbour, canal, etc., service as a whole, the percentage unemployed at 11th March, 1940, being 20.6, as compared with 20.9 at 12th February, 1940, and with 27.4 at 13th March, 1939. In harbour, river and canal service the corresponding percentages were 5.5, 8.6 and 10.8; in dock, wharf and lighterage (port transport) service, they were 23.5, 23.2 and 30.4.

There was a further decrease, between 12th February and 11th March, in recorded unemployment in the shipping service. Shortages of ratings, especially deck hands, were again reported from several ports. The percentage unemployed in shipping service was 15.6 at 11th March, 1940, as compared with 16.8 at 12th February, 1940, and with 24.7 at 13th March, 1939.

UNEMPLOYMENT SUMMARY BY DISTRICTS.

The following Table shows, for each administrative division, the estimated numbers of insured persons, aged 16-64, at July, 1939, and the percentages of these totals represented by the numbers of insured persons recorded as unemployed at 11th March, 1940:—

Division.	Estimated Numbers Insured at July, 1939.		Percentages Unemployed at 11th March, 1940.			Inc (+) or Dec (-) on 12th Feb., 1940.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
I.—GENERAL SCHEME.*						
London ...	1,959,670	948,410	7.3	8.9	7.9	-1.4
Eastern ...	430,880	145,480	8.5	7.7	8.3	-4.0
Southern ...	752,540	225,220	5.4	7.7	5.9	-2.8
South-Western ...	510,650	151,680	4.7	5.4	4.8	-1.5
Midlands ...	973,980	390,590	3.4	6.2	4.2	-3.0
North-Midlands ...	682,880	253,790	5.0	3.5	4.6	-3.4
North-Eastern ...	945,190	379,930	6.5	5.0	6.1	-3.1
North-Western ...	1,499,980	750,560	8.0	8.2	8.1	-2.6
Northern ...	644,150	129,990	10.8	13.2	11.2	-3.7
Scotland ...	1,046,370	410,510	9.0	10.9	9.5	-1.8
Wales ...	543,710	84,840	14.3	14.4	14.3	-3.2
Special Schemes ...	100,000	59,000	1.1	1.1	1.1	-0.1
Great Britain ...	10,090,000	3,930,000	7.3	7.9	7.5	-2.5
N. Ireland ...	190,100	111,900	23.9	17.0	21.4	-2.2
Great Britain & N. Ireland ...	10,280,100	4,041,900	7.6	8.1	7.8	-2.4

* The Special Schemes for the banking and insurance industries, for which divisional figures are not available, are shown separately.

Division.	Estimated Numbers Insured at July, 1939.		Percentages Unemployed at 11th March, 1940.			Inc (+) or Dec (-) on 12th Feb., 1940.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
II.—AGRICULTURAL SCHEME.						
London ...	21,520	3,510	5.2	23.7	7.8	-2.8
Eastern ...	110,960	8,690	3.7	61.1	7.9	-6.3
Southern ...	115,580	7,300	1.9	32.0	3.7	-2.2
South-Western ...	71,820	1,260	1.8	12.6	1.9	-1.3
Midlands ...	45,280	2,070	2.3	47.8	4.3	-3.4
North-Midlands ...	61,560	10,680	3.5	58.5	11.6	-7.7
North-Eastern ...	30,190	1,290	4.7	51.2	6.6	-4.5
North-Western ...	41,760	1,490	4.9	19.1	5.3	-4.2
Northern ...	22,610	1,820	5.8	20.4	6.9	-4.5
Scotland ...	86,660	7,140	4.2	20.7	5.5	-3.1
Wales ...	26,060	750	8.0	26.3	8.5	-3.6
Great Britain ...	634,000	46,000	3.5	41.0	6.1	-4.0
N. Ireland ...	29,000	1,000	27.3	34.5	27.5	-7.8
Great Britain & N. Ireland ...	663,000	47,000	4.6	40.9	7.0	-4.1

Division.	Estimated Numbers Insured at July, 1939.		Percentages Unemployed at 11th March, 1940.			Inc (+) or Dec (-) on 12th Feb., 1940.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
III.—GENERAL AND AGRICULTURAL SCHEMES.*						
London ...	1,981,190	951,920	7.3	9.0	7.9	-1.4
Eastern ...	541,840	154,170	7.6	10.7	8.3	-4.3
Southern ...	868,120	232,500	4.3	8.4	5.7	-2.7
South-Western ...	582,470	152,940	4.3	5.4	4.5	-1.5
Midlands ...	1,019,260	392,660	3.4	6.5	4.2	-3.1
North-Midlands ...	744,440	264,470	4.9	5.7	5.1	-3.8
North-Eastern ...	975,380	381,220	6.5	5.2	6.1	-3.1
North-Western ...	1,541,740	752,060	7.9	8.2	8.0	-2.7
Northern ...	666,760	131,810	10.6	13.3	11.1	-1.8
Scotland ...	1,133,030	417,650	8.6	11.1	9.3	-1.8
Wales ...	569,770	85,590	14.0	14.6	14.1	-3.1
Special Schemes ...	100,000	59,000	1.1	1.1	1.1	-0.1
Great Britain ...	10,724,000	3,976,000	7.1	8.3	7.4	-2.6
N. Ireland ...	219,100	112,900	24.4	17.2	21.9	-2.8
Great Britain & N. Ireland ...	10,943,100	4,088,900	7.4	8.5	7.7	-2.6

UNEMPLOYMENT DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

(1) NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED ON REGISTERS.
The following Table shows the numbers of unemployed persons (insured and uninsured) on the registers of Employment Exchanges at one date in each month since March, 1939:—

Date.	Great Britain.					Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
	Men 18 and over.	Boys 14-17.	Women 18 and over.	Girls 14-17.	Total 14 and over.	
1939.						
13 March ...	1,285,366	44,268	349,133	48,162	1,726,929	1,813,987
17 April ...	1,217,085	48,935	327,116	51,258	1,644,394	1,726,083
15 May ...	1,108,893	36,355	304,813	42,241	1,492,282	1,565,315
12 June ...	1,022,790	28,264	266,836	31,689	1,349,579	1,417,239
10 July ...	953,859	27,151	245,930	29,484	1,256,424	1,326,134
14 August ...	826,811	44,543	395,243	64,331	1,330,928	1,395,550
16 October ...	903,127	43,920	417,798	65,793	1,430,638	1,499,893
13 November ...	897,061	40,460	405,175	59,892	1,402,588	1,477,586
11 December ...	897,984	35,418	377,168	50,955	1,361,525	1,440,923
1940.						
15 January ...	1,037,458	41,590	379,981	59,867	1,518,896	1,602,551
12 February ...	1,058,499	39,142	353,222	53,237	1,504,100	1,585,884
11 March ...	742,304	25,673	311,703	41,533	1,121,213	1,193,259

(2) PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED AMONG INSURED PERSONS.

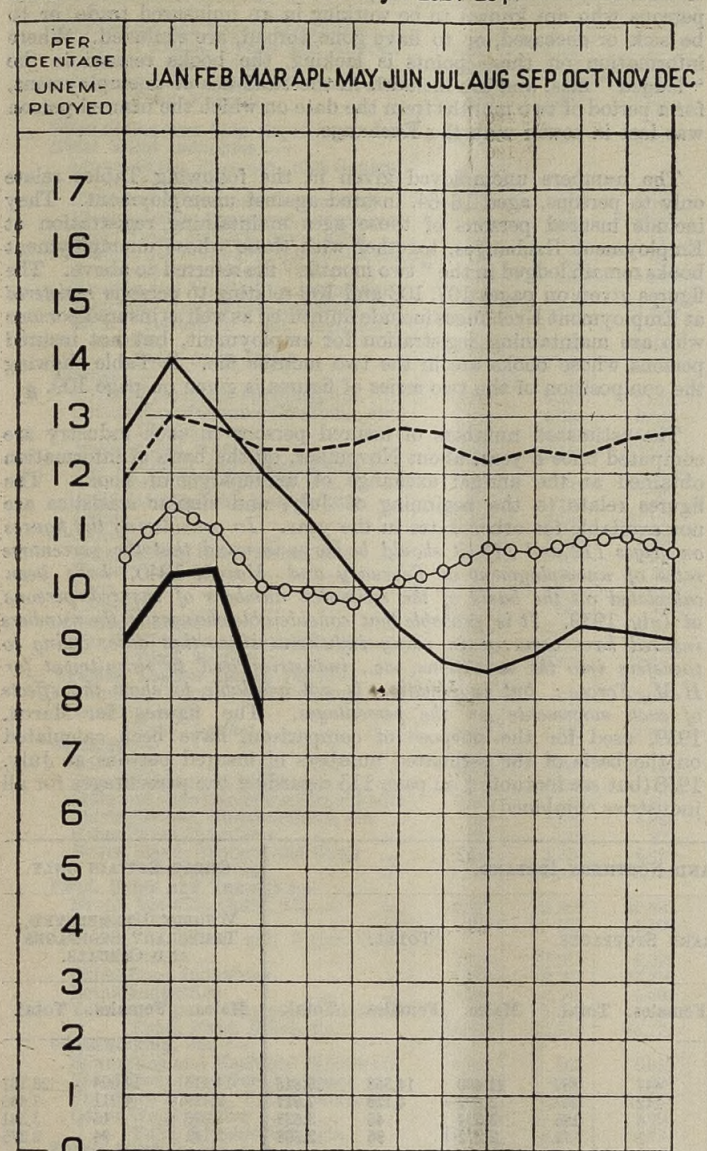
The following Table shows the percentages unemployed among insured persons, aged 16-64, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at one date in each month since March, 1939:—

Date.	General and Agricultural Schemes.†			General Scheme.‡			Agricultural Scheme.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1939.									
13 March ...	12.6	10.2	12.0	13.0	10.1	12.2	6.6	26.2	7.9
17 April ...	11.9	9.6	11.2	12.3	9.6	11.5	5.7	14.2	6.2
15 May ...	10.8	8.9	10.2	11.1	8.8	10.5	5.2	13.9	5.8
12 June ...	9.9	7.7	9.3	10.3	7.7	9.6	4.1	6.8	4.3
10 July ...	9.3	7.2	8.7	9.6	7.2	9.0	3.8	6.0	4.0
14 August ...	8.9	7.4	8.5	9.2	7.4	8.7	3.7	7.1	3.9
11th September ...	8.2	10.6	8.8	8.5	10.6	9.1	3.1	7.9	3.4
16th October ...	8.9	10.4	9.3	9.2	10.5	9.6	3.7	7.9	4.0
13th November ...	8.8	10.4	9.2	9.1	10.3	9.5	4.4	15.1	5.1
11th December ...	8.8	9.8	9.1	9.0	9.5	9.1	5.4	36.2	7.4
1940.									
15th January ...	10.2	10.3	10.2	10.4	9.8	10.2	6.9	49.6	9.7
12th February ...	10.5	9.8	10.3	10.6	9.3	10.2	8.3	51.2	11.1
11th March ...	7.4	8.5	7.7	7.6	8.1	7.8	4.6	40.9	7.0

* See footnote * in previous column.
† Up to and including June, 1939, these are revised percentages calculated on the basis of the estimated numbers insured at the dates referred to; those for later months are based on the estimated numbers insured at the beginning of July, 1939, and are subject to revision when statistics become available as to the numbers insured at July, 1940.
‡ Including the Special Schemes for the banking and insurance industries.

UNEMPLOYMENT CHART.
PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED AMONG INSURED PERSONS, AGED 16-64, IN GT. BRITAIN AND N. IRELAND.

1940. ————— 1938*. - - - - -
1939. ————— Mean for 1924-29†. ○-○-○-○-○



COMPOSITION OF UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

	ANALYSIS FOR 11th MARCH, 1940.				
	Men (18 years and over)	Boys (under 18 years)	Women (18 years and over)	Girls (under 18 years)	Total.
A. Insured on Register:—					
1. Claimants to Benefit and applicants for Unemployment Allowances	682,836	11,761	240,687	14,639	949,923
2. Non-claimants:—					
(a) Aged 16-64 ...	20,991	1,321	24,784	2,992	50,088
(b) Aged 14 and 15 ...	—	5,072	—	7,764	12,836
B. Others on Register:—					
3. Applicants for unemployment allowances ...	15,725	181	10,139	862	26,907
4. Persons without applications:—					
(a) Aged 16-64 ...	22,752	1,953	36,093	4,181	64,979
(b) Aged 14 and 15 ...	—	5,385	—	11,095	16,480
C. Total on Register ...	742,304	25,673	311,703	41,533	1,121,213
D. Insured Unemployed:—					
Aged 16-64:—					
5. Number on Register (Items 1 and 2 (a)) ...	703,827	13,082	265,471	17,631	1,000,011
6. Two months' file† ...	39,342	1,567	42,817	2,294	86,020
7. Special Schemes ...	1,117	18	591	40	1,766
Claimants to Benefit	—	—	—	—	—
Total aged 16-64 ...	744,286	14,667	308,879	19,965	1,087,797
8. Aged 14 and 15:—					
(a) Item 2 (b) ...	—	5,072	—	7,764	12,836
(b) Two months' file ...	—	3,134	—	4,321	7,455
Total aged 14-64 ...	744,286	22,873	308,879	32,050	1,108,088

* From July, 1938, the figures include persons in the domestic employments brought into insurance in April, 1938; the effect of this is shown by the two points for July, 1938.
† Excluding the period April, 1926, to March, 1927, and excluding agricultural workers, for whom no figures were available.
‡ See explanation on page 110.

NUMBERS ON THE REGISTERS IN THE PRINCIPAL TOWNS.

The Table below shows for each of the Employment Exchange administrative areas in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and for the principal towns therein, the number of unemployed persons registered at Employment Exchanges on 11th March, 1940:—

Divisions (in Italics) and Principal Towns.	Number of Persons on Register at 11th March, 1940				Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Totals as compared with	
	Men.	Women.	Juveniles.	Total.	12th Feb., 1940.	13th Mar., 1939.
<i>London</i> ...	145,279	83,923	9,809	239,011	42,762	+ 9,759
<i>Eastern</i> ...	39,086	19,397	2,915	61,398	30,731	+ 3,077
Ipswich ...	2,058	346	74	2,478	753	+ 1,003
Norwich ...	3,567	771	92			

UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG INSURED PERSONS, AGED 16-64, AT 11th MARCH: INDUSTRIAL ANALYSIS.

The statistics here presented show, industry by industry, the estimated number of persons, aged 16-64, insured against unemployment at July, 1939, and the total number and percentage of such persons unemployed on 11th March, 1940, distinguishing those wholly unemployed (i.e., out of a situation) from those temporarily stopped (i.e., suspended from work on the understanding that they were shortly to return to their former employment).

The Unemployment Insurance Acts provide, subject to certain exceptions, for the compulsory insurance against unemployment of substantially all employed persons. The principal classes of excepted employments are indoor private domestic service, employment otherwise than by way of manual labour at a rate of remuneration exceeding in value £250 a year, employment as female professional nurse, and, subject to certain qualifications, employment in the teaching profession and in the police forces. Employment under public or local authorities, railways and public utility companies may, in certain circumstances, also be excepted. Persons aged 65 and over, and certain other classes, are excluded from insurance. The Unemployment Insurance Acts do not apply to persons serving in an established capacity in the permanent service of the Crown. Some persons employed in agricultural occupations are also outside the scope of the agricultural scheme, including sons, daughters, and other near relatives of the employer, persons not working under a contract of service, and persons engaged in such casual harvesting work as hop-picking, or gathering flowers, fruit, peas or potatoes (unless they normally undertake other insurable work). Persons not domiciled in Great Britain, such as Irish migratory labourers, are not included in the figures. Prior to September, 1934, juveniles under 16 years of age were also excepted, and they are excluded from the statistics in these Tables; particulars of the numbers of these juveniles recorded as unemployed at 11th March, 1940, however, are given on page 114.

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

The files of "lodged" books at the Employment Exchanges thus furnish for each industrial group a record of the unemployment of insured persons. In arriving at this figure the books of those persons who are known to be working in an uninsured trade, or to be sick or deceased, or to have gone abroad, are excluded. Where information on these points is lacking, the books remain in the "lodged" files, and are included in the statistics of unemployment, for a period of two months from the date on which the insured person was last in touch with the Exchange.

The numbers unemployed given in the following Tables relate only to persons, aged 16-64, insured against unemployment. They include insured persons of those ages maintaining registration at Employment Exchanges, together with those whose unemployment books remain lodged in the "two months" file referred to above. The figures given on pages 107, 108 and 109 relating to persons registered at Employment Exchanges include uninsured as well as insured persons who are maintaining registration for employment, but not insured persons whose books are in the two months file. A Table showing the composition of the two series of figures is given on page 109.

The estimated numbers of insured persons in each industry are computed once a year, about November, on the basis of information obtained at the annual exchange of unemployment books. The figures relate to the beginning of July, and similar statistics are not available for other dates in the year. In considering the figures on pages 112 and 113 it should be borne in mind that the percentage rates of unemployment at February and March, 1940, have been calculated on the basis of the estimated numbers of insured persons at July, 1939. It is probable that considerable changes in the numbers insured have occurred in many industries since that date, owing to transfers into the munitions, etc., industries and to recruitment for H.M. Forces; but information is not available to show the effects of such movements on the percentages. The figures for March, 1939, used for the purpose of comparison, have been calculated on the basis of the estimated numbers of insured persons at July, 1938 (but see footnote † on page 113 regarding the percentages for all industries combined).

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals), TEMPORARY STOPPAGES, TOTAL, and WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED, TEMPORARY STOPPAGES AND CASUALS. Rows include Agricultural Scheme, Fishing, Mining, Non-Metalliferous Mining Products, Brick, Tile, Pipe, etc., Pottery, Earthenware, etc., Glass, Chemicals, Paints, Oils, etc., Metal Manufacture, and Engineering, etc.

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

* Persons insured under the Special Schemes for the banking and insurance industries are included in these figures. † Including 48,243 casuals (males, 46,613; females, 1,630). Of these, 318 males and 34 females were insured under the Agricultural Scheme.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS, AGED 16-64, AT JULY, 1939, PERCENTAGES AT 11TH MARCH, 1940, INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH 12TH FEB., 1940, 13TH MARCH, 1939, GREAT BRITAIN ONLY: TOTAL PERCENTAGES AT 11TH MARCH, 1940.

* See footnote * on page 113.

† See footnote † on page 113.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS, AGED 16-64, AT JULY, 1939, PERCENTAGES AT 11TH MARCH, 1940, WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals), TEMPORARY STOPPAGES, TOTAL, INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH 12TH FEB., 1940, 13TH MARCH, 1939, GREAT BRITAIN ONLY: TOTAL PERCENTAGES AT 11TH MARCH, 1940.

* The percentages of unemployment shown for individual industries have been computed by relating the numbers unemployed at 11th March to the numbers insured at July, 1939. In many industries there have probably been considerable changes, since that date, in the numbers insured, owing to transfers into the munitions, etc. industries and into H.M. Forces; but information is not available to show how far the percentages given would be affected by such transfers.

† Persons insured under the Special Schemes for the banking and insurance industries are included in these figures. ‡ The percentage for all industries and services combined for March, 1939, used for this comparison, is the revised figure based on the estimated number insured at that date—see article on page 409 of the December, 1939, issue of this GAZETTE. The percentages for February and March, 1940, have been computed on the basis of the numbers insured at July, 1939, and are subject to revision when particulars become available as to the numbers of persons insured at July, 1940.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED.

The following Table shows, for Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the variations in unemployment in those industries in which the total numbers of insured persons, aged 16-64, recorded as unemployed at 11th March, 1940, differed from the figures for 12th February, 1940, by 3,000 or more:—

Table with columns: Industry, Males, Females, Total, Industry, Males, Females, Total. It lists industries where unemployment numbers changed significantly between Feb 12 and Mar 11, 1940.

JUVENILE UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS.

DIVISIONAL ANALYSES: JUVENILES UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE.

UNEMPLOYED JUVENILES ON REGISTERS.

The following Table shows the numbers of juveniles, under 18 years of age, on the registers of Employment Exchanges and Juvenile Employment Bureaux in each administrative division at 11th March, 1940:—

Division	Boys.			Girls.		
	Aged 14 and 15.	Aged 16 and 17.	Total.	Aged 14 and 15.	Aged 16 and 17.	Total.
	London ...	1,566	2,242	3,808	2,854	3,147
Eastern ...	426	847	1,273	577	1,065	1,642
Southern ...	686	805	1,491	1,539	1,585	3,124
South-Western ...	317	638	955	419	633	1,052
Midlands ...	131	333	464	322	569	891
North-Midlands ...	176	550	726	531	973	1,504
North-Eastern ...	423	807	1,230	981	1,326	2,307
North-Western ...	1,198	2,346	3,544	2,056	2,827	4,883
Northern ...	2,328	2,020	4,348	4,222	3,722	7,944
Scotland ...	1,691	2,704	4,395	2,896	4,015	6,911
Wales ...	1,515	1,924	3,439	2,462	2,812	5,274
Great Britain ...	10,457	15,216	25,673	18,859	22,674	41,533
N. Ireland ...	338	2,089	2,427	200	1,100	1,300
Gt. Britain and N. Ireland ...	10,795	17,305	28,100	19,059	23,774	42,833

INSURED JUVENILES RECORDED AS UNEMPLOYED.

The Table below shows the numbers of insured juveniles, under 18 years of age, recorded as unemployed in each administrative division at 11th March, 1940.

These figures include not only insured juveniles on the register, but also those whose unemployment books were in the "two months' file" (see paragraph below the Table in the next column). The effect of the inclusion of the "two months' file" is especially marked in the case of the London and Midlands Divisions.

Division	Boys.			Girls.		
	Aged 14 and 15.	Aged 16 and 17.	Total.	Aged 14 and 15.	Aged 16 and 17.	Total.
	London ...	1,835	2,110	3,945	2,619	2,902
Eastern ...	437	870	1,307	421	1,016	1,437
Southern ...	480	795	1,275	899	1,440	2,339
South-Western ...	224	582	806	235	531	766
Midlands ...	235	350	585	388	555	943
North-Midlands ...	275	569	844	467	975	1,442
North-Eastern ...	298	762	1,060	574	1,246	1,820
North-Western ...	1,371	2,367	3,738	1,953	2,683	4,636
Northern ...	1,118	1,907	3,025	1,786	3,080	4,866
Scotland ...	1,338	2,682	4,020	2,051	3,739	5,790
Wales ...	595	1,655	2,250	692	1,758	2,450
Special Schemes ...	—	18	18	—	40	40
Great Britain ...	8,206	14,667	22,873	12,085	19,965	32,050
N. Ireland ...	453	2,017	2,470	305	1,048	1,353
Gt. Britain and N. Ireland ...	8,659	16,684	25,343	12,390	21,013	33,403

JUVENILES ATTENDING AUTHORISED COURSES OF INSTRUCTION.

The following Table shows the numbers of juveniles, under 18 years of age, in attendance at authorised courses of instruction in each administrative division in March, 1940:—

Division	Week ended 20th March, 1940.				Month ended 20th March, 1940.				Total number of individuals who have attended Junior Instruction Centres and Classes* since 1st April, 1939.
	Junior Instruction Centres and Classes.		Other Educational Institutions.		Junior Instruction Centres and Classes.		Other Educational Institutions.		
	No. of Centres.	No. of Classes.	Average attendance.	No. of Institutions.	Average attendance.	No. of Centres.	Average attendance.	No. of Institutions.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	
London ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	720
Eastern ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,047
Southern ...	1	—	—	24	—	—	—	—	922
S. Western ...	—	1	—	10	—	6	11	—	1,000
Midlands ...	1	—	30	28	—	—	—	—	1,134
N. Midlands ...	1	1	13	38	—	—	—	—	1,265
N. Eastern ...	6	2	241	545	1	1	1	—	7,881
N. Western ...	3	—	96	109	—	—	—	—	15,670
Northern ...	2	—	—	208	—	—	—	—	16,333
Scotland ...	8	2	194	770	12	19	17	—	19,125
Wales ...	21	3	773	1,241	1	—	1	—	15,771
Great Britain...†	44†	9†	1,347	2,979	24	26	30	—	80,868

* Comparable figures for other educational institutions are not available. † Of these, one Junior Instruction Centre and two classes were temporarily closed.

INDUSTRIAL ANALYSIS: JUVENILES UNDER 16 YEARS OF AGE.

The Table below shows for each group of industries, and for the principal industries, the numbers of insured boys and girls under 16 years of age recorded as unemployed in Great Britain, and in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, at 11th March, 1940:—

Industry.	Great Britain.		Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Agricultural Scheme:—				
Farming, Forestry, etc. ...	226	147	243	147
Market Gardening ...	50	89	57	90
Other Employments (including Private Gardening) ...	48	3	49	3
Total, Agricultural Scheme ...	324	239	349	240
Fishing ...	10	—	10	—
Mining:—				
Coal Mining ...	172	7	172	7
All other Mining, etc. ...	39	5	40	5
Total, Mining ...	211	12	212	12
Non-Metallic Mining Products ...	27	13	29	13
Brick, Tile, Pipe, etc., Making ...	86	9	87	9
Pottery, Earthenware, etc. ...	19	41	19	41
Glass ...	33	63	34	63
Chemical, Paints, Oils, etc. ...	66	275	66	275
Metal Manufacture ...	92	33	94	33
Engineering, etc.:—				
General Engineering, Engineers' Iron and Steel Founding ...	371	88	400	88
Other Engineering ...	122	64	123	64
Total, Engineering ...	493	152	523	152
Construction and Repair of Vehicles:—				
Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft	202	37	214	39
Other Vehicles ...	24	4	25	4
Total, Vehicles ...	226	41	239	43
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing ...	65	—	66	—
Other Metal Industries:—				
Electric Cable, Apparatus, Lamps, etc.	126	237	126	237
All others ...	406	331	411	332
Total, Other Metal Industries ...	532	568	537	569
Textiles:—				
Cotton Preparing, Spinning, etc. ...	30	43	30	43
Cotton Manufacturing (Weaving, etc.) ...	11	53	11	53
Total, Cotton ...	41	96	41	96
Woolen and Worsted ...	20	79	20	80
Linen ...	6	39	48	138
Hosiery ...	8	155	9	156
All other Textiles ...	70	308	94	321
Total, Textiles ...	145	677	212	791
Leather, Leather Goods, Fur ...	41	92	41	92
Clothing:—				
Tailoring ...	95	541	100	567
Dress Making and Millinery ...	10	358	10	358
Shirts, Collars, Underclothing, etc. ...	11	261	20	322
Boots, Shoes, Slippers and Clogs ...	91	105	94	105
Other Clothing ...	18	119	18	119
Total, Clothing ...	225	1,364	242	1,451
Food, Drink and Tobacco:—				
Bread, Biscuits, Cakes, etc. ...	110	509	111	516
Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery ...	14	477	14	478
Tobacco, Cigars, Cigarettes and Snuff	1	30	1	40
All other Food and Drink ...	110	416	122	419
Total, Food, Drink, etc. ...	235	1,432	248	1,453
Woodworking, etc.:—				
Furniture Making, Upholstering, etc.	179	97	183	99
All other Woodworking ...	253	66	253	66
Total, Woodworking, etc. ...	432	163	436	165
Paper, Printing, etc.:—				
Cardboard Boxes, Paper Bags and Stationery ...	32	184	32	187
Printing, Publishing and Bookbinding	181	349	192	359
Other Paper, Printing, etc. ...	25	83	25	83
Total, Paper, Printing, etc. ...	238	616	249	629
Building and Contracting:—				
Building ...	421	25	437	25
Public Works Contracting, etc. ...	92	2	92	2
Total, Building and Contracting ...	513	27	529	27
Other Manufacturing Industries:—				
Rubber	21	75	21	75
Scientific and Photographic Instruments and Apparatus ...	38	37	41	37
Toys, Games and Sports Requisites	33	130	33	130
All Others ...	14	54	15	54
Total, Other Manufacturing ...	106	296	110	296
Gas, Water and Electricity Supply ...	22	9	22	9
Transport and Communication ...	289	26	289	26
Distributive Trades ...	2,984	3,769	3,179	3,815
Commerce, Banking, Insurance and Finance* ...	60	67	62	67
Miscellaneous Trades and Services:—				
Professional Services ...	86	265	91	267
Entertainments, Sport, etc. ...	94	176	103	179
Hotel, Public House, Restaurant, Boarding House, Club, etc. Service	145	683	161	691
Laundry Service ...	106	533	111	536
Job Dyeing, Dry Cleaning, etc. ...	48	74	49	74
All other Industries and Services ...	253	370	260	372
Total, Miscellaneous ...	782	2,101	775	2,118
Total, General Scheme* ...	7,882	11,846	8,310	12,150
Total, General and Agricultural Schemes* ...	8,206	12,085	8,659	12,390

The figures above include those boys and girls whose unemployment books were in the "two-months' file" of lodged books, i.e., boys and girls who had registered as unemployed at some date within the previous two months and were not known to have found work, but were not maintaining registration as applicants for employment.

* Persons insured under the Special Schemes for the banking and insurance industries are included in these figures.

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—The following paragraphs include an abstract of such official and other information as is available with regard to the state of employment abroad, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the statistics published in the various countries are, however, not the same as those of the statistics relating to this country; and therefore the figures quoted below cannot properly be used with those on pp. 107-108 to compare the actual level of employment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland with that in other countries.]

BELGIUM.*

RETURNS received by the National Employment and Unemployment Office from approved unemployment insurance funds with a total membership of 1,015,514 showed that 17.3 per cent. of these were totally unemployed in December, 1939, as compared with 17.1 per cent. in November, 1939, and 16.9 per cent. in December, 1938. In addition, 13.4 per cent. were employed intermittently in December, 1939, as compared with 13.2 per cent. in November, 1939, and 23.6 per cent. in December, 1938. In December, 1939, 20.6 per cent. of the aggregate possible working days were lost through unemployment, as compared with 19.8 per cent. in the previous month and 23.7 per cent. in December, 1938.

EIRE.†

The number of persons on the live registers of the Employment Exchanges fell from 117,394 at 24th February, 1940, to 87,689 at 30th March. The figure for the latter date is affected by the entry into force, on 6th March, of two Orders issued under the Unemployment Assistance Act, 1933, the effect of which is to restrict, during the period from 6th March to 29th October, the eligibility for unemployment assistance of two classes of persons living in rural areas. At 27th March, 1939, when an Order affecting only one of these classes was in force, the total number of persons on the live registers was 106,859.

NETHERLANDS.‡

Figures compiled by the State Department of Unemployment Insurance and Employment Exchanges show that, of 594,250 members of subsidised unemployment funds making returns for the week ended 27th January, 1940, 30.3 per cent. were unemployed during the whole week and 3.3 per cent. for less than 6 days. In the corresponding week of the preceding month the percentages were 25.3 and 3.5, and in the last week of January, 1939, 26.1 and 4.7. At the end of January, 1940, 371,525 applicants for work were registered at public Employment Exchanges, of whom 297,874 were unemployed; at the end of the previous month the corresponding totals were 345,452 and 270,811, and at the end of January, 1939, 424,448 and 405,927.

SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES.

Norway.§—Returns furnished by ten trade unions with a total membership of 94,943 show that 23.9 per cent. of this membership were unemployed at the end of January, 1940, as compared with 21.9 per cent. at the end of December, 1939, and 27.6 per cent. at the end of January, 1939.

Sweden.¶—Of a total of approximately 704,000 members covered by the returns of the reporting trade unions, 14.4 per cent. were unemployed at the end of February, 1940, as compared with 14.0 per cent. at the end of the previous month, and 13.0 per cent. at the end of February, 1939.

SWITZERLAND.**

Notwithstanding the calling up of unemployed persons for compulsory labour service, there was a heavy increase in unemployment during January, mainly due to the effects of the severe weather. At the end of that month 41,080 applications for employment (27.0 per thousand of the employed population according to the census of 1930) were registered at Employment Exchanges, as compared with 29,535 (19.0 per thousand) at the end of December, 1939, and 85,377 (59.5 per thousand) at the end of January, 1939.

Returns from unemployment insurance funds show that, of a total membership of 541,995, 6.2 per cent. were wholly, and 2.3 per cent. partially, unemployed at the end of December, 1939, the corresponding percentages being 4.2 and 2.8 at the end of September, 1939, and 13.7 and 4.8 at the end of December, 1938.

UNITED STATES.††

According to returns received by the Bureau of Labour Statistics from employers, covering over 50 per cent. of the aggregate number of wage-earners in manufacturing industries, the number of workpeople employed at the middle of January, 1940, showed a decline of 2.4 per cent. as compared with the previous month. Aggregate weekly earnings in the establishments covered fell during the same period by 5.3 per cent. If the average monthly index of employment in manufacturing industries for the three years 1923-25 be taken as 100, the corresponding index for January, 1940, was 101.6 per cent. as compared with 104.1 per cent. for the previous month, and 92.2 for January, 1939.

At the end of January, 1940, 6,011,691 applications for employment were registered at the Public Employment Exchanges, an increase of 5.5 per cent. as compared with the previous month, but a decline of 18.2 per cent. as compared with January, 1939.

* Revue du Travail, March, 1940. Brussels.
† Information supplied by the Department of Industry and Commerce, Dublin.
‡ Maandbericht van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek, February, 1940. The Hague.
§ Information supplied by the Central Bureau of Statistics, Oslo.
¶ Information supplied by the Department for Social Affairs, Stockholm.
** Provisional figure.
†† La Vie Economique, February, 1940. Berne.
‡‡ Survey of Current Business, March, 1940, and Employment Security Review, March, 1940. Washington.
‡‡ Revised figure.

CANADA.*

Employment showed a decline at the beginning of March. The total number of workpeople employed at 1st March, 1940, by 11,899 firms from which returns were received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics was 1,109,443, as compared with 1,118,003 at the beginning of February. If the average number of workpeople employed by the reporting firms in the year 1926 be represented by 100, the index of employment at 1st March, 1940, was 113.5, as compared with 114.4 at 1st February, 1940, and 106.5 at 1st March, 1939.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

CHANGES IN RETAIL PRICES AND COST OF LIVING.

Summary of Index Figures for 1st April.

Average Increase since July, 1914 ...	58%	78%
Average Change since 1st March, 1940	Index points ... -3	-1
	Per cent. ... -2*	-1*

FOOD.

The principal change in retail food prices during March was a reduction, averaging about 1d. each, in the prices of eggs, which had been at an abnormally high level at the beginning of that month owing mainly to the severe weather in February. On the other hand, there was an increase, averaging nearly 3d. per 7 lb., in the prices of potatoes, and the prices of fish rose by about 4 per cent. on average. The other articles of food included within the scope of these statistics showed little or no change in price during the month.

The following Table compares the average retail prices in the United Kingdom generally at 1st April, 1940, as shown by the returns collected for the purpose of these statistics, with the corresponding prices at 1st March, 1940, and 1st September, 1939:—

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated—to the nearest 1/4d.) at—			Percentage Inc. or Dec. (—) at 1st April, 1940, compared with	
	1st Apr., 1940.	1st Mar., 1940.	1st Sept., 1939.	1st Mar., 1940.	1st Sept., 1939.
Beef, British—	s. 7d.	s. 6d.	s. 6d.		
Ribs ...	1 3/4	1 3/4	1 2 1/2	—	10
Thin Flank ...	0 9 1/2	0 9 1/2	0 7 1/2	1	26
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—					
Ribs ...	1 0 1/2	1 0 1/2	0 9 1/2	1	34
Thin Flank ...	0 6	0 6	0 4 1/2	—	23
Mutton, British—					
Legs ...	1 5 1/2	1 5 1/2	1 3 1/2	1	13
Breast ...	0 8	0 8	0 7 1/2	—	8
Mutton, Frozen—					
Legs ...	1 0	1 0	0 10 1/2	—	15
Breast ...	0 4	0 4	0 4	1	—
Bacon† ...	1 6 1/2	1 6 1/2	1 3	—	23
Fish ...					
Flour ... per 7 lb.	1 1 1/2	1 1 1/2	1 1 1/2	—	34
Bread ... per 4 lb.	0 8 1/2	0 8 1/2	0 8 1/2	—	3
Tea ...	2 5 1/2	2 5 1/2	2 4	—	6
Sugar (granulated) ...	0 4 1/2	0 4 1/2	0 3	—	49
Milk ... per quart	0 7	0 7	0 6 1/2	—	2
Butter—					
Fresh ...	1 6 1/2	1 7	1 4 1/2	—	14
Salt ...	1 6 1/2	1 6 1/2	1 3 1/2	—	23
Cheese‡ ...	1 2	1 2	0 10	1	41
Margarine ...	0 7 1/2	0 7 1/2	0 6 1/2	1	11
Eggs (fresh) ... each	0 1 1/2	0 2 1/2	0 2	—34	—6
Potatoes ... per 7 lb.	0 8	0 7 1/2	0 6 1/2	9	22

Of the average rise of 1 1/4d. per lb., since 1st September, in the price of sugar, 1d. per lb. is due to the increased duty provided for by the last Budget.

The following Table shows the average percentage increases or decreases in prices at 1st September, 1939, 1st March, 1940, and 1st April, 1940, respectively, as compared with July, 1914:—

Article.	Average Percentage Increase or Decrease (—) since July, 1914, at—		
	1st September, 1939.	1st March, 1940.	1st April, 1940.
Beef, British—	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Ribs ...	44	59	59
Thin Flank ...	15	44	45
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—			
Ribs ...	32	75	76
Thin Flank ...	1	24	25
Mutton, British—			
Legs ...	48	67	67
Breast ...	14	23	23
Mutton, Frozen—			
Legs ...	51	73	74
Breast ...	—3	—3	—3
Bacon† ...	35	65	65
Fish ...	116	180	190
Flour ...	26	28	28
Bread ...	42	46	47
Tea ...	52	62	62
Sugar (granulated) ...	46	118	118
Milk ...	92	97	96
Butter—			
Fresh ...	13	30	29
Salt ...	7	32	32
Cheese‡ ...	16	62	63
Margarine ...	—8	2	3
Eggs (fresh) ...	58	122	48
Potatoes ...	33	50	63
All above articles (Weighted Average) ...	38	61	58

* A fall of 3 points on a total of 161 for food (the figure for July, 1914, being 100) is equivalent to about 2 per cent.; similarly, a fall of 1 point on a total of 179 for "all items" is equivalent to about one-half of one per cent.
 † The decrease in price as compared with 1st March was slight, but sufficient to alter the average, expressed to the nearest 1/4d.
 ‡ The description of bacon specified for quotation is streaky, but where this kind was seldom being sold the returns relate to another kind, locally representative.
 § Mostly Canadian or New Zealand cheese, but in some districts the returns relate to another kind, locally representative.

On the basis of the figures in the foregoing Table, the average level of retail prices of food at 1st April was about 2 per cent. lower than at 1st March and about 1 1/4 per cent. higher than at the beginning of September, 1939.

ITEMS OTHER THAN FOOD.

There has been no change since the beginning of September, 1939, in the general level of working-class rents (including rates). As compared with July, 1914, the average increase is estimated at about 62 per cent.

As regards clothing, information collected from representative retailers in a number of the principal towns indicates that at 1st April the prices of clothing of the kinds generally bought by working-class families averaged about 2 per cent. higher than at 1st March, and about 31 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939. For men's suits and overcoats, the average increase during March was about 3 per cent.; for woollen materials, under-clothing and hosiery the increase was about 2 per cent.; for cotton materials and hosiery it was about 2 per cent.; and for boots and shoes it was about 2 per cent. Owing to the wide range of quotations, to changes in qualities, and to the variations in the extent to which different articles have been affected by price changes, it is not possible to make an exact comparison over a long period of years, but on the basis of such information as is available it is estimated that at 1st April the average rise over the level of July, 1914, was about 170 to 175 per cent.

In the fuel and light group, prices of coal at 1st April were, on the average, about the same as at 1st March, but about 9 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 111 per cent. higher than in July, 1914. The average price of gas at 1st April was about 1 per cent. above the level of a month earlier, 18 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 82 per cent. higher than in July, 1914. Prices of candles and of lamp oil rose about 2 per cent. during March, while those of matches showed little change. For the fuel and light group as a whole, the average level of prices at 1st April was less than 1 per cent. higher than at 1st March, 13 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 105 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

As regards other items included in these statistics, there were increases during March in the prices of soap, averaging between 1 and 2 per cent., and of domestic ironmongery, brushware and pottery, averaging between 1 and 2 per cent. The prices of soda, newspapers, tobacco and cigarettes, and fares remained generally unchanged, during the month. For the "miscellaneous" group of items, as a whole, the average level at 1st April was less than 1 per cent. higher than at 1st March, about 8 per cent. above that at 1st September, 1939, and about 93 per cent. above the level of July, 1914.

ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance in working-class family expenditure prior to August, 1914, the resultant general average increase at 1st April, 1940, is approximately 78 per cent. over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 79 per cent. at 1st March, 1940, and 55 per cent. at 1st September, 1939. The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken at each date) is to show the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the standard of living prevailing in working-class families prior to August, 1914, no allowance being made for any changes in the standard of living since that date, or for any economies or re-adjustments in expenditure which may have been effected since the outbreak of the war.

The rise of 23 points since the beginning of September, 1939 (i.e., from 155 to 178 when July, 1914, is taken as 100) is equivalent to about 15 per cent. Of these 23 points, between 1 1/2 and 2 points are due to the increases, since that date, in the taxes on sugar and tobacco.

SUMMARY TABLE: ALL ITEMS.

The following Table shows the average percentage increase, as compared with July, 1914, for all the items included in the statistics, at the beginning of each month, 1920 to 1940:—

Year.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1920	125	130	130	132	141	150	152	155	161	164	176	169
1921	165	151	141	133	128	119	119	122	120	110	103	99
1922	92	88	86	82	81	80	84	81	79	78	80	80
1923	78	77	76	74	70	69	69	71	73	75	75	77
1924	77	79	78	73	71	69	70	71	72	76	80	81
1925	80	79	79	75	73	72	73	73	74	76	76	77
1926	75	73	72	68	67	68	70	70	72	74	79	79
1927	75	72	71	65	64	63	66	64	65	67	69	69
1928	68	66	64	64	64	65	65	65	65	66	67	68
1929	67	65	66	62	61	60	61	63	64	65	67	67
1930	66	64	61	57	55	54	55	57	57	56	57	55
1931	53	52	50	47	47	45	47	45	45	45	46	48
1932	47	47	46	44	43	42	43	41	41	43	43	43
1933	42	41	39	37	36	36	38	39	41	41	43	43
1934	42	41	40	39	37	38	41	42	43	43	44	44
1935	43	42	41	39	39	40	43	43	43	45	47	47
1936	47	47	46	44	44	44	46	46	47	48	51	51
1937	51	51	51	51	52	52	55	55	55	58	60	60
1938	59	57	56	54	56	55	59	56	56	56	56	56
1939	55	55	53	53	53	53	56	55	55	65	69	73
1940	74	77	79	78								

A detailed account of the method of compilation of these statistics, "The Cost of Living Index Number: Method of Compilation," is obtainable, price 3d. net (3 1/2d. post free), from H.M. Stationery Office at any of the addresses shown on the cover of this GAZETTE.

TRADE DISPUTES IN MARCH.*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in March in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 82, as compared with 57 in the previous month and 64 in March, 1939. In these 82 new disputes about 31,800 workpeople were directly involved, and 3,700 workpeople indirectly involved (i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes). In addition, about 17,100 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 15 disputes which began before March and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 97, involving 52,600 workpeople, and resulting in a loss, during March, estimated at 165,000 working days.

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

Industry Group.	Number of Disputes in progress in Month.			Number of Workpeople Involved in all Disputes in progress in Month.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in Month.
	Started before beginning of Month.	Started in Month.	Total.		
Mining and Quarrying ...	4	38	42	40,200†	97,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ...	5	18	23	4,900	15,000
Textile ...	1	6	7	2,000	34,000
Building, etc. ...	2	7	9	4,300	14,000
Other ...	3	13	16	1,200	5,000
Total, March, 1940 ...	15	82	97	52,600	165,000
Total, February, 1940 ...	14	57	71	40,800	168,000
Total, March, 1939 ...	18	64	82	20,000	90,000

Causes.—Of the 82 disputes beginning in March, 26, directly involving 9,500 workpeople, arose out of demands for advances in wages, 2, directly involving 1,800 workpeople, out of proposed wage reductions, and 19, directly involving 7,200 workpeople, on other wage questions; 13, directly involving 2,600 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons;

14, directly involving 3,100 workpeople, on other questions respecting working arrangements; and 5, directly involving 1,000 workpeople, on questions of trade union principle. Three stoppages of work, directly involving 6,600 workpeople, were in support of workers involved in other disputes.

Results.—Final settlements of disputes which terminated during March have been effected in the case of 82 disputes, directly involving 29,700 workpeople. Of these disputes, 16, directly involving 5,100 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 52, directly involving 23,100 workpeople, were settled in favour of the employers; and 14, directly involving 1,500 workpeople, resulted in a compromise. In the case of 7 other disputes, directly involving 15,300 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

TOTALS FOR THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 1940 AND 1939.†

Industry Group.	January to March, 1940.			January to March, 1939.		
	No. of Disputes beginning in period.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.	No. of Disputes beginning in period.	Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.
Fishing and Agriculture ...	2	3,300	20,000	4	900	41,000
Mining and Quarrying ...	97	95,400	277,000	71	33,300	92,000
Engineering ...	17	11,200	32,000	21	11,500	44,000
Shipbuilding ...	15	1,400	3,000	6	1,300	6,000
Other Metal ...	27	4,000	17,000	19	1,700	10,000
Textile ...	18	3,300	44,000	11	1,900	29,000
Clothing ...	10	3,500	12,000	6	1,400	1,000
Food, Drink and Tobacco ...	3	3,800	8,000	3	300	5,000
Building, etc. ...	14	5,700	26,000	31	4,700	41,000
Transport ...	8	1,500	4,000	8	4,700	13,000
Other ...	21	1,000	6,000	20	2,300	14,000
Total ...	232	134,200	449,000	200	64,000	296,000

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING MARCH.

Occupations‡ and Locality.	Approximate Number of Workpeople Involved.		Date when Dispute Began.		Cause or Object.	Result.
	Directly.	In-directly.§	Began.	Ended.		
COAL MINING:— Colliery workpeople—East Wemyss, Fife (one colliery).	1,168	225	1 Mar.	2 Mar.	Dissatisfaction of certain female pithead workers with recent advance in wages.	Work resumed on advice of trade union officials.
Colliery workpeople—near Barnsley (one colliery).	598	1,200	11 Mar.	13 Mar.	Dissatisfaction with interpretation of national agreement for a war addition to wages.	Work resumed on terms in operation prior to stoppage.
Colliery workpeople—near Doncaster (one colliery).	3,300	700	12 Mar.	13 Mar.	Claim by haulage hands for advance in wages.	Work resumed on advice of trade union officials.
Colliery workpeople—Neath, Glam. (certain collieries).	2,966	...	18-20 Mar.	30 Mar.	Dissatisfaction with extra payments allowed in one colliery for pushing trams in steep places, and other grievances.	Work resumed pending negotiations.
Colliery workpeople—near Doncaster (one colliery).	1,800	...	19 Mar.	27 Mar.	Against proposed revision in piece-work rates for pan turners.	Employers' offer of 10s. a shift plus percentages accepted, pending negotiations.
ENGINEERING:— Electricians and other workpeople employed in aircraft manufacture—Coventry (one firm).	2,752	...	26 Feb.	2 Mar.	Dissatisfaction with piece-work price of a certain job, and other grievances.	Work resumed on terms in operation prior to stoppage.
NUT, BOLT, ETC. MANUFACTURE:— Machine workers, packers and inspectors employed in rivet, nut and bolt manufacture—Glasgow (one firm).	450	...	27 Mar.	29 Mar.	For advance in wages of 5s. a week.	Advances of 5s. a week conceded to male workers aged 18 years and over and to all female time-workers and of 2s. 6d. a week to youths under 18 years of age; female pieceworkers' rates increased by 10 per cent.
LINEN MANUFACTURE:— Weavers, winders and ancillary workers—Belfast (one firm).	1,450	...	26 Feb.	13 April	Refusal to work with non-unionists.	Amicable settlement effected.
BUILDING, ETC.:— Carpenters and other workpeople—London (one firm).	120	320	12 Jan.	23 Mar.	For reinstatement of a dismissed carpenter.	Work resumed unconditionally.
Labourers—near Warrington (one firm).	2,000	...	27 Mar.	27 Mar.	For payment of building trade rate of wages instead of civil engineering rate.	Building trade rate of wages paid.

* 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, etc.) exceeded 100 days.
 † This figure includes a considerable number of workpeople who were absent from work, mostly for one or two days, early in March, as a result of the dispute beginning in February at certain collieries in Yorkshire, particulars of which were given on page 89 of last month's issue of this GAZETTE.
 ‡ In making up these totals the figures have been amended in accordance with the most recent information. Workpeople involved in more than one dispute are counted more than once in the totals; the amount of such duplication, however, is slight, except in coal mining, in which the net number of workpeople involved was approximately 74,000 in 1940, and 31,000 in 1939. For all industries combined the net totals were approximately 113,000 in 1940, and 61,000 in 1939.
 § The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople indirectly involved, i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred but not themselves parties to the disputes.
 || The stoppage began with the night shift of 26th March.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN MARCH.

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 March in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an increase estimated at about £144,500 in the weekly full-time wages of about 589,000 workpeople and in a decrease of £800 in those of over 20,000 workpeople.

The particulars are analysed by industry groups below:—

Industry Group.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Estimated Amount of change in Weekly Wages	
	Increases.	Decreases.	£	£
Mining and Quarrying ...	211,800	20,500	14,250	800
Metal ...	95,500	—	19,250	—
Textile ...	38,100	—	4,000	—
Other ...	244,000	—	107,000	—
Total ...	589,400	20,500	144,500	800

In the mining and quarrying group there were increases in the percentage additions to basis rates in Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire, and South Derbyshire, and decreases in Leicestershire, and Somersetshire, these changes being due to fluctuations in the proceeds of the industry as shown by the district ascertainment. In North Derbyshire and in Cannock Chase there were also decreases in the percentage additions, but these were counterbalanced by increases in the flat-rate war additions, with the result that, on balance, there was no change in the total wages payable.

In the metal industries the principal increase affected workpeople in steel melting shops and rolling mills, for whom the percentage addition to basis rates was increased by 10 per cent., representing an advance, generally, of nearly 6½ per cent. on current rates.

In the textile group the principal increases affected workers in the flax and hemp trade in Great Britain; workers in the asbestos industry; rope, twine and net makers; hosiery workers at Hawick; and lambwool and worsted yarn spinners at Leicester.

The principal groups of workers affected by the increases in the other industry groups were seamen, who received increases in their standard rates of pay of generally £1 a month or 5s. a week, together with increases of £2 a month or 9s. 4d. a week in the "war risk money"; glass workers in various districts; brush and broom makers in Great Britain; workers employed in the coffin furniture trade in Great Britain; shoe and slipper makers in the Rossendale

Valley; coopers and road transport workers in certain areas. Of the estimated total increase of £144,500 a week, £91,550 was due to arrangements made by joint standing bodies (including £3,000 under cost-of-living sliding scales arranged by such bodies); £3,900 was due to the operation of other cost-of-living sliding scales; £13,100 was due to the operation of sliding scales based on the proceeds of the coal mining industry; and the remaining £35,950 was the result of direct negotiations between employers and workpeople or their representatives. The whole of the estimated total decrease of £800 a week was due to the operation of sliding scales based on the proceeds of the coal mining industry.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES REPORTED IN JANUARY-MARCH, 1940.†

The following Table shows the number of workpeople in Great Britain and Northern Ireland affected by increases in rates of wages reported to the Department during these three months, and the net aggregate amounts of such increases. No workpeople were reported as having sustained a net decrease in this period:—

Industry Group.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by net increases.	Estimated Net Amount of Increase in Weekly Wages.
Coal Mining ...	778,200	£ 79,400
Other Mining and Quarrying ...	39,500	5,300
Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc. ...	155,100	18,550
Iron and Steel ...	125,800	25,850
Engineering ...	908,300	198,700
Shipbuilding ...	139,200	33,050
Other Metal ...	251,800	40,650
Textile ...	622,600	85,750
Clothing ...	193,700	19,800
Food, Drink and Tobacco ...	140,800	16,850
Woodworking, Furniture, etc. ...	91,300	11,100
Paper, Printing, etc. ...	—	—
Building, Public Works Contracting, etc. ...	947,500	94,400
Gas, Water, and Electricity Supply ...	78,200	11,800
Transport ...	591,400	179,200
Public Administration Services ...	55,000	8,550
Other ...	140,200	26,450
TOTAL ...	5,258,600	855,400

In the corresponding three months of 1939, there were net increases of £78,500 in the weekly full-time wages of 657,700 workpeople, and net decreases of £10,700 in those of 126,900 workpeople.

Hours of Labour.

The only change in hours of labour reported during March affected agricultural workers in Worcestershire.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MARCH.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Agriculture	Cheshire ...	31 Mar.	Female workers ...	Increase in minimum rate of 1d. an hour. Minimum rate after change at 18 years and over, 7d. an hour.†
	Norfolk ...	31 Mar.	Male workers ...	Increase in minimum rates ranging from 6d. a week at under 15 to 1s. 6d. at 21 years and over. Minimum rate after change for ordinary labourers at 21 years and over, 38s.§
	Kesteven and Lindsey divisions of Lincolnshire.	3 Mar.	Waggoners ...	Increase in minimum rates ranging from 7d. a week at 14 to 1s. 6d. at 21 years and over. Minimum rate after change at 21 years and over, 46s.§
			Shepherds 21 years and over ...	Increase in minimum rate of 1s. 6d. a week (42s. 6d. to 44s.)§
			Stockmen 21 years and over ...	Increase in minimum rate of 1s. 6d. a week (43s. 6d. to 45s.)§
	Worcestershire	3 Mar.	Other male workers ...	Increase in minimum rates ranging from 6d. a week at under 14 to 1s. 6d. at 21 years and over. Minimum rate after change at 21 years and over, 39s.§
			Female workers 18 years and over ...	Increase in minimum rates of ¼d. an hour. Minimum rate after change at 17 years and over, 7d. an hour.†
	Berkshire ...	31 Mar.	Female workers ...	Increase in minimum rate of ¼d. an hour (5½d. to 6d.)§
	Gloucestershire	24 Mar.	Female workers ...	Increase in minimum rates of ¼d. an hour at 17 and 1d. or 1½d. at 18 years and over. Minimum rate after change at 18 years and over, 7d. an hour.†
			Male workers ...	Increase in minimum rates ranging from 11d. a week at 16 to 2s. at 21 years and over for special classes, and of 3½d. a week at 14 to 1s. at 21 years and over for other workers. Minimum rate after change for ordinary labourers at 21 years and over, 36s.§
			Female workers 18 years and over ...	Increase in minimum rate of 1d. an hour (6d. to 7d.)§
			Male workers ...	Increase in minimum rates ranging from 6d. a week at 14 to 1s. 6d. at 21 years and over. Minimum rate after change at 21 years and over, 38s.§
	Essex ...	31 Mar.	Female workers ...	Increase in minimum rate of ¼d. an hour. Minimum rate after change at 21 years and over, 7½d. an hour.†
			Male workers ...	Increase in minimum rates ranging from 6d. a week at 14 to 2s. at 21 years and over. Minimum rate after change at 21 years and over, 37s.§
	Hampshire and Isle of Wight.	3 Mar.	Female workers ...	Increase in minimum rates ranging from 1d. an hour at 14 to 2d. at 18 years and over. Minimum rate after change at 18 years and over, 7d. an hour.†
Male workers ...			Increase in minimum rates ranging from 9d. a week at 14 to 2s. at 21 years and over. Minimum rate after change at 21 years and over, 38s.§	
Wiltshire ...	31 Mar.	Female workers ...	Increase in minimum rates of ¼d. an hour at 14 to under 17 years and 1d. at 17 and over. Minimum rate after change at 18 years and over, 7d. an hour.†	
Dorset ...	3 Mar.	Female workers ...	Increase in minimum rates ranging from 6d. a week at 14 to 1s. 6d. a week at 21 years and over, 37s. 6d.§	
		Male workers ...	Increase in minimum rates ranging from 5d. a week at 14 to 1s. at 21 years and over. Minimum rate after change at 21 years and over, 28s.§	
Monmouthshire ...	16 Mar.	Female workers ...	Increase in minimum rates of 2s. or 2s. 6d. a week. Minimum rate after change at 21 years and over, 37s. 6d.§	
			Male workers ...	Increase in minimum rates of ¼d. an hour. Minimum rate after change at 17 years and over, 7d. an hour.†

* The particulars of numbers affected and amount of change in the weekly wages and hours of labour exclude changes affecting Government employees, agricultural labourers, shop assistants and clerks, for which classes the information available is not sufficient to form a basis for statistics. Where information is available, however, details of changes in the wages and hours of these classes are shown in the list of principal changes recorded. The estimates of the effects of the changes on weekly wages are based on normal conditions of employment and do not take into account the effect of short-time working, etc. † The 20,500 workpeople whose rates of wages were reduced in March had received increases of greater amount during the first two months of 1940. ‡ Changes affecting workpeople employed in railway engineering workshops are included under "Engineering" and not under "Transport." § These increases took effect under Orders issued under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act, 1924.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MARCH—continued.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)
Agriculture—contd.	Merionethshire and Montgomeryshire.	3 Mar.	Male workers 21 years and over employed as stockmen, teamsters, carters or shepherds. Other male workers 21 years and over.	Increase in minimum rate of 2s. a week. Minimum rate after change for a week of 58 hours, 38s.*
			Male workers under 21 years of age	Increase in minimum rate of 2s. a week. Minimum rate after change for a week of 50 hours in summer and 48 in winter, 34s.*
	Carmarthenshire ...	3 Mar.	Female workers ...	Increase in minimum rates ranging from 9d. a week at under 15 to 2s. at 20 and under 21. Minimum rate after change for a week of 58 hours at 20 and under 21 years, 34s.*
			Male workers ...	Scale of minimum weekly rates fixed for a week of 48 hours of 22s. 6d. at under 18 years and 28s. at 18 and over, in lieu of hourly rates previously fixed.*
	Glamorganshire ...	2 Mar.	Female workers ...	Increase in minimum rates ranging from 1s. a week at 14 to 3s. at 21 years and over. Minimum rate after change at 21 years and over, 36s.*
			Stockmen, cattlemen, horsemen, shepherds or bailiffs.	Increase in minimum rates of 1d. an hour at 14 to under 16 and 2d. at 16 years and over. Minimum rate after change at 18 years and over, 7d. an hour.†
	Zetland, Orkney, Caithness and Sutherland.	11 Mar.	Other male workers ...	Increase in minimum rates of 2s. a week at 14 to under 17 and 3s. at 17 years and over. Minimum rate after change at 21 years and over, 43s.*
			Female workers ...	Increase in minimum rates of 2s. a week at 14 to under 17, and 3s. at 17 years and over. Minimum rate after change at 21 years and over, 39s.*
	Ross (Part), Inverness (Part), Nairn and Moray.	18 Mar.	Female workers ...	Increase in minimum rates of 1d. an hour. Minimum rate after change at 18 years and over, 7d. an hour.*
			Male workers ...	Increase in minimum rates of 1s. 6d. a week at under 20 and of 2s. 6d. at 20 years and over (casual workers, ¼d. or 1d. an hour).†
Banff, Aberdeen and Kincardine.	18 Mar.	Female workers ...	Increase in minimum rates of 6d. to 1s. 6d. a week (casual workers, ¼d. or 1d. an hour).†	
		Male workers ...	Increase in minimum rates of 5s. a week at 18 years and over, or of 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. for workers in horticulture or market gardening (casual workers ¼d. or 1d. an hour).†	
Argyll (Part), Inverness (Part), and Ross and Cromarty (Part).	4 Mar.	Female workers 18 years and over (except milkers and poultry workers).	Increase in minimum rates of ¼d. or 1d. an hour.†	
		Male workers ...	Increase in minimum rates of 2s. 6d. or 3s. 3d. a week (casual workers, ¼d. or 1d. an hour).†	
Angus and Perth (Part).	11 Mar.	Female workers ...	Increase in minimum rates of ¼d. or 1d. an hour (milkers 6d. to 1s. 6d. a week).†	
Fife and Kinross ...	11 Mar.	Male workers ...	Increase in minimum rates of 1s. 6d. to 4s. a week (poultry workers 1s. 6d. to 3s. 6d.; casual workers, ¼d. or 1d. an hour).†	
		Female workers ...	Increase in minimum rates of ¼d. or 1d. an hour (milkers 6d. or 1s. a week; poultry workers, 1s. 6d. or 2s. 6d. a week).†	
East, West and Midlothian.	4 Mar.	Female workers ...	Increase in minimum rates of 1s. 9d. a week (milkers, 6d. or 1s. a week; casual workers, ¼d. an hour).†	
		Male workers ...	Increase in minimum rates ranging from 1s. 6d. at 14 to 4s. a week at 18, 20 and 21 years and over according to occupation (workers in horticulture or market gardening, 1s. to 3s. 6d.; casual workers ¼d. or 1d. an hour).†	
Lanark, Renfrew, Dumbarton, Stirling, Clackmannan, Bute (Part) and Perth (Part).	4 Mar.	Female workers ...	Increase in minimum rates of ¼d. or 1d. an hour.†	
		Milkers ...	Increase in minimum rates of 6d. or 1s. a week.†	
Ayr and Bute (Islands of Arran and Cumbrae only).	11 Mar.	Male workers (except milkers and casual workers, and casual workers employed in horticulture or market gardening).	Increase in minimum rates of ¼d. or 1d. an hour.†	
		Female workers (except milkers, casual or seasonal workers and workers in horticulture and market gardening).	Increase in minimum rates of 1s. or 3s. a week.†	
Berwick, Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles.	4 Mar.	Male workers ...	Increase in minimum rates of 2s. or 3s. a week (casual workers ¼d. or 1d. an hour).†	
		Female workers ...	Increase in minimum rates of 1s. to 2s. a week (casual workers ¼d. or 1½d. an hour; potato gatherers ¼d. an hour).†	
Dumfries, Kirkcubright and Wigtown.	4 Mar.	Female workers ...	Increase in minimum rates of ¼d. an hour (milkers 3d. or 6d. a week).†	
Northumberland ...	18 Mar.	Mechanics and apprentices employed in coal mines.	Increase in the basis wage (5s. 8d. to 6s. 4d. a shift) for adult mechanics, and for apprentices of 4d. a day for those 15, 16 and 19 years of age, of 5d. a day for those 17 and 20 years, and of 6d. a day for those 18 years.	
South Yorkshire ...	1 Mar.	Workpeople employed in and about coal mines.	Increase of 4 in the percentage addition to basis rates, making wages 40 per cent. above the basis rates.†	
			Increase of 4 in the percentage addition to basis rates, making wages 40 per cent. above the basis rates, and flat-rate additions increased from 1s. 9d. a shift for those 18 years, division and 35 per cent. for surface workers in the Eastern sub-division.†	
Lancashire and Cheshire. Derbyshire (except South Derbyshire).	22 Mar.	Workpeople employed in and about coal mines.	Increase of 0.43 in the percentage addition to basis rates, making wages 6.43 per cent. above the basis rates.†	
			Decrease of 0.63 in the percentage addition to basis rates leaving wages 3.69 per cent. above the basis rates, and flat-rate additions increased from 1s. 9d. a shift to 1s. 10d. for all workers 21 years and over and for workers 18 years and over at the coal face, and from 10d. to 10½d. a shift for others, resulting in no change in the total wages payable.	
South Derbyshire ...	1 Mar.	Workpeople employed in and about coal mines.	Increase of 2.22 in the percentage addition to basis rates, making wages 31.22 per cent. above the basis rates.†	
			Decrease of 0.9 in the percentage addition to basis rates, leaving wages 55.32 per cent. above the basis rates.†	
Leicestershire ...	1 Mar.	Workpeople employed in and about coal mines, other than engine winders, deputies and firemen, examiners and shotlighters.	Increase of 4.85 in the percentage addition to basis rates, leaving wages 49.76 per cent. above the basis rates, and 47.76 per cent. for all other workers. Flat-rate advances increased from 1s. 8.57d. to 2s. 1d. a day for workers 21 years and over and from 10.28d. to 1s. 0½d. a day for other workers, resulting in no change in the total wages payable.**	
			Decrease of 4.85 in the percentage addition to basis rates, leaving wages 49.76 per cent. above the basis rates, and 47.76 per cent. for all other workers. Flat-rate advances increased from 1s. 8.57d. to 2s. 1d. a day for workers 21 years and over and from 10.28d. to 1s. 0½d. a day for other workers, resulting in no change in the total wages payable.**	

* These increases took effect under Orders issued under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act, 1924. † These increases took effect under Orders issued under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) (Scotland) Act, 1937. ‡ Flat-rate advances remained unchanged at 2s. 1d. a shift for underground workers 21 years and over and surface workers 22 years and over, and 1s. 0½d. a shift for workers under those ages. Adult day-wage workers whose basis wages plus the percentage addition amount to less than 8s. 9d. a shift (plus 2s. 1d. a shift) are paid, as previously, a subsistence allowance sufficient to bring their wages up to that amount, subject to a maximum allowance of 6d. a shift. § Flat-rate advances remained unchanged at 2s. 1d. a day for male workers 21 years and over and 1s. 0½d. a day for all other workers (including females). ¶ Flat-rate advances remained unchanged at 2s. 1d. a shift for underground workers 21 years and over and 1s. 0½d. a day for others, and for surface workers 1s. 7d. a shift for those 21 years and over and 9½d. a shift for others. ** Flat-rate advances remained unchanged at 2s. 1d. a day for workers 21 years and over and 1s. 0½d. a day for others, and for surface workers as previously a subsistence allowance sufficient to bring their wages up to that amount, subject to a maximum allowance of 6d. a shift.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MARCH—continued.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics).
Coal Mining— <i>contd.</i>	Warwickshire ...	1 Mar.	Workpeople employed in and about coal mines.	<i>Decrease of 3 in the percentage addition to basis rates, leaving wages 88 per cent. above the basis rates at the majority of the collieries.*</i>
	Radstock district of Somerset.	1 Mar.	Workpeople employed in and about coal mines other than balliffs and examiners.	<i>Decrease of 2.02 in the percentage addition to basis rates, leaving wages 40 per cent. above the basis rates.†</i>
Coke, etc. Manufacture.	Newbury district of Somerset.	1 Mar.	Workpeople employed in and about coal mines.	Increase of 4 in the percentage addition to basis rates making wages 40 per cent. above the basis rates.‡
	South Yorkshire ...	1 Mar.	Cokemen and by-product workers	War bonus granted of 10d. a shift to those 18 years and over and of 5d. a shift to those under 18 years as the result of the adoption of a cost of living sliding scale.
Other Mining and Quarrying.	Furness and district	17 Mar.	Iron ore miners	War bonus granted of 8d. a shift to those over 18 years of age and of 4d. a shift to those 18 years and under as the result of the adoption of a cost of living sliding scale.
	Cumberland...	11 Mar.	Workpeople employed in and about iron ore mines.	War bonus granted of 3s. a week to those whose earnings are 53s. a week or less, and of 2s. to those whose earnings are more than 53s.
Brick and Tile Manufacture.	Bridgwater and district.	29 Feb.	Other workers	War bonus granted of 2s. a week to youths 19 and 20 years of age and to all females, of 1s. 6d. to boys 17 and 18 and of 1s. to those under 17.
	Certain districts in England and Scotland.‡	1st pay day in Mar.	Flint glass makers	Increase of 1½d. a turn.
Glass Manufacture.	Gateshead, Sunderland and Knottingley.	22 Mar.	Flint glass cutters	Increase of 2s. a week.
	Yorkshire	Pay day in week commencing 25 Mar.	Pressed glass makers	Increase of 1s. a week.
Glass Working.	London	22 Mar.	Workpeople employed in glass bottle manufacture (except those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries).	Increase of 1s. a week for men and of 6d. for youths and females.
		23 Mar.	Bevellers, brilliant cutters, plate cutters, silverers, siders and fitters. Edge workers, drillers, machinists and production assistants.	Increase of ½d. an hour.
Pig-Iron Manufacture and Iron and Steel Manufacture.	North Lincolnshire...	23 Mar.	Bevellers, brilliant cutters, plate cutters, silverers, siders and fitters.	War bonus granted of ½d. an hour. Minimum rates after change: bevellers and brilliant cutters, 2s.; plate cutters and silverers, 1s. 11d.; siders, 1s. 10d.; fitters, 1s. 9d.
	Corby	23 Mar.	Edge workers, drillers, machinists and production assistants.	War bonus granted of ½d. or ¼d. an hour. Minimum rates after change: 4½d. at under 15 years increasing to 1s. 6d. at 22 and over.
Flax and Hemp.	Great Britain§ ...	25 Mar.	Skilled engineers, etc., employed on maintenance work at blast-furnaces and at iron and steel works.	Increase of 10 per cent. on basis rate, making wages 67.5 per cent. above the basis rate. Rate after change: 49s. a week plus 67.5 per cent. plus tonnage bonus.
	North-East Coast Area (except certain men employed at Gateshead).	25 Mar.	Workpeople employed at blast-furnaces.	Increase of 10 per cent. on standard rates making wages 67.5 per cent. above the standard rates.
Rope, Twine and Net.	Barrow-in-Furness ...	25 Mar.	Workpeople employed in steel melting shops (melters, pitmen, slag-men, ladlemen, furnace helpers, gas producermen, semi-skilled workers and labourers, etc.).	Increase of 10 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 67.5 per cent. (basic process) and 42.5 per cent. (acid process) above the standard rates.
	Workington ...	25 Mar.	Men employed on direct production in steel rolling mills.	Increase of 10 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 67.5 per cent. above the standard rates.
Hosiery Manufacture.	Scunthorpe	5 Mar.	Skilled millmen, merchant millmen, enginemmen, crane-men, etc.	Increase of 10 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 67.5 per cent. above the standard rates.
	Bilston	5 Mar.	Steel millmen, wagon builders and repairers.	Increase of 10 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 67.5 per cent. above the standard rates.
Asbestos Manufacture.	West of Scotland ...	5 Mar.	Steel millmen, maintenance men, etc.	Increase of 10 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 67.5 per cent. above the standard rates.
	Cleveland, Cumberland and North Lincolnshire.	5 Mar.	Millmen, gas producermen, enginemmen, crane-men, firemen and mill labourers, semi-skilled workers and general labourers employed in steel rolling mills.	Increase of 10 per cent. on the basis rate, making wages 67.5 per cent. above the basis rate. Rate after change: 1s. 1.5d. an hour plus 67.5 per cent. plus tonnage bonus.
Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing.	Bricklayers employed at blast-furnaces.	5 Mar.	Bricklayers employed in iron and steel works in England and steel works in Scotland.	Increase of 10 per cent. on the basis rate, making wages 67.5 per cent. above the basis rate. Rate after change: 10.5d. an hour plus 67.5 per cent.
	Bricklayers' labourers employed at blast-furnaces and at iron and steel works.	5 Mar.	Adult workers (excluding those engaged on maintenance work) employed in Siemens steel manufacture.	Increase on "make-up" granted in February, 1940, of 1s. 10d. a week for those with base rates of 30s. and less a week and varying inversely with the basis rates to 5d. a week for those with a basis rate of 53s. a week.
Felt Hat Making.	North-East Coast Area.	5 Mar.	Adult workers (excluding those engaged on maintenance work) employed in Siemens steel manufacture.	Increase on "make-up" granted in February, 1940, of 1s. 10d. a week for those with base rates of 30s. and less a week and varying inversely with the basis rates to 5d. a week for those with a basis rate of 53s. a week.
	South-West Wales ...	5 Mar.	Adult workers (excluding those engaged on maintenance work) employed in Siemens steel manufacture.	Increase on "make-up" granted in February, 1940, of 1s. 10d. a week for those with base rates of 30s. and less a week and varying inversely with the basis rates to 5d. a week for those with a basis rate of 53s. a week.
Shoe and Slipper Manufacture.	Port of London ...	1st full pay week after 14 Mar.	Barge builders and repairers ...	Increase of 1d. an hour.
	Aberdeen district ...	1st full pay week after 14 Mar.	Adult timeworkers employed in the shipbuilding and shiprepairing industry (except those whose wages fluctuate in accordance with wages in other industries).	Increase of 1s. a week, resulting from the 2s. a week differential in plain time rate being reduced to 1s., making rate 1s. below the National uniform rate.
Baking.	Piecework riveters employed on new shipbuilding.	18 Mar.	Piecework riveters employed on new shipbuilding.	Piecework list percentage increased from plus 2½ per cent. to plus 5 per cent.
	Northern Ireland ...	19 Feb.	Skilled railway shopmen	Increase of 5s. a week.

* Flat-rate advances remained unchanged at 2s. 1d. a day for workers 21 years and over and 1s. 0½d. a day for other workers. The subsistence wage payable at the majority of the collieries to adult able-bodied underground workers and surface workers remained unaltered at 8s. 6d. a shift and 8s. a shift respectively. At three collieries a lower percentage is payable: the percentage addition is 83 at two collieries and 74 at another.
 † Flat-rate advances remained unchanged at 1s. 7d. a day for workers 21 years and over receiving a basis wage of over 4s. 11½d. a day and 1s. 9d. a day for those receiving a basis wage of 4s. 11½d. or less a day, the flat-rate advance for those under 21 being 9d. a day. A minimum wage is payable to adult able-bodied workers of 8s. 4.8d. a shift gross—i.e. 4s. 9d. a shift basis plus current percentage plus flat-rate advance.
 ‡ Flat-rate advances remained unchanged at 2s. 1d. a shift for workers 22 years and over and 1s. 0½d. for other workers. Adult day-wage workers whose basis wages plus the percentage addition amount to less than 8s. 9d. a shift (plus 2s. 1d. a shift) are paid, as previously, a subsistence allowance sufficient to bring their wages up to that amount, subject to a maximum allowance of 1l. a shift.
 § Including Barnsley, Birmingham, Dudley, Stourbridge, Tutbury, Edinburgh, Glasgow, London, Manchester and Sheffield.
 ¶ Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.
 †† This increase affected mainly the employees of firms affiliated to the Iron and Steel Trades Employers' Association, the principal districts affected being the North-East Coast, Cumberland, Lancashire, South Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, the Midlands, South Wales and the West of Scotland.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MARCH—continued.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Electrical Cable Manufacture.	Middlesex, Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Essex.	3rd pay day in Mar.	Timeworkers employed in the electrical cable-making industry (except plumber-jointers, etc.).	Increase* of 1s. 11½d. a week for men 21 years and over, of 1s. 5½d. a week for youths 18 to 20 years, of 5½d. a week for boys 14, 16 and 17 years and of 6d. a week for boys 15 years, of 1s. a week for women 18 years and over and of 6d. a week for girls 14 to 17 years. Weekly rates after change include: men 21 years and over, 62s. 8d. to 70s. 6d.; women 18 years and over, 32s. 6d. to 36s. 6d. (excluding any service bonuses for female workers).
	Great Britain other than the above counties.	3rd pay day in Mar.	Timeworkers employed in the electrical cable-making industry (except plumber-jointers, etc.).	Increase* of 2s. a week for men 21 years and over, of 1s. 6d. a week for youths 18 to 20 years, of 6d. a week for boys 14 to 17 years, of 1s. a week for women 18 years and over and of 6d. a week for girls 14 to 17 years. Weekly rates after change include: men 21 years and over, 57s. to 65s.; women 18 years and over, 32s. 6d. to 36s. 6d. (excluding any service bonuses for female workers).
Railway Wagon Repairing.	Great Britain (certain firms)†	1st full pay week in Mar.	Workpeople employed in railway wagon repairing.	War bonus increased by 2s. 6d. (2s. 6d. to 5s.) a week for men, by 1s. 6d. (1s. 6d. to 3s.) for youths 18 to 20 years, and by 1s. (1s. to 2s.) for youths under 18 years.
File Manufacture.	Sheffield	Commencement of pay period in week beginning 4 Mar.	Grinders (men and youths) employed in the file trade.	Bonus granted of 2½ per cent. on the piecework price lists and datal rates.
	Cradley Heath and district, Chester, Stoke, Pontypridd, Birmingham, St. Helens and Shifnal.	1st full pay day in Mar.	Commercial end-welded, dollyed and tommyed chain makers (except those whose wages are regulated by the Chain Trade Board). Block chain makers. Large end-welded stud, open and short link, dollyed and tommyed chain makers. Admiralty end-welded chain makers and cable shackle makers. Admiralty rigging chain makers. Admiralty block chain and steering gear chain makers. Side-welded stud-link chain makers. Anchor and grapnel makers ...	Revised price lists adopted resulting in an increase of 12½ per cent. on the old lists and a further increase* of 10 per cent. on new lists (in lieu of old lists plus 15 per cent.).
Woolen and Worsted Spinning.	Leicester	1st pay day in Mar.	Workpeople employed in the lambswool and worsted yarn spinning industry (excluding engineers, etc.).	Increase of 2½ per cent. on old price list and further increases,* varying according to size of chain, from 4d. to 9d. a cwt. Increase* of 4½d. a cwt.
	Great Britain ...	25 Mar.	Male workers	Bonus on earnings increased under a sliding scale based on the cost-of-food index number from 2½d. to 2½d. in the shilling. Minimum weekly rates after change: lambswool section—men 23 years and over, 45s., women 21 and over, 25s. 6d.; worsted yarn spinning section—men 23 years and over, 47s. 6d., women 21 and over, 28s.; plus in each case 2½d. in the shilling.
Rope, Twine and Net.	Great Britain ...	18 Mar.	Female workers	Increase in general minimum time rates of 2s. 8d. or 3s. a week for those 18 years and over, of 1s. 1d. to 2s. 1d. for juvenile workers, and of 3s. in the piecework basis time rates.†
	Great Britain ...	18 Mar.	Workpeople employed in the rope, twine and net trade.	Increase of 5 per cent. in minimum Trade Board rates previously in operation.‡
Hosiery Manufacture.	Hawick	1st full pay in Mar.	Adult workpeople employed in hosiery manufacture.	Flat-rate bonus increased* from 6s. 6d. to 9s. 9d. a week for men and from 5s. to 7s. 6d. a week for women; the percentage bonus on base rates remaining unchanged at 30 per cent.
	Great Britain ...	4 Mar.	Apprentices	Flat-rate bonus increased* from 2s. 3d. to 3s. 4½d. a week; the percentage bonus on base rates remaining unchanged at 22½ per cent.
Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing.	Great Britain ...	4 Mar.	Workpeople employed in the asbestos industry.	Increase* of ½d. an hour for men 21 years and over, of ¼d. for women 18 years and over, and of proportional amounts for juveniles. Minimum rates after change: men, 1s. 3½d.; women, 10d.
	Northern Ireland ...	11 Mar.	Workpeople employed in the dress-making and women's light clothing trades:— Factory branch—male and female workers. Retail bespoke dressmaking branch—female workers.	Increase of 10 per cent. on existing minimum rates.
Felt Hat Making.	Atherstone and Bedworth.	Week ending 23 Mar.	Male pieceworkers	Increase of ½d. an hour in general minimum time rates and of ¼d. an hour in piecework basis time rates.
	Great Britain ...	Week ending 23 Mar.	Male pieceworkers	Bonus* of 32½ per cent. on list prices increased to 35 per cent.
Shoe and Slipper Manufacture.	Rosendale Valley (Bacup, Waterfoot, Rawtenstall), Burnley, Bury, Great Harwood, Radcliffe, Rochdale and St. Annes.	6 or 8 Mar. according to make-up day.	Shoe and slipper operatives ...	Increase* of 3½ per cent. on basis wages of 1920, leaving wages 18½ per cent. below basis wages.
	Cardiff	1 Mar.	Bakers and confectioners	Increase of 2s. a week for adult workers. Rates after change: male workers—forehands and singlehands, 73s., secondhands, 69s., tablehands, 67s.
Baking.	Dundee	23 Mar.	Bakers and confectioners	Increase* of 1s. a week. Rate after change for tablehands, 76s. 6d.
	Greenock and district.	2 Mar.	Bakers and confectioners	Increase* of 1s. a week. Rate after change for journeymen, 76s.
Fish Curing.	Aberdeen	11 Mar.	Workpeople employed in the fish curing industry.	Adoption of scale of weekly rates of wages as follows:—male workers, 15s. at 14 years of age increasing to 60s. at 24 years; buyers and foremen, 24 years and over, 65s.; casual workers, 12s. 6d. a day (Monday to Friday); 10s. Saturday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.; female workers, 15s. at 14 years of age increasing to 26s. at 19 years; casual workers, 7d. an hour with a guaranteed minimum wage of £1 a week.
	Kincardineshire ...	1 Mar.	Building trade operatives (except plasterers and painters).	War advances granted of 1½d. an hour to craftsmen and of 1½d. to labourers.

* Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.
 † These increases were the result of an agreement between the Wagon Repairing Associations of England and South Wales and Monmouthshire and the Amalgamated Society of Vehicle Builders, Carpenters and Mechanics, and did not apply to the employees of firms whose conditions of employment are regulated by the agreements to which the Engineering and Allied Employers' National Federation is a party.
 ‡ These increases took effect under Orders issued under the Trade Boards Act. Full details of the minimum rates are contained in the Confirming Orders of the Minister of Labour and National Service, obtainable from H.M. Stationery Office.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MARCH—continued.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Electrical Contracting.	Scotland ...	1 Mar.	Journeyman electricians and apprentices employed by electrical contractors.	Cost-of-living (war) bonus increased* by 1d. an hour for journeymen and by 1s. to 3s. a week for apprentices according to year of apprenticeship. Rate after change for journeymen, 1s. 7d. plus 1d. an hour war bonus.
Mill-sawing.	Leicester ...	1st pay day in Mar.	Woodcutting machinists and sawyers employed in sawmills.	Increase of 1d. an hour (1s. 6d. to 1s. 7½d.).
	Bristol ...	1st full pay in Mar.	Woodcutting machinists and sawyers employed in sawmills.	Increase of 1d. an hour (1s. 8d. to 1s. 9½d.).
Furniture Manufacture.	North-East Coast†...	1st full pay week in Mar.	Cabinet makers, machinists, wood carvers and polishers.	Increase of 1d. an hour. Rate after change: 1s. 9d. an hour, plus 1d. an hour "tool money" for woodworkers and machinists.
Coopering	Great Britain also Belfast.‡	1st pay day following 1 Mar.	Coopers ...	Increase* of 1d. an hour for timeworkers and of 6½ per cent. on list prices for pieceworkers. Rates after change: London, 1s. 10d.; other districts, 1s. 9d.
Waterworks Undertakings.	Certain Undertakings in the Home Counties Area.§	1st pay day following 18 Jan.	Manual workers, except those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries.	Increase* of 1s. a week. Weekly rates after change for labourers: Grade A Area, 49s.; Grade B, 53s.; Grade C, 55s. 6d.
		1st pay day following 23 Mar.		Officers and men of the Merchant Navy— Navigating and Engineer officers. Radio officers ... Deck, engine room and stokehold ratings:— On monthly rates ... On weekly rates ... Tradesmen:— Electrical engineers and boiler-makers. Plumbers, carpenters, carpenters' mates, painters and sailmakers on sailing ships. Catering Department ratings:— On monthly rates ... On weekly rates ... Steward's night watchman All ratings ...
Merchant Navy.	Great Britain ...	1 Mar.	Officers and men of the Merchant Navy— Navigating and Engineer officers. Radio officers ... Deck, engine room and stokehold ratings:— On monthly rates ... On weekly rates ... Tradesmen:— Electrical engineers and boiler-makers. Plumbers, carpenters, carpenters' mates, painters and sailmakers on sailing ships. Catering Department ratings:— On monthly rates ... On weekly rates ... Steward's night watchman All ratings ...	Increase of £2 a month for officers on monthly articles, and of 10s. a week for officers on weekly articles.¶ Increase of £2 a month. Increase of £1 a month for adults and of 10s. for boys.¶ Increase of 5s. a week for adults and of 2s. 6d. for boys.¶ Increase of £2 a month.¶ Increase of £1 a month.¶
				Great Britain ...
Railway Service.	Northern Ireland (except County Down Railway).	1 Feb. or 1 Mar.	Conciliation grades, station masters, goods agents, supervisors and clerical staffs.	Increase of 3s. a week for men 21 years of age and over, of 1s. 6d. for boys and youths under 21 years of age, of 2s. for women 21 years of age and over, and of 1s. for girls under 21 years of age. Increase of 4s. a week for men 21 years of age and over, of 2s. for boys and youths under 21 years of age, of 3s. for women 21 years of age and over, and of 1s. 6d. for girls under 21 years of age. Increase of £10 a year or 4s. a week for adult males, of £5 a year or 2s. a week for junior males, of 3s. a week for adult females and of 1s. 6d. a week for junior females. Deduction from earnings of 5 per cent. and 2½ per cent. where earnings are 40s. a week or less in Group I railways or 36s. a week or less in Group III railways, discontinued and full standard rates restored.
				Great Britain ...
Commercial Road Transport.	Metropolitan Area ...	1st full pay period after 4 Mar.	Road motor transport workers engaged on long distance services.	Increase of 2s. 6d. for drivers under 21 years of age of vehicles of carrying capacity up to and including 20 cwt., and of 5s. a week for all other drivers and statutory attendants and mates.**
	Scotland ...		Road motor transport workers ...	Increase of 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. a week for drivers under 21 years of age of vehicles of carrying capacity of 30 cwt. or less; of 3s. to 5s. for all other drivers, of 3s. to 5s. for statutory attendants and mates 21 years of age and over, and of 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. for attendants 18 and under 21 years other than vanguards.**
	Southampton ...		Road motor transport workers ...	Increase of 2s. 6d. a week for drivers under 21 years of age of vehicles of carrying capacity of 30 cwt. or less; of 5s. for all other drivers; of 5s. for statutory attendants and mates 21 years of age and over; and of 2s. 6d. for attendants 18 and under 21 years other than vanguards.**
	Certain districts in Wales.††		Road motor transport workers ...	Adoption of rates of wages applicable to Grade I Areas, resulting in varying increases in wages.**
Local Authorities (Non-Trading Services).	Certain Authorities in Northumberland and Durham.§§	1st pay in Mar.	Manual workers except those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries.	Increase* of 1d. an hour for workers 18 years and over. Minimum scheduled rates after change for general labourers (18 years and over): Grade A Areas, 1s. 3½d.; Grade B, 1s. 2½d. Increase of 6d. a shift in the minimum rate. Minimum rates after change: Grades 5, 4 and 3A Areas, 8s. 3d. a shift; Grade 3, 7s. 6d.; Grade 2, 7s.; Grade 1, 6s. 6d.
	Certain Authorities in Kent, Surrey and Sussex.§§	1st pay day in Mar.	Watchmen ...	War bonus granted of 3s. a week. Rate after change for general yard and road labourers, 45s. 10d. plus 3s. a week war bonus.
	Aberdeenshire ...	9 Mar.	Manual workers employed by the County Council.	

* Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.
 † Including Darlington, Middlesbrough, Newcastle-on-Tyne, South Shields, Stockton, Sunderland and West Hartlepool.
 ‡ This increase was agreed upon by the National Joint Industrial Council for the Waterworks Undertakings Industry.
 § The undertakings affected are mainly those affiliated to the Home Counties District Joint Industrial Council and Catering Department Panels of the National Maritime Board, and apply to all vessels to which the National Maritime Board rates of pay apply either as standard or minimum rates. The payment of Seafarers' War Risk Money is paid in addition to the increases on the standard rates. The "War Risk Money" for navigating and engineer officers remains unchanged at £5 a month and £1 3s. 4d. a week.
 ¶ These advances were granted with retrospective effect to 1st January, 1940.
 ** These increases were the result of an agreement arrived at by the Emergency Conditions Committee of the Road Haulage Central Wages Board. The Board gave notice on 1st March that they proposed to increase the statutory remuneration of road haulage workers as set out in Notice R.H. (2) dated 19th January, 1940 (see page 46 of the February, 1940 issue of this GAZETTE). Pending confirmation of the proposed increase by the Minister of Labour and National Service it was agreed to operate the increases as from the date shown in the above districts: with regard to other districts if no settlement had been arrived at meantime, it was agreed that the increases should be operative on the 1st pay day following Monday, 1st April, 1940.
 †† Including Flint (part of), Glamorgan, Monmouth (part of), and towns of Denbigh, Kidwelly, Llanelly, Ruthin, Wrexham, Anmanford, Brynmawr, Burry Port, Llanello.
 ‡‡ Including Rochdale, Heywood, Littleborough, Milnrow and Whitworth.
 §§ The authorities affected are mainly those affiliated to the District Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities' Non-Trading Services (Manual Workers) in the area concerned.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING MARCH—continued.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Brush and Broom Manufacture.	Great Britain ...	1 Mar.	Male workers 21 years and over with 3 years' experience in certain operations and those of all ages who have served 5 years' apprenticeship in one or more of these operations.	Increase* in the minimum time rate fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of 1d. an hour (1s. 2½d. to 1s. 3½d.) and of 1d. in the piecework basis time rate (1s. 4d. to 1s. 5½d.).
			Other male workers except indentured apprentices. Female workers (other than pan hands and learners). Male and female pieceworkers on certain operations. Apprentices ...	Increase* of 1d. an hour for those 16½ to 17 years of age, 17½ to 18 and those 19 and under 21. Increase* of 1d. an hour for those 16½ to 17 years of age and those 17½ to 18. Increase* in the minimum piece rates from 17½ to 16 per cent. below the list. Increases* proportional to the above.
Skip and Basket Making.	Lancashire and Cheshire.	4 Mar.	Skip and basket makers ...	Increase* of 3 per cent. on list prices, making wages 104½ per cent. above the list for both timeworkers and pieceworkers.
Boot and Shoe Retail Distributive Trade.	Various towns in Great Britain.	Pay day in week commencing 26 Feb.	Male workers ...	War advances granted of 4s. a week for those 21 years and over, of 2s. 6d. for those 18 and under 21, and of 1s. 6d. for those 16 and under 18.†
			Female workers ...	War advances granted of 2s. 6d. a week for those 21 years and over, of 2s. for those 18 and under 21, and of 1s. 6d. for those 16 and under 18.†
Coffin Furniture Manufacture.	Great Britain ...	1 Mar.	Male workers employed in the coffin furniture trade:— Timeworkers:— Dressers, stampers, polishers, planishers (including wheelers). Other workers ...	Increase* of 2s. 5d. a week in minimum Trade Board rates.
			Pieceworkers ...	Increase* of 1s. a week in minimum Trade Board rates, except those 15 and under 17 years for whom the increase was 1s. 6d. Piecework basis time rates, under the Trade Boards Acts, fixed at 12½ per cent. (instead of 15 per cent.) above the appropriate minimum time rates.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED DURING MARCH.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Agriculture	Worcestershire ...	3 Mar.	Male workers ...	Weekly number of hours beyond which overtime rates become payable under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act, 1924, fixed at 52 in summer in lieu of 54 previously fixed, the winter hours (48) remaining unchanged.

* Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.
 † These increases affected mainly workers employed by member firms of the Multiple Shops Federation, and do not apply to towns with a population of less than 10,000.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

The number of workpeople, other than seamen*, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, whose deaths from accidents in the course of their employment occurred or were reported in March†, was 210, as compared with 209‡ in the previous month, and with 260‡ in March, 1939.

MINES AND QUARRIES.†	Under Coal Mines Acts:—	FACTORIES—continued.
Underground ...	80	Paper, Printing, etc. ...
Surface ...	3	Rubber ...
Metalliferous Mines ...	3	Gas Works ...
Quarries ...	8	Electrical Stations ...
		Other Industries ...
TOTAL, MINES AND QUARRIES ...	94	
		WORKS AND PLACES UNDER ss. 105, 107, 108, FACTORIES ACT, 1937.
		Docks, Wharves, Quays and Ships ...
		Building Operations ...
		Works of Engineering Construction ...
		Warehouses ...
		TOTAL, FACTORIES ACT ...
		RAILWAY SERVICE.
		Brakemen, Goods Guards ...
		Engine Drivers, Motormen ...
		Firemen ...
		Guards (Passenger) ...
		Labourers ...
		Mechanics ...
		Permanent Way Men ...
		Porters ...
		Shunters ...
		Other Grades ...
		Contractors' Servants ...
		TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE ...
		Total (excluding Seamen) ...

* Statistics of fatal accidents to seamen are not available.
 † For mines and quarries, weekly returns are furnished and the figures cover the 4 weeks ended 30th March, 1940, in comparison with the 4 weeks ended 2nd March, 1940, and the 5 weeks ended 1st April, 1939.
 ‡ Revised figure.

INDUSTRIAL DISEASES.

The Table below shows the number of cases* and deaths* in Great Britain and Northern Ireland reported during March, under the Factories Act, 1937, or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, 1926:—

I. Cases—continued.	II. Deaths.
LEAD POISONING.	LEAD POISONING.
Among Operatives engaged in—	Paint and Colour Works ...
Smelting of Metals ...	
Plumbing and Soldering ...	
Shipbreaking ...	
Printing ...	
Other Contact with Molten Lead ...	
White and Red Lead Works ...	
Pottery ...	
Vitreous Enamelling ...	
Electric Accumulator Works ...	
Paint and Colour Works ...	
Coach and Car Painting ...	
Shipbuilding ...	
Other Industries ...	
Painting of Buildings ...	
TOTAL ...	TOTAL ...
	Total, Cases ...
ANTHRAX.	ANTHRAX.
Wool... ...	Tar ...
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins ...	Oil ...
TOTAL ...	TOTAL ...
	Total, Deaths ...

* 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.

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.

The following Table shows, approximately, the income and expenditure of the Unemployment Fund* in Great Britain for the periods stated:—

	Five weeks ended 30th Mar., 1940.	Four weeks ended 24th Feb., 1940.	Four weeks ended 25th Mar., 1939.
(1) General Account.			
Contributions received from:—	£	£	£
Employers	2,031,000	1,653,000	1,587,000
Employed persons	2,030,000	1,652,000	1,559,000
Exchequer	2,024,000	1,657,000	1,573,000
Miscellaneous Receipts	71,000	85,000	—
Total Income	6,156,000	5,047,000	4,719,000
Benefit	2,869,000	3,867,000	3,886,000
Cost of Administration	309,000†	428,000	469,000
Accrued Charge for Debt Service	372,000	297,000	308,000
Miscellaneous Payments	538,000	32,000	42,000
Total Expenditure	4,088,000	4,624,000	4,705,000
Debt Outstanding‡	39,354,000	77,082,000	81,530,000
(2) Agricultural Account.			
Contributions received from:—			
Employers	48,000	31,000	28,000
Employed persons	48,000	31,000	28,000
Exchequer	48,000	31,000	28,000
Miscellaneous Receipts	4,000	5,000	—
Total Income	148,000	98,000	84,000
Benefit	136,000	185,000	81,000
Cost of Administration	18,000	12,000	11,000
Miscellaneous Payments	24,000	—	—
Total Expenditure	178,000	197,000	92,000

UNEMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCES.

As from 1st April, 1937, the cost of unemployment allowances in Great Britain is met from the Unemployment Assistance Fund which is reimbursed by the Exchequer.

For the period of five weeks ended 30th March, 1940, expenditure on unemployment allowances (excluding the cost of administration) amounted to approximately £2,302,000 compared with £2,055,000 during the four weeks ended 24th February, 1940, and £2,805,000 during the four weeks ended 25th March, 1939.

As from 6th September, 1939, the class of persons to whom allowances may be paid under the Unemployment Assistance Act, 1934, has been extended by the provisions of the Unemployment Assistance (Prevention and Relief of Distress) Regulations, 1939, (see article on page 360 of the October, 1939, issue of this GAZETTE).

Owing to the extension referred to above, the figures for February, 1940, and March, 1940, are not comparable with those for March, 1939.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

Workmen's Compensation Act, 1925.

QUESTION WHETHER WORKMAN'S INCAPACITY WAS CAUSED "BY ACCIDENT."

In this case the workman suffered an incapacity which arose out of and in the course of his employment and the question at issue was whether his incapacity was caused by personal injury by "accident" within the meaning of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1925. For some time before 27th April, 1938, the workman had been employed in the underground workings at a colliery. For about a month before that date he had been employed in building pillars to support the roof of the underground workings; the height of the roof of his working place varied from 2½ ft. to 3 ft. As a result of this work the workman was totally incapacitated for work for about six months, his incapacity being due to a condition known as "dropped foot," a paralysis of the muscles of the leg as a result of which he was unable to dorsiflex the right foot, i.e., to raise the front part of the foot upwards.

On a claim by the workman for compensation the Sheriff-Substitute found that the workman's incapacity was due to repeated pressure on the outside of the right knee whilst working in a crouching position; but that as the incapacity did not result from personal injury by accident arising out of and in the course of his employment, the employers were not liable to him under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1925. The Court of Session reversed this decision and the employers now appealed to the House of Lords.

The House of Lords (The Lord Chancellor, Lords Atkin, Thankerton, Russell of Killowen and Romer) dismissed the employers' appeal and upheld the award in favour of the workman. In the course of his judgment the Lord Chancellor (Lord Caldecote) referred to an earlier case in the House of Lords in which Lord Macnaghten had come to the conclusion that the expression "accident" was used in

* A detailed account of the Fund is presented to Parliament annually (see H.C. 22 of 1940 for the period ended 31st March, 1939).

† Includes adjustment.
‡ Statutory provision was made for the repayment (including interest) of the debt outstanding on 1st July, 1934 (amounting to £105,780,000) by half-yearly payments of £2,500,000 commencing on 30th September, 1934. Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1938, additional sums of £20,000,000, £3,000,000 and £37,000,000 were repaid on 31st March, 1938, 31st March, 1939, and 30th March, 1940, respectively. After each such repayment the half-yearly payment was reduced accordingly.

the Act "in its popular and ordinary sense as denoting an unlooked for mishap or an untoward event which is not expected or designed." In that case the House of Lords had decided in favour of a workman who had ruptured himself by an act of over exertion. His Lordship also referred to a case concerning a workman who gradually over a period of five years acquired paralysis by riding a carrier bicycle; this case had been decided by the Court of Appeal in favour of the workman. The Lord Chancellor stated that there was no reason to doubt the correctness of this decision, the facts were such as to make it impossible to identify any event which could, however loosely, be called an accident.

His Lordship having reviewed the authorities said that the pressure on the peroneal nerve during a spell of work on 27th April, brought about the paralysis of the workman's muscles which was described as "dropped foot." The workman sustained a definite physiological injury in the reasonable performance of his duties and as a result of the work in which he was at the time of the injury engaged. The fact that, in the course of his work for a month before the day when he first suffered from dropped foot, he had felt some loss of power of dorsiflexion of the right foot in no way affected his right to compensation.—*Fife Coal Company v. Young. House of Lords. 14th March, 1940.*

INDUSTRIAL COURTS ACT, 1919,
AND CONCILIATION ACT, 1896.

INDUSTRIAL COURT AWARDS.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS: RAILWAY COMPANIES IN GREAT BRITAIN.—The Trade Unions parties to the National Railway Electrical Council claimed an increase of 10 per cent. on the wage rates of staff, covered by Committee on Production Award No. 2773, and Industrial Court Decisions Nos. 414 and 416, employed in railway electricity generating stations and sub-stations, and on the high tension cables between them. On behalf of the Trade Unions it was stated that there existed differences varying between 4s. and 18s. a week between the rates payable to railway electrical staff and men in similar occupations in the public electricity supply industry. The Railway Companies parties to the National Railway Electrical Council opposed the claim on the ground that this point had been put before the Industrial Court at previous hearings. The Companies submitted that the electrical staff form an integral part of the railway industry and their pay must bear a proper relation to the pay of railway employees generally. The Court ruled that the claim for a general increase of 10 per cent. had not been established, but that some adjustment was called for in the rates of wages of switch board and sub-station attendants and assistant switch board and sub-station attendants.—*Award No. 1752; dated 5th March 1940.*

OFFICERS AND CREWS ON FLOATING PLANT: MERSEY DOCKS AND HARBOUR BOARD.—The Mersey Docks and Harbour Board on the one hand, and on the other hand, the National Union of Enginemen, Firemen and Electrical Workers and the Transport and General Workers' Union, the Marine Engineers' Association, Limited, and the Amalgamated Engineering Union asked the Court to determine to what extent, if any, the National Maritime Board Agreement relating to seafarers' war risk money should be applied to the officers and crews of vessels comprising the floating plant owned and operated by the Board. The Unions contended that the officers and crews on the floating plant run as much risk as the officers and crews under the National Maritime Board Agreements. In the opinion of the Board the exposure to risk was limited to vessels beyond a certain seaward limit. The Court ruled that the Agreements relating to seafarers' war risk money should be applied in full to the officers and crews of all vessels comprising the floating plant, except to those employed on bucket ladder dredgers, grab hopper dredgers and floating cranes occupied in or about the docks at Liverpool and Birkenhead and the dumping ground opposite the Trafalgar Docks.—*Award No. 1753; dated 20th March 1940.*

MINING EXAMINATIONS BOARD.

Examinations for Certificates of Competency as Managers and Under Managers of Mines and for Certificates of Qualification as Surveyors of Mines.

These examinations will be held at dates in July and August, 1940. No further examinations will be held during 1940.

Intending candidates should apply at once for the necessary forms, stating whether they have previously attended any of the Board's examinations. The completed applications should be returned to the Secretary of the Board as soon as possible, and must in any case be received not later than 15th May.

Letters should be addressed to the Secretary, Board for Mining Examinations, Mill House, 87-89, Shaftesbury Avenue, London, W.1.

FACTORIES ACT (NORTHERN
IRELAND), 1938.

The Minister of Labour for Northern Ireland has made the following new Regulations:—

The Factories (Saturday Exception) Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1940, made on 29th February, 1940, under Section 94 of the Act, relating to the Special Exception which authorises in certain classes of factories the substitution of some other day for Saturday as the short day. The Regulations will replace, with alterations, the Orders on this subject under the Factory and Workshop Act of 1901, and those Orders are being revoked.

EMERGENCY POWERS (DEFENCE).
The Factory Undertakings (Records and Information) (No. 1)
Order, 1940,* dated March 29, 1940, made by the Minister
of Supply under Regulation 55 of the Defence (General)
Regulations, 1939.

Whereas it appears to the Minister of Supply to be necessary for maintaining supplies and services essential to the life of the community and expedient that this Order should be made:—

Now therefore the Minister of Supply in exercise of the powers conferred on him by Regulation 55 of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939†, hereby orders as follows:—

1. Every person carrying on any undertaking which involves the use in Great Britain, for or in connection with that undertaking, of any premises which are a factory within the meaning of the Factories Act, 1937‡, shall upon being requested so to do by notice served on him by the Minister of Supply keep such records relating to that undertaking with respect to any of the following matters, as may be mentioned in the notice, that is to say:—

(a) the main products manufactured by, and the numbers and industrial categories of persons (including details as to the sex and ages of such persons) employed in, that undertaking; and comparative details of such matters before the present emergency.

2.—(1) Every person carrying on any undertaking referred to in Article 1 of this Order, or employed in connection with any such undertaking, shall upon being requested so to do by notice served on him by the Minister of Labour and National Service:—

(a) produce to such person, or to a person of such class or description, as may be mentioned in the notice such records relating to the matters set out in Article 1 of this Order as may be mentioned or described in the notice;

(b) furnish to the Minister of Labour and National Service, within such period on and in such form as may be prescribed by the notice, such returns relating to the matters set out in Article 1 of this Order as may be mentioned or described in the notice; and

(c) permit any authorised person to enter and inspect, with a view to securing compliance with this Order, any premises used for or in connection with any such undertaking.

(2) In this Article the expression "authorised person" means:—

(a) any person authorised by the Minister of Labour and National Service;

(b) any inspector appointed under the Factories Act, 1937 or the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1935§; and

(c) any officer appointed under Section 14 of the Trade Boards Act, 1909¶.

3. This Order shall come into force on the first day of April, 1940; and may be cited as the Factory Undertakings (Records and Information) (No. 1) Order, 1940.

Dated this 29th day of March, 1940.

E. LESLIE BURGIN,

Minister of Supply.

NATIONAL SERVICE (ARMED
FORCES) ACT, 1939.

National Service (Armed Forces) (Miscellaneous) (Amendment) Regulations, 1940.

These Amendment Regulations,† made by the Minister of Labour and National Service and dated 26th February, 1940, amend the National Service (Armed Forces) (Miscellaneous) Regulations, 1939.**

They provide that the following regulation shall be substituted for Regulation 18 of the principal Regulations:—

"18. In cases before a Committee, the Umpire or a Local or Appellate Tribunal, the applicant may appear in person or may be represented by a representative of any trade union to which he belongs or by any person who satisfies the Committee, Umpire or Tribunal that he is a relative or personal friend of the party he proposes to represent. In cases before the Umpire or before a Local or Appellate Tribunal both the applicant and the Minister (if he thinks fit) may be represented by Counsel or Solicitor. In cases before a Committee neither the applicant nor the Minister may be represented by Counsel or Solicitor; provided that a person who satisfies the Committee or the Umpire that he is a relative or personal friend of the applicant shall not be prevented from representing the applicant before the Committee by reason only of the fact that he is a barrister or a solicitor."

National Service (Armed Forces) (Postponement Certificates) (Amendment) Regulations, 1940.

These Amendment Regulations,†† made by the Minister of Labour and National Service and dated 21st March, 1940, amend the National Service (Armed Forces) (Postponement Certificates) Regulations, 1939.‡‡

They provide that Regulation 3 of the principal Regulations (which prescribes the period for which postponement certificates may be granted or renewed) shall have effect as if at the end of paragraph (1) thereof there were inserted the words "or, in any case in which there has been an appeal to the Umpire, a period of six months calculated as aforesaid or a period commencing on the date on which the applicant applied to the Minister for the certificate and ending on a date not later than one month after the date of the decision of the Umpire in that case whichever period is the greater."

* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1940, No. 451. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net (1½d. post free).

† S.I. & O. 1939 (No. 927) I.

‡ 1 Edw. 8 & 1 Geo. 6, c. 67.

§ 25 & 26 Geo. 5, c. 8.

¶ Statutory Rules and Orders, 1940, No. 404. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net (1½d. post free).

** See MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE for October, 1939, pages 378-9.

†† Statutory Rules and Orders, 1940, No. 503. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net (1½d. post free).

‡‡ See MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE for November, 1939, page 404.

CONTROL OF EMPLOYMENT ACT,
1939.

The Control of Employment (Advertisements) Order, 1940, dated April 4, 1940, made by the Minister of Labour and National Service under Section 1 of the Control of Employment Act, 1939 (2 & 3 Geo. 6, c. 104).

The Minister of Labour and National Service (hereinafter referred to as "the Minister") by virtue of the powers conferred on him by the Control of Employment Act, 1939, and of all other powers in that behalf hereby makes the following Order:—

1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Control of Employment (Advertisements) Order, 1940, and shall come into force on the date hereof.

(2) The Interpretation Act, 1889, applies to the interpretation of this Order as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

2. In this Order the following expressions have the meanings hereby respectively assigned to them, that is to say,

"advertisement" includes any notice, circular or other document;

"building industry" means:—

(1) the construction, alteration, repair, decoration or demolition of buildings;

(2) any processes and operations incidental to any of the aforesaid activities when performed in an undertaking engaged in any such activities; and

(3) the manufacture of any fittings of a kind commonly made in builders' workshops or yards,

provided that the expression "building industry" does not include any of the activities mentioned in paragraph (1), (2) or (3) hereof when carried on by an undertaking engaged in but not wholly or mainly devoted to the carrying on of any such activities unless such activities are carried on in a separate branch, department or other part of the undertaking, being a branch, department or other part which is itself wholly or mainly devoted to the carrying on of any such activities as aforesaid for persons or undertakings (other than the undertaking of which it forms part) entering into contracts with it or with the said undertaking.

"civil engineering contracting" means:—

(1) the construction, reconstruction, alteration, repair or demolition of docks, harbours, bridges, roads, viaducts, aqueducts, canals, pipe-lines, cable-ducts, railways, sea defences, river works, piers, quays and wharves, reservoirs and filter beds, sewage works and sewers, tunnels, gas holders and any works of a similar nature;

(2) any processes and operations incidental to any of the aforesaid activities when performed in an undertaking engaged in any such activities; and

(3) the manufacture of any fittings of a kind commonly made in civil engineering contractors' workshops or yards,

provided that the expression "civil engineering contracting" does not include any of the activities mentioned in paragraph (1), (2) or (3) hereof when carried on by an undertaking engaged in but not wholly or mainly devoted to the carrying on of any such activities, unless such activities are carried on in a separate branch, department or other part which is itself wholly or mainly devoted to the carrying on of any such activities as aforesaid for persons or undertakings (other than the undertaking of which it forms part) entering into contracts with it or with the said undertaking.

"employee" includes any person seeking employment;

"employer" includes any person desiring to employ other persons.

3. The Minister hereby directs that on and after the twenty-fourth day of April, 1940, an employer to whom this Order applies shall not, except with the consent of the Minister, publish any advertisement stating that he desires to engage any employee to whom this Order applies.

4. This Order shall apply to employers and employees to the extent and in the manner set out in the Schedule hereto.

Signed by Order of the Minister of Labour and National Service this fourth day of April, 1940.

T. W. PHILLIPS,

Secretary of the

Ministry of Labour and National Service.

SCHEDULE.

EMPLOYEES TO WHOM THIS ORDER APPLIES.

All employees engaged or to be engaged in any of the following occupations:—

(1) carpenter

(2) joiner

(3) bricklayer.

EMPLOYERS TO WHOM THIS ORDER APPLIES.

All employers engaged or about to engage in:—

(1) the building industry

(2) civil engineering contracting.

THE provisions of this Order, which was made by the Minister of Labour and National Service on 5th April, 1940, are summarised on page 104 of this GAZETTE.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
(INCREASE OF BENEFIT IN RESPECT
OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN) ORDER,
1940.

THE provisions of this Order, which was made by the Minister of Labour and National Service on 5th April, 1940, are summarised on page 104 of this GAZETTE.

ROAD HAULAGE EMERGENCY PROVISIONS (MISCELLANEOUS) REGULATIONS, 1940.

REGULATIONS* have been made under the Trade Boards and Road Haulage Wages (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1940,† extending the provisions of the Road Haulage Wages Act, 1938, to cover workers employed on road haulage work in connection with goods vehicles operating under defence permit certificates.

The regulations also provide that where, in cases referred to the Industrial Court under Part II of the Act, it appears to the Court that a vehicle operating under a "C" licence or a "C" defence permit certificate has been used for hire or reward, the Court shall, in certain circumstances, fix remuneration equivalent to that fixed under Part I of the Act.

TRADE BOARDS ACTS AND HOLIDAYS WITH PAY ACT. NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

Perambulator and Invalid Carriage Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposals I.(30) and I.(31), dated 22nd February, 1940, and 8th March, 1940, to vary minimum rates of wages, including holiday remuneration.

Corset Trade Board.

Proposal K.(17), dated 8th March, 1940, to vary minimum rates of wages including holiday remuneration.

Readymade and Wholesale Bespoke Tailoring Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal R.M.(34), dated 8th March, 1940, to vary minimum rates of wages including holiday remuneration.

Shirtmaking Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal S.(20), dated 8th March, 1940, to vary minimum rates of wages including holiday remuneration.

Wholesale Mantle and Costume Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal W.M.(31), dated 8th March, 1940, to vary minimum rates of wages including holiday remuneration.

General Waste Materials Reclamation Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal D.B.(27), dated 12th March, 1940, to vary minimum rates of wages including holiday remuneration.

Paper Bag Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal P.(26), dated 12th March, 1940, to vary minimum rates of wages including holiday remuneration.

Paper Box Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal B.(24), dated 12th March, 1940, to vary minimum rates of wages including holiday remuneration.

Retail Bespoke Tailoring Trade Board (England and Wales).

Proposal R.B.(E. & W.) (13), dated 12th March, 1940, to vary minimum rates of wages.

Button Manufacturing Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal V.(25), dated 13th March, 1940, to vary minimum rates of wages including holiday remuneration.

Fur Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal Z.(34), dated 13th March, 1940, to vary minimum rates of wages including holiday remuneration.

Rubber Manufacturing Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal RU.(4), dated 13th March, 1940, to vary minimum rates of wages including holiday remuneration, and to cancel certain minimum rates of wages.

Baking Trade Board (Scotland).

Proposal BKS.(1), dated 15th March, 1940, to fix minimum rates of wages for male and female workers dependent upon the cost-of-living index figure, and general minimum time rates and overtime rates for certain classes of workers, and to vary minimum rates of wages for apprentices by attaching conditions.

Rope, Twine and Net Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal R.(62), dated 15th March, 1940, to vary minimum rates of wages including holiday remuneration.

Tobacco Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal N.(21), dated 15th March, 1940, to vary minimum rates of wages including holiday remuneration.

Aerated Waters Trade Board (Scotland).

Proposal A.S.(13), dated 19th March, 1940, to vary minimum rates of wages including holiday remuneration.

Sack and Bag Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal S.B.(16), dated 19th March, 1940, to vary minimum rates of wages including holiday remuneration.

Rubber Reclamation Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal RR.(3), dated 28th March, 1940, relating to holidays with pay.

Boot and Shoe Repairing Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Proposal N.I.B.S.(N.32), dated 21st March, 1940, to vary minimum rates of wages and general overtime rates.

* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1940, No. 438, H.M. Stationery Office, price 1d. net (1½d. post free).

† See the issue of this GAZETTE for March, 1940, page 77.

Hat, Cap and Millinery Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Proposal N.I.H.M.(N.14), dated 29th March, 1940, to vary minimum rates of wages and general overtime rates for male and certain female workers.

Linen and Cotton Handkerchief and Household Goods and Linen Piece Goods Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Proposal N.I.H.G.(N.67), dated 30th March, 1940, to vary minimum rates of wages for certain male and female workers.

CONFIRMING ORDERS.

Rope, Twine and Net Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order R.(63), dated 13th March, 1940, confirming the variation of general minimum time rates, piecework basis time rates, general minimum piece rates, overtime rates and holiday remuneration, and specifying 13th March, 1940, as the date from which such rates should become effective.

Cotton Waste Reclamation Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order C.W.(26), dated 18th March, 1940, confirming a Direction for holidays with pay, and specifying 25th March, 1940, as the date from which such Direction should become effective.

Flax and Hemp Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order F.H.(42), dated 19th March, 1940, confirming the variation of general minimum time rates, piecework basis time rates, general minimum piece rates and overtime rates, and specifying 25th March, 1940, as the date from which such rates should become effective.

Rubber Reclamation Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order RR.(2), dated 21st March, 1940, fixing general minimum time rates, piecework basis time rates and overtime rates, and specifying 1st April, 1940, as the date from which such rates should become effective.

Cutlery Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order C.T.(22), dated 29th March, 1940, confirming the variation of general minimum time rates, piecework basis time rates and overtime rates and specifying 8th April, 1940, as the date from which such rates should become effective.

Order C.T.(23), dated 29th March, 1940, confirming a Direction for holidays with pay and specifying 8th April, 1940, as the date from which such Direction should become effective.

Rubber Manufacturing Trade Board (Great Britain).

Order RU.(5), dated 1st April, 1940, confirming a Direction for holidays with pay and specifying 8th April, 1940, as the date from which such Direction should become effective.

Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Order N.I.W.D.(34 and 35), dated 1st March, 1940, confirming the variation of rates for certain workers in the retail bespoke branch and for all workers in the factory branch of the trade, and a variation in the Direction for holidays with pay under the Holidays with Pay Act (Northern Ireland), 1938, and specifying 11th March, 1940, as the date from which the said variations of rates and variation of the Direction for holidays with pay, shall become effective.

Readymade and Wholesale Bespoke Tailoring Trade Board (Northern Ireland).

Order N.I.T.R.W.(18), dated 26th March, 1940, confirming the variation of general minimum time rates, piecework basis time rates, and general overtime rates for male and female workers and specifying 5th April, 1940, as the date from which these rates shall become effective.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

[NOTE.—The prices are net, and do not include postage.]

CENSUS OF PRODUCTION.—*Final Report on the Fifth Census of Production (1935). Part III. The food, drink and tobacco trades; the chemical and allied trades; miscellaneous trades.* Board of Trade. [S.O. publication; price 9s.]

CONTROL OF EMPLOYMENT.—*Report to the Minister of Labour and National Service on a draft Control of Employment (Advertisements) Order, 1940, by Committee appointed under Section 1 (1) of the Act.* [H.C. 107; price 2d.]

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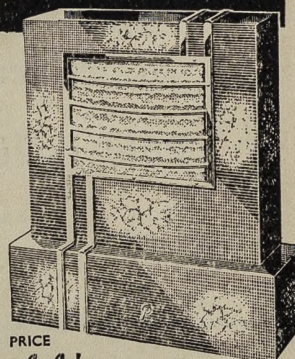


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