



THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE

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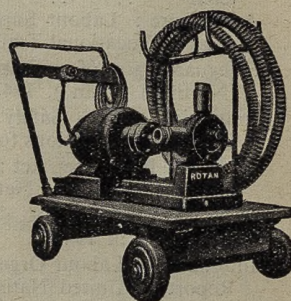
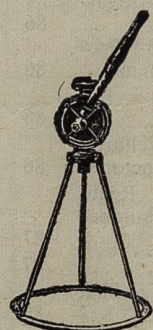
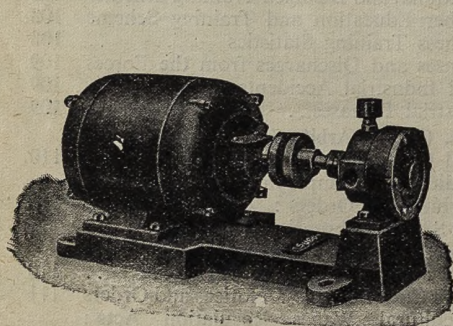
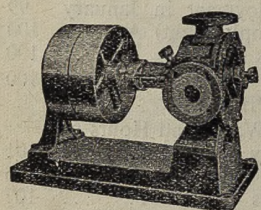
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SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL STATISTICS.

WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT.

The following is a summary of the employment statistics for Great Britain for January, 1948, and for mid-1939, mid-1945, end-1946, and December, 1947:—

	(Thousands)				
	Mid-1939.	Mid-1945.	End-1946.	Dec., 1947.	Jan., 1948.
Numbers in Civil Employment:—					
Manufacture for Export ..	990	410	1,477	1,942	1,960
Other Manufactures:—					
Equipment, etc., for the Forces ..	1,270	3,830	460	350	350
Manufacture for Home Market ..	4,555	2,580	5,069	4,959	4,962
Agriculture, Fishing, Mining, etc., Utilities and Transport ..	3,298	3,288	3,530	3,629	3,634
Building and Civil Engineering ..	1,310	722	1,289	1,364	1,343
Government Services ..	1,465	2,030	2,158	2,172	2,173
Distribution ..	2,887	1,958	2,309	2,351	2,341
Other Services ..	2,225	1,598	1,984	2,120	2,128
Total in Civil Employment ..	18,000	16,416	18,276	18,887	18,891
Armed Forces and Auxiliary Services ..	480	5,090	1,440	1,113	1,054
Ex-H.M. Forces who have not yet taken up Employment ..	—	40	300	123	147
Insured persons registered as Unemployed ..	1,270	103	398	300	317
Total Working Population (excluding Indoor Private Domestic Service) ..	19,750	21,649	20,414	20,423	20,409

The total number in civil employment in January, 1948, included 13,263,000 males and 5,628,000 females. Compared with mid-1939, the number of males showed an increase of 100,000 and the number of females an increase of 791,000.

The above figures are analysed in greater detail on pages 90 and 91.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

The numbers of insured persons registered as unemployed in Great Britain at 16th February, 1948, are given below, together with the corresponding figures for January and for mid-1939.

	Mid-1939.	12th Jan., 1948.	16th Feb., 1948.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) at February compared with January.
Men (18 and under 65)	992,000	232,916	231,313	— 1,603
Boys (under 18)	20,000	5,650	5,169	— 481
Women (18 and under 60)	239,000	74,898	74,822	— 76
Girls (under 18)	19,000	4,783	4,062	— 721

The numbers unemployed at 16th February, 1948, represented 2 per cent. of the estimated total number of insured persons, the corresponding percentages for males and females being 2 and 1½ respectively.

Of the total 315,366 persons unemployed, 307,830 were wholly unemployed and 7,536 were temporarily stopped. Of the former, 72,238 had been out of work for not more than two weeks, 80,518 for more than two but not more than eight weeks, and 155,074 for more than eight weeks.

The figures for February, 1948, are analysed in greater detail on pages 94 to 97 on which statistics are given for each of the Regions and for a number of the larger towns and also for the separate industries.

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in February resulted in an aggregate increase estimated at approximately £125,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 470,000 workpeople. These figures do not show the effect of increases in rates which came into effect during February in certain occupations in the printing industry and in the railway service, particulars of which were received too late for inclusion in the statistics. In addition, a number of workpeople had their hourly rates increased so as to give approximately the same weekly wages as before for a shorter working week.

The principal groups of workpeople affected by increases in wage rates were employees in the road haulage of goods, the cotton weaving industry, the hosiery industry in the Midlands, electrical cable making, and in the manufacture of paper boxes, paper bags, and rope, twine and net.

At the end of February, 1948, the average level of weekly rates of wages compared with the level at the end of June, 1947 (taken as 100) was 104, the same figure as at 31st January, 1948.

The number of workpeople whose hours were reduced in February was about 90,000, the average reduction being about 2 hours a week. The principal reductions affected workpeople employed in the hairdressing craft (including beauty specialists), electricians employed on electrical installation and maintenance work in Scotland, and workpeople in the silica and moulding sand industry, and in the refractories and silica brick industries in England and Wales.

Full particulars of the changes in rates of wages and hours of labour in February are given on pages 101 to 105.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.

The number of stoppages of work arising from industrial disputes reported to the Department as beginning in February was 176. In addition, 18 stoppages which began before February were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The approximate number of workers involved, during February, in these 194 stoppages (including also workers thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred though not themselves parties to the disputes) was about 71,000, and the aggregate number of working days lost at the establishments concerned, during February, was about 288,000.

Further particulars of disputes involving stoppages of work during February are given on page 106.

RETAIL PRICES.

At 17th February, the official index figure, which measures changes in the average level of retail prices compared with the level at the base date, 17th June, 1947 (taken as 100), was 106. The corresponding figure at 13th January was 104.

The chief increases which accounted for the rise in the index during the month under review were those in the prices of bacon and eggs.

Further details of changes in retail prices during the month under review are given on page 107.

ECONOMIC SURVEY FOR 1948.

The Economic Survey for 1948 was presented to Parliament by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 9th March and has been published as a Command Paper by H.M. Stationery Office (Cmd. 7344; price 1s. net, 1s. 2d. post free).

The aim of the Survey is stated in the Foreword to be to review the economic state of the nation at the beginning of 1948 and to set out some of the prospects and targets in the light of which the Government intend to plan during the year; but no attempt has been made to survey the prospect beyond 1948. In view of the uncertainty attaching to the aid that may be expected from the United States under the European Recovery Plan, the statistics presented in the Survey take no account of any such assistance. The Survey assumes, nevertheless, as a basis of general policy and planning, that aid in some form will be available. It is pointed out that, without United States aid, consumption and employment would have to be cut and many development plans abandoned, but that, with adequate aid, present levels of consumption and employment can be maintained and development can go forward.

The Survey discusses in succession the balance of payments in 1948, targets for home production, capital development in 1948, man-power, national income and consumption, and draws general conclusions.

THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS IN 1948.

In its examination of the balance of payments in 1948, the present Survey recalls that the Economic Survey for 1947 (which was reviewed in the issue of this GAZETTE for February, 1947, pages 38 and 39) put forward as the main national objective the recovery of the basic industries, and, in particular, coal, power, steel and transport. The Survey states that much progress was made in these industries in 1947 and that, as a result, the rate of general industrial production and exports had risen markedly by the end of the year. The recovery of exports was, however, not rapid enough to keep the deficit on the balance of payments down to the anticipated figure of £350 million. Moreover, the intensifying world shortages of dollars and food continuously worsened the terms of trade against this country. As a result, there were heavy and dangerous losses of gold and dollar reserves. The planning of the Government during 1948 must therefore, it is concluded, be devoted to the restoration of external stability, the narrowing of the gap in the nation's trade with dollar countries, and the building up of trade with the other Commonwealth Countries and with Western Europe. The Survey then sets out a forecast of exports, a programme of imports and an estimate of the balance of payments for 1948.

Reference is made to the provisional export targets for 1948 which were published in September, 1947. The aim then announced was to increase the rate of exports to 140 per cent. of the 1938 volume by June, and to 160 per cent. by December, 1948. These targets, the Survey states, have been found reasonable for the most part, but in some cases revisions have been necessary. It is now proposed that the export target at the end of 1948 shall be a monthly rate of 150 per cent. of the volume of 1938. The target percentages for the main groups of exports are as follows: Machinery, 203; vehicles, 272; electrical goods and apparatus, 235; textiles and clothing, 131; chemicals, 184; pottery, glass, abrasives, etc., 223; coal, 39; and all other exports 127.

The import programmes for the first half of 1948 have been drastically revised, with the reduction of dollar purchases to an absolute minimum and the greatest possible diversion of purchases to other sources of supply. The estimated expenditure on imports during the first half of 1948 is £792 million, compared with £1,574 million for the whole of 1947 and £1,092 million for the whole of 1946. Of the total, £267 million is allocated to the Western Hemisphere, £313 million to the Sterling Area and £212 million to other countries. The import programmes for the second half of 1948 have not yet been decided.

For the first half of 1948, the Survey estimates that total receipts for exports and re-exports will amount to £705 million, thus leaving a deficit on visible trade of £87 million. To this must be added a net deficit of £49 million on invisible account (i.e., payments in respect of services), making a net deficit for the half-year of £136 million, the deficit with the Western Hemisphere being estimated at £183 million. For the year as a whole, it is estimated that the over-all deficit will be £250 million; the corresponding deficit in 1947 is provisionally estimated at £675 million. It is pointed out that no substantial surplus on invisible account can be anticipated for the near future, and that it will be necessary to pay for imports wholly by exports.

The available gold and dollar reserves in this country at the beginning of 1948 were about £680 million. It is estimated that they will be reduced by about £222 million during the first half of the year. If the drain in the second half-year were of the same order, half of the remaining reserves would be gone by the end of the year and the residue would be exhausted during 1949. The Survey concludes that, if it became clear that aid under the European Recovery Programme would not be made available, immediate further heavy cuts in the programmes of imports from the Western Hemisphere would become imperative, and the consequences to industry and production would be very grave.

TARGETS FOR HOME PRODUCTION.

The Survey points out that a tremendous effort on the home-front will be required to achieve the export targets set out above,

and that the main limiting factors will be shortages of dollars and steel, as well as a number of other shortages. The shortage of dollars is decisive, in view of the fact that much of our basic food, raw material, petroleum for transport, and machinery are drawn from dollar sources, so that, in the absence of dollar supplies, it would be necessary to reduce seriously our whole industrial and commercial activity. The shortage of steel will affect British industry more directly. Further, production in one or more industries will be seriously affected by shortages of such basic raw materials as sulphuric acid and other chemicals, certain essential forms of industrial equipment, and some important engineering components. It must, therefore, the Survey states, be a major national objective in 1948 to carry forward the marked progress made in 1947 in the coal, steel and transport industries. At the same time, both in order to earn dollars and to relieve home shortages, an even greater effort in the case of textiles, and a first stage in the planned expansion of agriculture, are urgent and imperative.

The Survey then discusses in detail the programmes for each of the main industries and sets out in tabular form the figures of actual output and man-power in 1947 and the targets proposed for 1948. The Table specifies, *inter alia*, an increase in the output (for 52 weeks) of deep-mined and open-cast coal from 196.5 million tons in 1947 to 211.0 million tons in 1948; increases from 1,172 to 1,400 in the number of coal cutters and from 2,666 to 4,700 in the number of conveyors built; increases in output from 12,724,000 to 14,000,000 tons for steel (ingot), from 1,285,000 to 1,300,000 tons for sheet steel and from 2,781,000 to 3,000,000 tons for iron castings; an increase from 120,000 to 175,000 in the gross tonnage of tankers completed; reductions from 203,000 to 170,000 in the number of railway wagons under repair and from 1,450,000 to 1,300,000 K.W. in electricity generating plant out of commission; increases from 1,328,000 to 1,635,000 lb. in the output of the main textile products; and an increase from 9,863,000 to 10,618,000 acres in the area under bread and other grains, potatoes, sugar-beet and linseed.

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT IN 1948.

Reference is made to the programmes of capital development for 1948 which were reviewed during September and October, 1947, and published as a White Paper (Cmd. 7268.—See the issue of this GAZETTE for December, 1947, page 405). These revised programmes, it is stated, form the chief elements in the programmes for 1948 set out in the present Survey.

The revised estimate of the gross investment of fixed capital in 1948 is £1,420 million, about £130 million lower than the actual achievement at mid-1947 and £180 million lower than the originally estimated achievement of 1948. It is pointed out that the reduction of all investment programmes, both private and public, which were projected was far greater than this figure but cannot be precisely measured.

It has been sought to make the cuts in investment selective and to concentrate the available resources on projects most essential to the national economy. Because of its heavy use of steel, industrial building has had to be cut severely, but the limited resources available in this field are being directed to projects which will make the most substantial and early contribution to exports and the reduction of essential imports. It is planned to accelerate the finishing of houses and to reduce the number under construction from 250,000 to 140,000 by the middle of 1949.

The planned total investment of £1,420 million for 1948 refers only to investment in fixed plant, equipment and buildings, and is at 1947 prices. If the necessary allowance is made for increases in stocks and some small rise in costs during the year, the total claim of gross investment, both in fixed capital and in stocks, upon the national resources in 1948 is put at £1,800 million, or about 18 per cent. of the estimated gross national product.

MAN-POWER, NATIONAL INCOME AND CONSUMPTION.

From the examination of the separate sectors of economy and the main plans for 1948 considered in the foregoing sections, the Survey draws a broad picture of the national economy in terms of man-power and the national income.

Man-Power.—The total working population at the end of 1947 is estimated to have been 20,423,000 and the total at the end of 1948 is forecast as 20,100,000, a decrease of 323,000. In view of recent decisions to reduce the Armed Forces, it is, however, anticipated that the total industrial population will increase from 19,187,000 at the end of 1947 to 19,320,000 at the end of 1948, or by about 133,000. The increase will be entirely in the male labour force, which is expected to rise from 13,475,000 to 13,720,000 while that of women is expected to fall from 5,712,000 to 5,600,000. In these estimates, allowance has been made for the effect of the raising of the school-leaving age.

The Survey points out that labour is not likely to be the limiting factor in economic activity as a whole in 1948, and that the projected distribution is largely a forecast of the results of other factors. For coal, agriculture and the textiles, however, the labour forces proposed are targets in the full sense, the attainment of which is among the first necessities in 1948.

The total call on man-power at the end of 1948 for defence purposes is likely to be about 1,300,000, including 730,000 in the Forces, about 230,000 non-industrial Civil Servants in the Defence Departments (together with industrial staffs not directly engaged on production or research), and about 350,000 workers in manufacturing industry employed directly or indirectly on work for the

Defence Departments. All these, with the exception of man-power in the Forces, are included under their appropriate headings in the Table below, which shows the distribution of the industrial population in 1947 and the projected distribution at the end of 1948.

Distribution of Industrial Population in 1947 and 1948.

	(Thousands)		
	Mid-1947 Actual.	End-1947 Actual.	End-1948 Forecast.
Coal, total man-power (Number on Colliery books)	757 (716)	758 (718)	790 (750)
Other Mining and Quarrying	72	75	75
Public Utilities	266	270	280
Transport and Shipping	1,417	1,438	1,460
Agriculture	1,045	1,055	1,110
Fishing	35	35	37
Building and Civil Engineering	1,344	1,364	1,200
Manufactures:			
Building Materials	577	590	575
Metals and Engineering	2,827	2,876	2,900
Textiles	626	652	760
Clothing	832	831	800
Food, Drink and Tobacco	609	623	600
Chemicals	325	336	335
Other Manufactures	1,305	1,343	1,355
Distribution	2,319	2,351	2,320
Consumer Services	2,121	2,120	2,123
Public Services:			
Civil Service	712	692	715
Other National Government	376	375	360
Local Government	1,085	1,105	1,075
Total Employed	18,650	18,887	18,870
Unemployed	260	300	450
Total Industrial Population	18,910	19,187	19,320

The estimated figure for unemployment at the end of 1948 is considerably above the present level. It is explained that the higher figure does not imply any expected increase in long-term unemployment or the emergence of new "depressed areas," but that it allows for an increase in short-term and transitional unemployment and for some increase arising from a shortage of steel and other materials. If it were necessary to cut imports of raw materials severely on balance-of-payment grounds, unemployment might rise to a much higher level; but the man-power distribution and estimate of unemployment in the Table are based on the assumption that raw materials can continue to be consumed on about the present scale.

Reference is made to the average reduction of 3½ hours in the standard working week which affected about five million work-people in 1947. It is, however, pointed out that in many industries the agreed reductions have not been put into effect, and that in a number of essential industries working hours have recently been increased in response to a Government request.

In order to reach the man-power targets laid down for agriculture, coal mining and textiles, there will have to be a considerable movement of workers from one industry to another. To meet the serious difficulties of accommodation which will arise in consequence, especially in the case of women workers, the Government plan to concentrate a large part of their new house-building during 1948 in the mining and agricultural areas. General measures will, moreover, be necessary to promote a greater degree of mobility of labour, both to help the target recruitments and to provide the general flexibility which the uncertainty of the situation demands.

National Income in 1948.—In forecasting the national income, the Survey assumes (a) that the size and distribution of the working population at the end of 1948 will be that of the above Table, (b) that average hours of work will remain virtually unchanged during the year, (c) that there will be no serious cuts in raw materials, and (d) that increases in productivity will be accompanied by corresponding increases in earnings. The national income in 1948 is estimated, on these assumptions, at about £9,000 million, compared with £8,200 million in 1946 and a provisional figure of £8,600 million for 1947. Including the adverse balance on current overseas account (i.e., the extent of foreign borrowing), estimated at £250 million, the total amount available for expenditure in 1948 will be about £9,250 million, compared with £9,275 million in 1947. It is estimated that during the year, £7,675 million will be applied to personal and £2,050 million to Government expenditure on goods and services, and that £1,100 million will be allocated to net capital formation, and £400 million expended on Government subsidies, while £1,975 million will return to the Government in the form of indirect taxation.

As was indicated in the section of the Survey dealing with capital development, the total of gross investment at home in 1948 was assessed at £1,800 million. From this figure must be deducted the net sum to be borrowed abroad, estimated at £250 million, leaving an estimated total capital formation for the year of £1,550 million. It is further estimated that £700 million will be set aside for depreciation allowances, and that £275 million would be provided by the saving of public authorities on the basis of present levels of taxation, leaving a balance of £575 million to be provided out of private savings. The Survey issues the warning that, if, with present levels of taxation, less than £575 million is voluntarily saved and if people attempt to spend more than the amount of £7,675 million assigned to personal expenditure, the national economy will be subject to inflationary pressure, and the

capital development programmes or the export targets may fail to be achieved, or prices and costs may be driven up.

Consumption in 1948.—The Survey discusses briefly the probable consumption in 1948, on the basis of a total personal expenditure of £7,675 million. It is estimated that the consumption of food will correspond to an average daily energy intake of 2,681 calories in the first half of 1948, compared with 2,830 calories in 1947 and 3,000 calories in the pre-war period. The reduction in calories in 1948 is ascribed largely to the lower average level of the meat and sugar ration and the partial failure of the 1947 potato crop. The maintenance of the present clothing ration at the rate of four coupons a month must, it is stated, depend on the net result of the pressure to raise exports and the campaigns to increase man-power and productivity. It is concluded that, if the present import programmes can be maintained, the real levels of consumption in 1948, both in food and in clothing, will be appreciably, but not disastrously, lower than in 1947; but that, if aid under the European Recovery Programme is not available, the standards of consumption in 1948 will certainly be very much lower than those of any of the war years.

CONCLUSIONS.

In a concluding section of the Survey, it is pointed out that 1948 is a year of transition and will be dominated by the decisions of the United States Congress on the grant of aid for European reconstruction. The situation of the United Kingdom is such that, without further substantial external aid, we cannot hope to recover equilibrium at a reasonable standard of life within the next few years. If adequate aid is offered, we shall still have to exert the utmost economy in overseas expenditure; but without it, we may be forced to make such drastic cuts in dollar and gold purchases that wholesale unemployment, distress and dislocation of production will ensue. In any case, it is essential to maintain the highest level of exports possible, to check inflationary tendencies and, for this purpose, to keep down the level of individual money incomes. The Survey adds that the response made to our present situation in the last months of 1947 has been encouraging to the whole nation, and that, if time can be given to make the necessary changes, the great tasks of our economic recovery can, without doubt, be carried through with the same energy and determination and will prove to be within the compass of our ability and capacity.

An Appendix to the Survey recapitulates the objectives set out in the Economic Survey for 1947 and examines the degree in which they have been fulfilled. A second Appendix contains the text of the statement on personal incomes, costs and prices which was presented to Parliament by the Prime Minister in February, 1948, and which was reprinted on page 40 of the issue of this GAZETTE for that month.

H.M. Stationery Office have published a "Short Economic Survey, 1948"; price 3d. net (4d. post free). This popular edition contains the main facts of the full Survey, summarised for the non-technical reader in 16 pages, fully illustrated with picture diagrams to bring out their significance.

MEASURES FOR DEALING WITH PRICES AND PROFITS.

POSTPONEMENT OF DATE OF OPERATION OF CERTAIN PRICES ORDERS.

In an article in the previous issue of this GAZETTE (page 40), reference was made to the announcement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer that he had addressed letters to the Federation of British Industries and other organisations representing the manufacturers and wholesale and retail distributors of food and other goods asking them to work out a plan for price and profit decreases. In the same article an account was given of 14 Prices Orders which had been made by the Board of Trade, fixing maximum prices for certain goods and, in the case of some other goods, amending the methods hitherto in force for controlling manufacturers' maximum prices. These Orders were to come into operation on 15th March, 1948.

In response to the Chancellor's appeal, the Federation of British Industries, together with the Association of British Chambers of Commerce and the National Union of Manufacturers, offered a voluntary "standstill" of prices, but pointed out that there were a number of special points and difficulties arising under the Board of Trade Prices Orders which there had not been time to discuss and clarify before the date at which they were to come into operation. They therefore asked the President of the Board of Trade to agree to postponement, to allow adequate time for discussion. The President has acceded to this request and an Order is being made postponing the date of operation of certain of the Orders from 15th March to 26th April, 1948.

The following are the Orders of which the date of operation is being postponed: the Miscellaneous Goods (Maximum Prices) Order, 1948; the General Apparel and Textiles (Manufacturers' Maximum Prices and Charges) Order, 1948; the General Hollowware (Maximum Prices) Order, 1948; the General Hardware and Ironmongery (Maximum Prices) Order, 1948; the Domestic Pottery (Maximum Prices) Order, 1948; and the Miscellaneous Maximum Prices (Revocation) Order, 1948.

RECENT COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

SLIDING SCALE ARRANGEMENTS FOR WAGES
ADJUSTMENTS IN THE BUILDING INDUSTRY
IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

In a "Summary of Settlement regarding Incentives and Wages, etc., of 20th October, 1947,"* issued by the National Council for the Building Industry in England and Wales, provision was made for the introduction of a new sliding scale for the periodic adjustment of wages in accordance with movements in the Index of Retail Prices, which is prepared by the Ministry of Labour and National Service and published monthly in THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE. Details of the new sliding scale arrangements have now been issued by the Council, as follows:—

SLIDING SCALE CLAUSE.

The settlement adopted on 20th October, 1947, included agreement to adjust the Sliding Scale Clause—Rule 11(b) (i)—in order to relate it to the new Retail Prices Index instead of the old Cost-of-Living Index, on the understanding that no change in standard rates would be involved in the changeover, that the first Review would be based on the first twelve months of the operation of the Retail Prices Index, and that the Annual Review (instead of the 4-monthly Review of War-Time) shall be resumed in January, 1949. The Settlement required that the new Sliding Scale should be defined by agreement between the Executives of the Adherent Bodies.

At its Statutory Meeting on 28th January, 1948, the Council received from the Executives the new Scale agreed by the Adherent Bodies and it was decided to record that (as from November, 1947) the Sliding Scale under Rule 11(b) (i), related to the Retail Prices Index instead of the old Cost-of-Living Index, is as follows:—

Index of Retail Prices.	Standard Rate Grade "A."	per hour.
118 and up to but not including 121	3s. 0d.	
115	2s. 11½d.	
112	2s. 11d.	
109	2s. 10½d.	
106	2s. 10d.	
103	2s. 9½d.	
100	2s. 9d.	
97	2s. 8½d.	
94	2s. 8d.	
91	2s. 7½d.	
88	2s. 7d.	
85	2s. 6½d.	
82	2s. 6d.	

and so on at 3 points intervals for each ½d. per hour change. (Inner London and Liverpool District Standard Rates 1½d. higher; Outer London Standard Rate 1d. higher; Grades A1, A2 and A3, respectively, ½d., 1d. and 1½d. lower.)

NATIONAL AGREEMENT FOR CLERICAL
WORKERS IN THE COAL INDUSTRY.

The first national agreements relating to clerical and junior administrative staff employed in the coal industry were signed on 24th February, 1948, on behalf of the National Coal Board and the National Union of Mineworkers and also the Clerical and Administrative Workers' Union. The agreements provide for the introduction of standard salary scales and standard hours of work for workers in the Board's service who are employed at Area Level and below, and apply to all members of the Unions who are indoor or outdoor staff wholly or mainly engaged on clerical work or are copy typists, shorthand typists, or operators of calculating, adding, accounting, printing, reproducing, addressing and other machines. The agreements do not apply to persons who will be graded more highly than Assistant Staff Officer (maximum £590) or Finance Department grade 12 (maximum £660) or the equivalent, or those who, in the submission of either party, are by reason of disablement unable to undertake normal full-time work.

It is provided that the grading of an individual worker is to be determined by the responsibilities borne and the nature of his work. For the lowest grade, i.e., grade II Clerk, weekly salaries are payable in accordance with age scales. For male workers the scale commences at 38s. 6d. a week at 15 years and rises to 100s. at 21, and to a maximum for the grade of 130s. at 27 years; for females the scale is the same as for men up to the age of 20, is 92s. 6d. at 21, and 108s. at 27. Copy typists are to be paid on the grade II Clerk scale, and shorthand typists 5s. a week in excess of that scale. Office machine operators are also to be paid on the same scale except where the complexity of the work justifies additional pay, which is not to exceed 5s. a week. A grade I Clerk has a weekly salary scale rising, for male workers, from 115s. 6d. by annual increments of 6s. to 157s. 6d. and, for female workers, from 94s. 6d. by 5s. to 129s. 6d. Further scales are provided in the agreements for Assistant Staff Officers (males, £410 a year by annual increments of £20 to £590; females, £340 by £15 to £475), Finance Department grade 12 staff (males, £400 by £20 to £500; females, £320 by £16 to £400), and Finance Department grade II staff (males, £500 by £20 to £660; females, £400 by £17 to £536). The terms of service of Assistant Staff Officers and Finance Department grades 11 and 12 staff provide for the termination of the

* See article on page 366 of the issue of this GAZETTE for November, 1947.

appointment by either the Board or the employee at any time by one month's notice given in writing. For all other staff covered by the agreement, two calendar weeks' notice is to be given.

The agreements provide that staff shall not continue to receive coal from the Board, or live in houses owned by the Board, without paying for the coal received or for the accommodation. Subject to any conditions imposed by the Law, coal is to be supplied to those not working in offices at Area Level in the quantities allowed in the past. The charges to be made for such coal are to vary between 10s. 0d. per ton for staff getting less than £300 and 40s. 0d. per ton for staff receiving over £600. Those at offices at Area Level are not to be allowed coal at cheap rates or in amounts in excess of the civilian ration.

It is provided in the agreements that staff are to be assimilated to the new scales as rapidly as possible, that the financial position of any person covered by the agreements is not to be worsened on assimilation, and that any increases in salary or personal allowance (including payments for overtime) are generally to be made retrospective to the pay week or pay month which includes 1st July, 1947, or to any later date from which the individual began performing the duties appropriate to a grade covered by the agreements. Arrangements for the assimilation of staff are set out in detail, including provisions for increasing pre-assimilation salaries as compensation for adjustments in the supply and cost of coal and in the charges for rent, and arrangements for variations in the payments made for overtime.

The normal working week is to consist of 38 hours exclusive of official meal breaks. These hours are to be worked as far as possible in five consecutive days from Monday to Friday, but Saturday morning is to continue to be regarded as a normal working period to be included, where necessary, in the normal working week. In the case of employees whose normal hours of duty are conditioned by the winding times or surface shifts of the colliery (i.e., certain timekeepers, weighmen, storekeepers and similar staff), the normal working week, when required by the management, is to be 42½ hours exclusive of official meal breaks, to be worked in five consecutive days from Monday to Friday. In such circumstances, an individual worker who has completed his work on any day before the expiration of the full daily hours is not to be required to remain on duty.

Provision is made in the agreements for overtime payments at varying rates for hours worked in excess of the normal working week, different rates being laid down for workers whose pay is related to the grade I and II Clerks' scales, for those whose normal working week is 42½ hours and for other staff. Further clauses refer to the intention of the Board and the Unions to set up joint conciliation machinery for the negotiation and settlement of questions affecting pay and conditions of service, and to the duration of the agreements, which are to remain in force until terminated by either party giving to the other six months' written notice.

INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES.

In the August, 1947, issue of this GAZETTE a brief description was given of the method of construction of the Interim Index of Retail Prices which is regularly published by the Ministry of Labour and National Service, and which replaced the Cost-of-Living Index on the 1914 base as from June, 1947. A full description of the method of construction and calculation of the Index has now been published.*

The description includes a list of the commodities covered and the method of weighting the various items together with details of the weights applied to each section of the Index. An account is given of the method by which the prices are collected; the process by which the Index is calculated is also described. Notes are given with regard to the procedure adopted in the case of certain items which present particular difficulties, and a list of the towns covered by the periodical enquiries into prices is also given.

WAGES COUNCILS ACT, 1945.

CONSTITUTION OF WAGES COUNCILS FOR RETAIL
FOOD TRADE AND HAIRDRESSING.

As was indicated in the issue of this GAZETTE for September, 1947 (page 288), Wages Councils in respect of workers in the retail food trades in England and Wales and in hairdressing undertakings in Great Britain, and their employers, were established by the Minister of Labour and National Service by Orders dated 15th and 28th August, 1947, respectively. These Wages Councils have now been constituted.

The Retail Food Trades Wages Council (England and Wales) consists of 22 persons to represent employers and 22 persons to represent workers, together with three independent members—Lord Terrington, C.B.E., Mr. Andrew Dalgleish and Miss Janet Kydd, M.B.E., M.A., B.Com. Lord Terrington has been appointed to be Chairman of the Council and Mr. A. Dalgleish to be Deputy Chairman. The Hairdressing Undertakings Wages Council (Great Britain) consists of 15 persons to represent employers and 15 persons to represent workers, together with three independent members—Professor W. Hamilton Whyte,

* Industrial Relations Handbook, Supplement No. 2, Index of Retail Prices, H.M. Stationery Office; price 6d. net (7d. post free).

EMPLOYMENT OF PART-TIME
NURSES AND MIDWIVES.

At a recent meeting the National Advisory Council on Nurses and Midwives considered a Report on the development of the part-time employment of nurses and midwives in hospitals and other services.

This Report showed that at 31st December, 1947, there were over 17,600 part-time members of the nursing and midwifery staff in hospitals and other services, compared with about 14,200 at 30th June. It was known that only 5,000 part-time nurses were employed at the end of 1946. This increase in the number of part-time staff had brought relief to full-time staff and had enabled hospitals to re-open many beds and wards and thus to reduce waiting lists of patients.

Information submitted to the Council showed that the scheme for part-time employment of nurses had been most widely adopted in Southern, Eastern and North-Western England and in Scotland, but that there appeared to be considerable scope for development in other areas. The scheme had worked successfully in many rural areas, which were once thought to present difficulties, and it had also been applied successfully in industrial areas. In Scotland, organised schemes had been particularly successful in Glasgow and Edinburgh; the total number of part-time nursing staff employed in Scotland at 31st December, 1947, had risen to over 2,200. The scheme launched in February, 1947, for the Greater London area resulted in a large number of applications, and the returns at the end of September showed that 1,102 part-time nurses and midwives were employed in 228 hospitals (excluding mental hospitals) in the Greater London area. Schemes for the employment of part-time nurses had also been developed in many mental hospitals and in a few tuberculosis institutions, which had attracted considerable numbers. The Council considered that there was undoubtedly scope for the expansion of existing part-time schemes and for their adoption in numerous hospitals which had not yet agreed to organise schemes.

At the beginning of 1947, the Ministry of Health appointed Special Regional Officers for the Health Service, who have, among other things, made the encouragement of part-time schemes their special concern. In many areas, these Officers in co-operation with the Medical, Nursing and other Regional Officers of the Ministries of Health and of Labour and National Service have persuaded local authorities and hospitals to accept the principle of part-time nursing and to participate in recruitment campaigns. In Scotland the Department of Health have encouraged hospital authorities (in areas with sufficient population) to organise large scale part-time nursing schemes. The Ministry of Labour have provided special publicity matter for such campaigns, and, through their Nursing Appointments Offices, have given practical help in the conduct of the campaigns and in placing volunteers in part-time employment.

Experience has shown that the most satisfactory results have been achieved in areas where a well planned part-time scheme has been put into operation, especially where competent organisers have been appointed for the purpose. Important features in organising such schemes are that the convenience of volunteers should be considered and that as far as possible they should be assigned regular hours and duties, any deviation being explained to them. In addition, rates of pay, conditions, and arrangements for provision of transport, where necessary, should be fully set out when appeals for volunteers are made. The Ministry of Labour with the Ministry of Health and the Department of Health for Scotland are continuing the measures, which have been in operation since the beginning of 1947, to promote the adoption of part-time working where the need exists and where part-time staff are likely to be found.

COTTON MANUFACTURING
INDUSTRY.INTERIM REPORT OF COMMISSION ON WAGES AND
METHODS OF WORK.

In November, 1946, the Minister of Labour and National Service agreed to appoint a Chairman and two independent members to serve on a Commission which the two sides of the manufacturing section of the cotton industry had decided to establish to review wages arrangements and methods of organisation of work in the manufacturing section (see the issue of this GAZETTE for November, 1946, page 312). The Commission have now completed their review of the wages arrangements covering the weaving of cotton and rayon cloths for which piece-rates are now fixed by the Uniform List of Prices and they have presented to the industry an interim Report.*

The Uniform List of Prices, which controls the piece-rate earnings of the great majority of weavers, applies to both cotton and rayon weaving on non-automatic looms. By virtue of an Order made under the Cotton Manufacturing Industry (Temporary Provisions) Act, 1934, the rates of wages laid down in the list are enforceable upon all employers in specified areas in the counties of Lancashire, Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Cheshire. In these areas the great bulk of the cotton manufacturing industry is carried on. The Report points out that the Uniform List has

M.A., Mr. A. Dalgleish and Miss Lucy Sutherland, M.A. Professor W. Hamilton Whyte has been appointed to be Chairman of the Council and Mr. A. Dalgleish to be Deputy Chairman. The appointments of all members of both the Wages Councils will terminate on 31st March, 1950.

These are the first Wages Councils to be constituted under powers conferred on the Minister of Labour and National Service by Section 4 of the Wages Councils Act, 1945.

JOINT INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS.

ESTABLISHMENT OF COUNCILS FOR THE FOOD
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY.

New Joint Industrial Councils, composed of representatives of the employers and trade unions concerned, have recently been set up for two sections of the food manufacturing industry, viz., the Food Manufacturers' Industrial Group and the Cocoa, Chocolate and Confectionery Manufacturers' Industrial Group. With the Councils already established for such sections of the industry as biscuit manufacture and bacon-curing, most forms of food manufacture and food processing in this country are now covered by joint negotiating machinery.

The constitutions of the two new Councils provide for the reference of disputes between the two sides of the industry to arbitration, and for machinery to deal with disputes at individual establishments arising out of any questions relating to the observance of agreements made by the respective Councils.

The Joint Secretaries of the Food Manufacturing Joint Industrial Council are Mr. T. A. H. Sycamore and Mr. T. H. Hodgson, O.B.E. (Transport and General Workers' Union), and those of the Cocoa, Chocolate and Confectionery Manufacturing Joint Industrial Council are Mr. C. G. Monk and Mr. T. H. Hodgson, O.B.E.

SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF
SERVICE OF MIDWIVES IN
ENGLAND AND WALES.

The Midwives Salaries Committee, which was appointed by the Minister of Health in 1942 to draw up agreed scales of salaries and emoluments for State Certified Midwives in England and Wales, issued a Report* in 1943 and further or revised recommendations at intervals from 1945 onwards. The Committee have now published their Consolidated Recommendations†, comprising in one document all the recommendations as to salaries, emoluments and conditions of service which were published in the 1943 Report, or subsequently, and which are still current, and incorporating revised salary scales for some grades of staff which came fully into operation from 1st October, 1947, together with revised recommendations concerning certain conditions of service.

As an example of the increases in salary scales which have taken place since 1943, the scale for a staff midwife, who is a State Certified Midwife and has the additional qualification of State Registered Nurse or of Registered Sick Children's Nurse, and is employed in a hospital or maternity home, was advanced from £120 a year rising by annual increments of £5 to £160 in 1943, to (a) £140 rising by annual increments of £10 to £180 and by two further increments of £10, after five and ten years respectively, to £200 in 1946, and (b) to £160 rising by annual increments of £10 to £200 and by a final increment of £10, after five years at £200, to £210 in 1947. The assessed total annual value of emoluments provided for resident staff midwives (viz., board residence, personal laundry and the use and laundering of uniform), which is to be taken into account for superannuation purposes, was increased from £90 in 1943 to £100 in 1946. As regards domiciliary midwives who are provided with full emoluments in hospitals, maternity homes or hostels, the annual salary scale for a district midwife with the additional qualifications referred to above is now £170 rising by annual increments of £15 to £260, with total emoluments valued at £120, and for a village nurse midwife £130 rising by annual increments of £15 to £205, followed by a final increment of £5, after one year at £205, to £210, with annual emoluments of £110. For domiciliary midwives not resident in hospitals, maternity homes or hostels, the annual salary scale, inclusive of emoluments, for a district midwife with additional qualifications is from £330 by annual increments of £15 to £435, and for a village nurse midwife from £290 by annual increments of £15 to £395. The salaries of non-resident domiciliary midwives working within the Administrative County of London or within the remainder of the Metropolitan Police District continue to be £25 or £15 a year, respectively, above the standard salary scales.

Conditions of service remain generally unchanged, but the Committee have made revised recommendations concerning the provision of uniform, the arrangements to be made when annual leave cannot be granted, allowances payable during absence on sick leave or annual leave, and other matters.

* An article on this Report appeared in the issue of this GAZETTE for August, 1943 (page 113).

† Midwives Salaries Committee, Consolidated Recommendations Midwives S.C. Notes No. 5, 1948. H.M. Stationery Office; price 9d. net (10d. post free).

* Cotton Manufacturing Commission: Interim Report of an Inquiry into Wages Arrangements and Methods of Organisation of Work in the Cotton Manufacturing Industry. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s. 3d. net (1s. 5d. post free).

grown up over the years as the result of much hard bargaining; that it gave protection to the Lancashire cotton weaver long before it obtained the sanction of the legislature; that it takes account, albeit in an illogical and circuitous fashion, of the fact that some sections of the industry can afford to pay higher wages than others; that it secures uniformity between one district and another and, as it is legally enforceable, it has prevented undercutting of wages by manufacturers, and even by operatives, in days of declining trade. Nevertheless, whatever merits the list may have, says the Report, its demerits are overriding. It determines the weaver's earnings with little regard to the skill or effort required, and prescribes a fixed price for a particular length of cloth without regard to many of the factors which determine how long it will take to weave that length of cloth. It provides little reward for efficient management, and an inadequate penalty for inefficient management. The Uniform List must therefore go.

To replace the Uniform List, the Commission have put forward a new wages structure which they claim can be introduced without serious repercussions on existing methods of payment in other occupations and which they recommend should be applied forthwith over a proportion of the industry. The principles on which the Commission believe that a new system of payment should be based are as follows. The wage earned by the weaver should be related to the skill and the effort which the task requires and the efficiency with which it is discharged; in order to create the minimum of disturbance, any new method of payment must in its inception be related to existing levels of wages in the industry (this is a serious but inevitable qualification upon the first principle); the new system must by its application encourage the fullest use of skilled labour and a proper reward for the efficiency of operatives and management, i.e., encourage operating conditions that will enable the weaver, without being overworked, to superintend more looms; the system must be such that the benefit of increased productivity from the same man-power is fairly divided between operatives and management; the system must be based upon factors which can be easily ascertained, calculated and checked; the system must be comprehensible; the new system must be legally enforceable wherever the weaving of cotton or rayon is carried on in Great Britain; the same principles should apply to the assessment of wages for the weaving of rayon as for the weaving of cotton; and the new system must be one which can be put into operation at the earliest possible moment.

The Commission examined three possible methods of payment, and concluded that the only system which would do justice to the weaver and reproduce broadly the existing level of wages was one consisting of a straight piece-rate consisting of two elements: (1) an amount which varies only in accordance with the weaver's efficiency, and represents payment for supervision, relaxation and other duties not associated with warp and weft work; and (2) a payment which is directly related to the number of shuttle changes and warp breaks which the weaver performs (the "weavability factor"). This system was the basis of the scheme presented by a firm of industrial consultants and of the ultimate scheme of the Shirley Institute (the British Cotton Industry Research Association). The Shirley Scheme expressed the weaver's wages in terms of price per 100,000 picks, i.e., per length of cloth produced on each loom, as in the Uniform List. One of the main objects of the consultants' scheme was to turn the attention of the weaver and the employer away from the length of the cloth produced and focus it on the efficiency attained on the weaver's set of looms. This, in the opinion of the Commission, is the right emphasis.

The method of payment recommended by the Commission is a combination of the principles of these two schemes. The new method of payment is built on a base wage of 71s. 3d. (representing 1s. 7d. an hour), which includes the present "flat-rate" payment. This base wage will be paid to the weaver whose looms run at their "starting efficiency." The starting efficiency, which is usually lower than the average weaver's normal efficiency, varies according to the "weavability factor," the grade of loom (determined by a points grading scheme), and the number of looms in the set. In addition to the base wage there will be paid an incentive bonus proportionate to the difference between the weaver's starting efficiency and her achieved efficiency. Tables of starting efficiencies are appended to the Report. Future percentage variations in the general wage level of the industry can be effected without altering the Tables: the desired effect can be achieved by altering the base wage. For example, an increase of 10 per cent. in the base wage will result in an increase of 10 per cent. in the earnings of all weavers.

In view of the urgent need for higher productivity the Commission consider that every encouragement and pressure should be applied for the adoption of the new system. They therefore conclude that it must be put into operation forthwith over a large volunteer field of the industry, i.e., over the widest effective range that can be secured by the joint efforts of the Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Association and the Weavers' Amalgamation, and assisted by every administrative discretion available to the Ministries of His Majesty's Government. Reasons are adduced for the preference of this method over the immediate application of the new system by force of law.

CHINA-CLAY INDUSTRY.

REPORT OF WORKING PARTY.

In March, 1946, the President of the Board of Trade appointed a Working Party for the china-clay industry, consisting of

employers, trade union representatives and independent members, in order to examine and enquire into the various schemes and suggestions put forward for improvements of organisation, production and distribution methods and processes in the industry, and to report as to the steps which should be adopted in the national interest to strengthen the industry and render it more stable and more capable of meeting competition in the home and foreign markets. The Report of the China-Clay Working Party has recently been published by H.M. Stationery Office (price 2s. 6d. net, 2s. 8d. post free).

In introducing the Report, the Working Party refer to the great value of china-clay to the export trade of the country. Statistical tables appended to the Report show that, in 1937, over half-a-million tons, or nearly two-thirds of the total output, were exported to the United States, Canada and other countries; by 1944 exports had fallen to a little over 60,000 tons but a partial recovery occurred in the two following years. The Working Party regard the re-establishment of the export market at its former high level as the primary task of the industry. They estimate that the demand for English china-clay for the home and overseas markets for 1948 and a few years thereafter will be from 900,000 to a million tons annually.

The Report then discusses the present and prospective supply of labour for the industry. In 1937, the total number of workpeople employed in the production of china-clay was approximately 3,500. After falling to 1,200 in 1944, the number expanded again and was expected to reach 3,200 by the end of 1947. The Working Party believe that, if the labour force could be raised to 4,000, an annual output of 800,000 tons of china-clay could be achieved. They therefore regard the recruitment of approximately 800 additional workers as the immediate task of the industry, in which the co-operation of the Government and of local authorities will also be required.

In discussing the problems of recruitment, the Working Party point out that labour in the china-clay industry was formerly largely unskilled, and that, although mechanisation has increased the proportion of more highly-skilled jobs, several operations remain which can only be performed by manual labour and are in some cases unattractive and generally demand high physical qualifications. The need for further mechanisation and for other labour-saving processes is therefore evident. It is recommended that efforts should be made to attract an adequate number of new entrants annually who can be trained for the many new and mostly mechanical skilled occupations. In order to assist recruiting, the Report advocates improvements in welfare facilities, the provision of new houses, and the offer of an assured career in the industry with good prospects of advancement.

The Working Party refer, with approval, to the facilities for training already provided by one large undertaking in the industry, in the form of a scholarship at a Technical College for boys with the requisite capacity and qualifications. They feel, however, that it is equally important to establish satisfactory arrangements for "training on the job," especially in view of the growing demand for technical skill consequent upon increased mechanisation. The Report suggests that the co-operation of local educational and other authorities and organisations should be secured for promoting knowledge of the industry among the local community, especially among children.

The Report deals briefly with welfare and kindred topics. It is pointed out that, in view of the nature of the china-clay industry, there has been a general tendency to lag behind in the provision of welfare facilities. Matters in which it is urged that improved standards should be attained without delay include the provision of adequate mess-rooms and clothes-rooms and of oilskins for outdoor work, the posting of one man trained in First Aid for every shift, and closer attention to the health and safety requirements of the Quarries Act and Quarry Regulations. The Working Party recommend the establishment of Joint Committees, representative of management and workpeople, at each pit or china-clay works where they are not already established. These Joint Committees should be responsible for ensuring that general welfare standards are maintained. In view of the shortage of houses and accommodation in the china-clay districts, it is recommended that the future housing needs of the industry should be formulated and placed before the local housing authorities, so that there can be full co-operation between all concerned as soon as possible.

The Working Party recommend the establishment of a representative council for the industry, to be entitled the China-Clay Council and to comprise an independent Chairman and two independent members appointed by the Government, five elected representatives of the producers, two elected representatives of the workers and an Assessor appointed by the Government Department having the responsibility for china-clay production. The Council would be primarily an advisory body, but should possess the statutory powers necessary for the fulfilment of its functions. The main functions of the proposed Council would be the preparation of a development plan for the whole china-clay industry, measures to foster the economic and technical efficiency of the industry, the securing of the welfare and well-being of the workers, and the provision of a link between the industry and the Government.

Other subjects discussed by the Working Party in the Report include export, marketing and other economic problems of the china-clay industry, mechanisation, transport and distribution, the utilisation of by-products (with special reference to the provision of diversified employment in the china-clay areas), the unification of mineral rights, and research.

EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED PERSONS.

THE QUOTA SCHEME AND ITS ENFORCEMENT.

In reply to a question in the House of Commons on 10th February, the Minister of Labour and National Service made an announcement with regard to the Quota Scheme under the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act, 1944, and action to enforce it.

The Minister was asked to what extent difficulty in placing disabled persons was experienced throughout the country generally and whether he would consider raising the proportion of disabled men whom it was necessary under the Act to employ, from 3 per cent. to some higher figure in larger establishments, either generally or in areas where special difficulty was experienced. In his reply, he stated that the position as to placing varied as between one area and another throughout the country, but that there was no power to fix special percentages for particular areas. Taking the country as a whole, he was not convinced that an immediate increase in the percentage obligation would be appropriate or effective. In order to explain fully the measures taken to secure compliance with the existing obligations, he made a statement of which the substance is reproduced below.

The Minister said that there was no power under the Act to require employers to submit returns of the number and percentage of registered disabled persons in their employment, and that it was not possible, therefore, to present any exact record of the position. Every employer with 20 or more workers was, however, required under the Act to record particulars of his staff and of his registered disabled employees. The Minister had power to inspect these records, and it was through such inspection that non-compliance was detected. Failure to employ the quota was not of itself an offence under the Act; an offence arose when an employer who was below his quota engaged a worker who was not registered as disabled without first obtaining a permit from the Ministry of Labour and National Service. Failure to keep records in the prescribed manner was also an offence.

As a preliminary step to formal inspection, the Minister had arranged in October, 1946, for the issue of a letter of inquiry to all employers with 20 or more workers. This letter asked the employer to indicate whether he was employing his quota, and offered the services of one of the officers of the Ministry to discuss any difficulties. The results of this inquiry at the end of July, 1947, were as follows:—A total of 79,840 letters had been issued. Replies received in 45,067 cases (or 56.5 per cent.) indicated that the quota requirements had been satisfied. In a further 21,502 replies (26.9 per cent.) visits were requested. No replies had been received in 13,271 cases (16.6 per cent.). During the period 1st December, 1946, to 26th July, 1947, visits were paid to 12,500 employers who had requested them.

A systematic programme of inspection was introduced last autumn, starting with those cases in which no reply had been received to the letter of inquiry. This programme, the Minister stated, would be pursued until all employers were covered, but, as there were some 80,000 employers involved, it could not be completed with the limited staff available before early in 1949. Special inspections were, however, arranged in the event of complaints or other evidence of non-compliance reaching the Ministry.

The Minister added that the inquiries made last year revealed non-compliance of a minor or technical character in the case of about half the total of employers visited, and it was found possible, in general, to correct the errors immediately. Breaches of the Act had also been revealed by the formal inspections, but in no case had the non-compliance been sufficiently serious to justify the institution of legal proceedings. Despite the considerable publicity which the Act and its various schemes had received, the extent of the ignorance among employers of its provisions, more particularly in regard to the Quota Scheme, had been surprising; but the general attitude of employers had been co-operative and there was abundant evidence of willingness to comply with the statutory obligations.

CLASSIFICATION OF INDUSTRIES.

NEW STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION.

A new Standard Industrial Classification has been prepared as a means of securing uniformity and comparability in the statistics published by the Government Departments in the United Kingdom. It will be used for the Censuses of Production and Distribution, for the next Census of Population and, as soon as practicable, for the statistics of employment and unemployment and other official statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour and National Service. The classification has been prepared by an Inter-Departmental Committee on which the principal Departments collecting statistics have been represented; and the Committee, in the course of their deliberations, received valuable assistance from trade organisations and technical experts familiar with different industries and services.

The Committee reviewed the classifications used for the Census of Population, 1931, for the Census of Production, 1935, and for the official statistics of employment and unemployment. They also took account of the international standard industrial classification drawn up in 1938 by the Committee of Statistical Experts of the League of Nations and the amendments to that international classification recently proposed by the Statistical Commission of the United Nations.

The general principles on which the standard classification is based are the same as those adopted in the past by the Registrars General, the Board of Trade and the Ministry of Labour and National Service, which are broadly as follows:—

- (i) The standard list is a classification by industries and not by occupations.
- (ii) The classification is by industries, irrespective of the kind of ownership which may exist in particular industries. For example, establishments (such as Royal Ordnance Factories) owned by the Central Government or by local authorities are classified by the character of the industry and not according to ownership. In the past this principle has been applied only to a limited extent—mainly in engineering, shipbuilding, public utilities and transport. It is now to be extended, as far as practicable, to all industries and services.
- (iii) The unit for classification is taken as the "establishment" and the classification of each establishment is determined by its principal products. In the majority of cases an "establishment" will comprise the whole of the premises under the same ownership or management at a particular address, for example, a farm, mine, factory or shop. If, however, such premises contain two or more departments engaged in different activities in respect of which separate records of employment, production, stocks, costs, etc., are obtainable, each department is treated as a separate establishment.

As compared with the existing list of industry groups used for the classification of the employment and unemployment statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour and National Service, the main difference is the sub-division of some of the more important industry groups. In some cases, however, certain types of establishment have been transferred from one category to another.

The standard classification consists of 24 Orders or major industrial groups, 163 Minimum List Headings, and a large number of optional sub-divisions of the Minimum List Headings. The Minimum List Headings will be used where practicable by all Departments compiling statistics according to industry; the optional sub-divisions are for use where more detailed classification is required.

The Standard Industrial Classification, together with a description of the Orders, Minimum List Headings and optional sub-divisions, has been placed on sale by H.M. Stationery Office (price 9d. net, 10d. post free).

THE STAGGERING OF HOLIDAYS.

PROGRESS DURING 1946 AND 1947.

As discussed in the issues of this GAZETTE for February and April, 1946 (pages 48 and 91), two Standing Committees, one for England and Wales and the other for Scotland, were appointed early in 1946 by the Minister of Labour and National Service, in conjunction with the Secretary of State for Scotland, to stimulate and co-ordinate action in connection with the staggering of holidays. These appointments followed the issue of the Report of the Catering Wages Commission on the subject.

Since their appointment the Committees have met at intervals and have laid down general lines of policy, in accordance with which efforts have been directed, during the past two years, by the Regional Controllers of the Ministry of Labour and National Service to securing the spreading of holidays by voluntary means over the months June to September on lines appropriate to the varying needs of each area. Conferences have been held with employers, trade unions, local authorities, local trades councils, local transport groups, Chambers of Commerce, etc.; and a national publicity campaign has been conducted involving the use of posters, leaflets, press, radio and films. A Holiday Bulletin has also been issued annually giving details of attractions provided by many holiday resorts in the period June to September.

In 1946, though the campaign started rather late, good progress was made, and the numbers of people taking holidays outside the peak period were noticeably greater than in previous years. In 1947, however, there was apparently little extension of staggered holidays. Workers in general revealed a decided preference for the traditional August holiday, and, since it is generally agreed that in 1947 fewer people than in 1946 took holidays away from home, any degree of discomfort experienced was not such as to influence holidaymakers to take an early or late holiday in 1948. Progress has, however, undoubtedly been made in some areas. For example, at Kettering and Northampton a holiday week during the first half of July is now an established practice, and the Birmingham Local Joint Committee for the Building Industry have decided that the fixed week for the holiday to be taken in 1948 under the Holidays with Pay Scheme shall be the normal working week commencing 5th July. The South-Western Division of the National Coal Board (which includes the South Wales coalfield) arranged in 1947 for holidays to be spread over seven weeks from 7th July to 18th August, and, in addition, a district rota has been prepared for the period 1947-53; these plans affect 100,000 coal miners.

From reports on holiday arrangements in industry in 1948 it is becoming increasingly clear that, although the need to stagger holidays has now been well publicised and the principle has been widely accepted by all the interests concerned, workers in the main still prefer July or August holidays. The question of the dates of external school examinations, which are considered to be a deterrent to early holidays, has recently been the subject of a

report by the Secondary School Examinations Council to the Minister of Education.

A folder (P.L.282) containing suggestions for the staggering of holidays has been issued by the Ministry of Labour and National Service. Copies of this leaflet can be obtained from any Local Office of the Ministry.

REGISTRATION FOR EMPLOYMENT ORDER.

FURTHER REGISTRATION.

Articles published in the last two issues of this GAZETTE (pages 9 and 49) gave particulars of registrations which had been held under the Registration for Employment Order, 1947. On 15th March, the Minister of Labour and National Service published a notice requiring further age-groups of persons not gainfully employed or gainfully occupied to register themselves at Ministry of Labour Employment Exchanges between 5th and 10th April (both dates inclusive). Those concerned are men born between 1898 and 1916 and women born between 1908 and 1922, both years inclusive in each case, and the requirement to register applies to all such persons (subject to exceptions similar to those announced on the occasion of the first registration of persons not gainfully employed or occupied) who have not been gainfully employed or gainfully occupied for at least 30 hours in each week during the period from 9th February, 1948, to 21st March, 1948.

NUMBERS OF PERSONS REGISTERED.

In reply to questions in the House of Commons on 16th March, the Minister of Labour and National Service stated that, up to 28th February, 70,780 persons had been registered under the Registration for Employment Order, 1947, of whom 13,174 were street traders, 23,289 were persons not gainfully employed or gainfully occupied, and 34,317 were employed by certain non-essential undertakings. He stated further that the work of examining these cases, and, where necessary, of interviewing the person registered would take a considerable time, but that up to 18th February, 1,692 persons registered had been placed in work of national importance, of whom 133 were registered as street traders, 1,508 as persons not gainfully employed or gainfully occupied, and 51 as employed in non-essential undertakings. The Minister added that all the persons who had been offered posts had accepted them and that it had not been necessary to direct or bring pressure to bear upon any.

AGRICULTURE.

LABOUR SUPPLY IN 1948.

In reply to a question in the House of Commons on 23rd February, the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries made a statement with regard to the supply of labour for agriculture in 1948. The Minister stated that it was hoped that the additional labour required this year to carry out the new food production programme would be met by increased recruitment of British workers, by the Women's Land Army, and by the 30,000 Poles and European Volunteer Workers and the civilianised German ex-prisoners of war now being recruited for the purpose. It was also hoped that still more additional seasonal help would come from people in or near the countryside itself and from expanded schemes of supplementary help of various kinds which the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries were sponsoring.

The Minister added that local conferences on seasonal labour for agriculture, at which both sides of the industry as well as county agricultural executive committees were represented, were being held under the auspices of the Ministry of Labour and National Service. With regard to regular labour, the Minister emphasised the extreme importance of farmers themselves doing their utmost to build up their own staffs against the needs of the coming summer.

PROGRESS OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHEME.

In a reply to a question in the House of Commons on 1st March, the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries gave some information with regard to the number of persons who had taken advantage of the Scheme which was established in 1945 for providing training in agriculture and horticulture for ex-Service personnel. An account of the Scheme was given in the issue of this GAZETTE for June, 1945 (page 94).

The Minister stated that in the 32 months during which the Scheme had been running, 8,960 men and women had been placed in farm training. Of these, 2,372 had completed their training satisfactorily, 3,149 were still in training, and 3,439 had terminated their training before the end of the 12 months' course. More than one-third of those who terminated their training prematurely were known to have remained on the land and many others had been obliged to discontinue for health reasons. A further course of institutional training had been given to 615 of those who had completed their training satisfactorily, and, in addition, 989 men and women (including members of the Women's Land Army) had been given institutional training without being required to take a preliminary year of farm training.

On 9th February, 1948, 294 applicants were awaiting interview to determine their suitability for farm training and 334, already found suitable, were waiting for places on approved holdings. The Minister added that lack of suitable accommodation and reluctance on the part of farmers to accept trainees at certain seasons of the year were causing some difficulty in placing, but that everything possible was being done to shorten the periods of waiting. On 9th February, 50 persons were awaiting the next series of institutional courses, which were due to begin in the following October; these persons had been advised to seek agricultural employment in the intervening period.

SAFEGUARDING OF EMPLOYMENT ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND), 1947.

On 23rd December, 1947, the Safeguarding of Employment Act (Northern Ireland), 1947,* received the Royal Assent. The object of this Act is to safeguard employment in Northern Ireland in the interests of Northern Ireland workers. The Act provides that, apart from certain specified employments, a person who is not a Northern Ireland worker as defined in the Act may not, after 31st December, 1947, undertake, or become or be engaged in any employment in Northern Ireland under contract of service or apprenticeship unless the person has a permit from the Ministry of Labour and National Insurance authorising him to do so.

The employments exempted from the operation of the Act are set out in a Schedule to the Act and comprise: employment in the service of the Crown; employment by virtue of which the employed person is entitled to any diplomatic or consular privilege; employment in the service of the husband or wife of the employed person; employment as a duly qualified medical practitioner or as a registered dentist; employment as a minister of religion; employment as a Professor of a University or as a member of the tutorial staff of a University; employment in any vessel or aircraft; and employment for a period of not more than three of any twelve consecutive months as a member of the theatrical or musical professions. In addition, the Ministry of Labour and National Insurance have power to make Orders extending exemption to other employments.

By virtue of the power referred to in the preceding paragraph, the Ministry on 31st December made the Safeguarding of Employment (Exemption) Order (Northern Ireland), 1947.† This Order provides that the Act is not to apply to employment secured by persons who served whole time in the Armed Forces, or corresponding women's Services, in the exercise of their rights under the Reinstatement in Civil Employment Act, 1944, and the National Service Act, 1947, so long as the rights continue.

The Safeguarding of Employment (Exemption) Order (Northern Ireland), 1948,‡ which was made by the Ministry on 13th January, exempts from the operation of the Act employment as a teacher in a grant-aided school or grant-aided institution, employment as a journalist or press photographer in the service of a newspaper or news-agency, and employment in the service of the Commissioners of Irish Lights.

INDUSTRIAL HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE.

PROPOSED REGULATIONS RELATING TO JUTE FACTORIES.

The Final Report of the Jute Industry Factory Advisory Committee, which was summarised in the issue of this GAZETTE for December, 1946 (pages 351 and 352), contained certain recommendations for improving conditions of work in jute factories. After considering this Report and after consultation with organisations of employers and workpeople in the industry, the Minister of Labour and National Service has given notice that he proposes to make Regulations under the Factories Act, 1937, relating to safety, health and welfare in factories in which is carried on the spinning or weaving of jute, or any process incidental thereto, or the calendering or cropping of jute cloth. The Regulations are intended to supersede, in the case of the factories to which they apply, the Regulations made by the Secretary of State in 1907 for the processes of spinning and weaving hemp or jute, or hemp or jute tow, and processes incidental thereto (S.R. & O. 1907, No. 660).

The proposed Regulations cover lifting and carrying by women and young persons, ventilation, temperature and humidity, welfare provisions, and requirements as to the construction and safeguarding of machines.

A draft of the proposed Regulations, which are to be entitled The Jute (Safety, Health and Welfare) Regulations, 1948, has been published. Copies may be purchased direct from H.M. Stationery Office at any of the addresses shown on the front cover of this GAZETTE, or through any bookseller, price 3d. net (4d. post free).

* 11 and 12 Geo. 6. Ch. 24. H.M. Stationery Office; price 3d. net (4d. post free).

† S.R. & O. of Northern Ireland 1947, No. 210. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net (2d. post free).

‡ S.R. & O. of Northern Ireland 1948, No. 13. H.M. Stationery Office; price 1d. net (2d. post free).

Any objections to the draft Regulations must be sent to the Minister in writing on or before 30th April, 1948, and must state (a) the specific grounds of objection, and (b) the omissions, additions or modifications asked for. Objections should be addressed to the Secretary, Ministry of Labour and National Service, 8, St. James's Square, London, S.W.1.

NATIONAL INSURANCE ACT, 1946.

DRAFT REGULATIONS SUBMITTED TO NATIONAL INSURANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Last month's issue of this GAZETTE (page 51) contains an article giving brief particulars of various Regulations which it was proposed to make under the National Insurance Act, 1946, and which had been submitted to the National Insurance Advisory Committee for consideration and report. Preliminary drafts of further Regulations have been submitted to the Committee by the Minister of National Insurance, and some information about these is given below. Full details are contained in the preliminary drafts, which have been published by H.M. Stationery Office. Copies may be purchased direct from that Office at any of the addresses shown on the front cover of this GAZETTE, or through any bookseller.

The National Insurance (General Benefit) Regulations, 1948 (price 3d. net, 4d. post free).—These draft Regulations deal with miscellaneous matters of a general character affecting benefits, including the definition of "contribution year" and "benefit year"; the calculation of the yearly average of contributions for widow's benefit and retirement pension; the basis for estimating earnings in relation to benefits; the circumstances in which one person will be regarded as wholly or mainly maintaining another; exceptions to the general rules disqualifying persons from benefit during periods of imprisonment, etc.; adjustments of interim payments of benefit, of arrears and of repayment of benefit; and disregard of disqualifications for certain purposes.

The National Insurance (Widow's Benefit, Guardian's Allowances and Retirement Pensions) Regulations, 1948 (price 2d. net, 3d. post free).—These Regulations deal with the conditions, or modification of conditions, for the receipt of widow's benefit, guardian's allowances and retirement pensions, and certain other matters connected therewith.

The Committee will consider objections to either of these Regulations, by or on behalf of persons affected, if sent before 6th April to the Secretary, National Insurance Advisory Committee, 6, Curzon Street, London, W.1.

The National Insurance (Medical Certification) Regulations, 1948 (price 2d. net, 3d. post free).—These Regulations deal with the manner in which evidence is to be given for sickness and maternity benefit, and contain rules as to when and in what form certificates should be furnished when claiming these benefits.

The Committee will consider objections to these Regulations, by or on behalf of persons affected, if sent before 9th April to the Secretary, National Insurance Advisory Committee, at the address quoted above.

SHIPBUILDING IN 1947.

The Annual Summary of the Mercantile Shipbuilding of the World for the year 1947, which was recently issued by Lloyd's Register of Shipping, gives the total number of merchant vessels launched during that year in Great Britain and Northern Ireland as 393, with a total gross tonnage of 1,202,024 tons. The total output for the year exceeded the previous year's figure by nearly 68,800 tons or just over 6 per cent. and the 1938 figure by some 172,000 tons, and was only 82,000 tons less than the maximum figure of the war period (1,284,000 in 1942). Included in the vessels launched, all of which, with the exception of two wooden motor trawlers, were built of steel, were 156 steamers, 187 motor ships and 50 sailing ships and barges with gross tonnages of 630,103, 562,656 and 9,265 tons, respectively.

Of the total number of vessels launched during the year, 171 with a tonnage of 380,153 (31.6 per cent.) were for owners in France, Norway, Portugal, the British Dominions and ten other overseas countries. The number of steamers and motor ships known to have been launched in overseas countries during 1947 was 444 with a total gross tonnage of 909,862 tons; no figures were available for launchings in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Germany and Japan. Of the tonnage launched in the world, as recorded in the Returns, the output in Great Britain and Northern Ireland represented nearly 57 per cent.

The tonnage of merchant shipping under construction in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at the end of 1947 was 2,173,361 tons, or 236,299 tons more than at the beginning of the year, and was the highest figure recorded since March, 1922. It was, however, pointed out that the continued increase in the tonnage of vessels under construction was necessarily influenced by the delays which current circumstances were imposing upon the completion of ships and the consequent prolongation of the time required for building them. Tonnage commenced during the year was about 1,187,000 tons, or 15,000 tons less than the tonnage launched during the same period, and 199,000 tons less than that commenced during the previous year.

The figures contained in the Annual Summary take into account only merchant vessels of 100 tons gross and upwards launched in 1947, whether completed during the year or still under construction at the end of December.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION.

FIRST REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE UNITED NATIONS.

In the Agreement of 30th May, 1946, between the United Nations and the International Labour Organisation which brought the two bodies into relationship, the International Labour Organisation agreed to transmit to the United Nations regular reports on the activities of the Organisation. In accordance with this undertaking, the First Report of the Organisation has recently been submitted to the United Nations.*

In the introduction to the Report, it is stated that the International Labour Organisation propose to transmit their Reports to the United Nations at annual intervals and to include in them a full account of action taken by the Organisation in pursuance of the Agreement of 30th May, 1946, together with such information concerning the general activities of the Organisation as may appear to be of interest to the United Nations. The present Report embodies certain background information which it will be unnecessary to repeat in future years, including a brief general account of the aims and purposes of the Organisation and of its structure and procedures.

The Report covers the period from the establishment of the United Nations to 15th July, 1947. It deals in some detail with the decisions taken at five successive sessions of the International Labour Conference, viz., those held in Philadelphia in May, 1944, in Paris in October and November, 1945, in Seattle in June, 1946, in Montreal in September and October, 1946, and in Geneva in June and July, 1947. Special attention is given in the Report to a number of questions which appear to be of particular interest to the United Nations at the present juncture, notably employment and unemployment, social security, the protection of children and young persons, women's work, maritime labour, social policy in non-metropolitan territories and migration. A chapter is devoted to each of these topics. Other subjects dealt with in the Report include labour inspection, the work of the Industrial Committees established by the Governing Body of the Organisation, the regional activities of the Organisation, the work of the advisory missions arranged by the International Labour Office at the request of Governments, the publications of the International Labour Office, and the development of the relations of the International Labour Organisation with the United Nations and other international organisations.

The Report is accompanied by a volume of appendices containing the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation, as amended by the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation Instrument of Amendment, 1946, the texts of Conventions and Recommendations adopted at the five Sessions of the International Labour Conference held from 1944 to 1947, the texts of the Agreements between the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations and between the International Labour Organisation and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, and other information illustrative of the Organisation's work.

EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS IN NEW ZEALAND.

STATISTICS FOR SIX MONTHS ENDED APRIL, 1947.

The New Zealand National Employment Service have issued a Half-Yearly Survey of Employment which covers the six months ended April, 1947. This is the second Survey issued since the establishment of the Service in April, 1946. The previous Survey, for the six months ended October, 1946, was the subject of an article in the issue of this GAZETTE for July, 1947 (pages 227 and 228).

The Survey is based upon the returns of numbers employed and total remuneration paid in each month which are furnished by employers in accordance with the Employment (Information) Regulations, 1946. The returns relate to workers and working proprietors (other than those in one-man businesses) in industries and services covered by the Regulations, the most important of the industries excluded being farming, fishing, hunting and waterfront work. Seasonal industries are also excluded from the returns, but the data available in respect of such industries are incorporated in the Survey.

At 15th April, 1947, there were 402,891 workers in full-time employment in all the non-seasonal industries and services subject to the Regulations. Of this total, 252,008 were men, 34,050 were youths and boys under 21 years (including building trade apprentices), 79,452 were women, and 37,381 were girls under 21. In addition, 22,297 full-time workers were engaged in seasonal industries; working proprietors numbered 25,997 and part-time workers 10,549. At 15th October, 1946, the corresponding number in full-time non-seasonal employment was 397,209 (men 247,727, youths and boys 33,220, women 79,642, girls 36,620), and there were 26,607 working proprietors and 10,624 part-time workers; the number engaged in seasonal industries at this date is not available.

The Survey refers to the diminution in the sources of additional man-power and the more stringent competition for the labour available which marked the period under review. During the six

* First Report of the International Labour Organisation to the United Nations, International Labour Office, Geneva; price (two volumes) 12s.

months ended October, 1946, releases from the Forces and the accession to industry of men who had been undergoing a rehabilitation process had resulted in an addition of about 14,000 workers to the labour force. During the six months ended April, 1947, the number obtained from these sources was negligible. In consequence, industrial expansion, which had been possible in the first period, was not possible in the second, the industries most affected being the manufacturing industries. In all the manufacturing undertakings covered by the Survey there was an increase of one-tenth of one per cent. only in male employment during the second six months, compared with an increase of 4 per cent. during the first, and the number of women employed decreased slightly. Increases in male employment occurred in some non-manufacturing industries and services, including distribution and finance, forestry, and road transport; but there were marked decreases in coal mining, rail transport, and local authority services. Of the non-manufacturing groups, a reduction in female employment was reported in transport and communication only.

Vacancies for male workers recorded by employers in non-seasonal industries numbered 18,224 at 15th April, 1947, compared with 14,475 at 15th October, 1946; the numbers of vacancies for female workers were 14,771 and 14,060, respectively. In the manufacturing industries, the most marked increases in the demand for male workers occurred in woollen and knitting mills, footwear manufacture, builders' woodwork, engineering and metal working, and vehicle and aircraft manufacture. In all the industries and services, seasonal and non-seasonal, covered by the Survey, the average weekly earnings, inclusive of overtime, in April, 1947, were £7 12s. 9d. for male workers and £4 2s. 10d. for female workers. In May, 1946, the month following the establishment of the National Employment Service, the corresponding averages were £7 5s. 8d. and £3 17s. 11d. a week.

The Table below shows, for the principal groups of industries and services covered by the Survey, the numbers of male and female workers in full employment at 15th April, 1947, and their average weekly earnings, inclusive of overtime payments.

Industrial Group.	Males.		Females.	
	Number in Full-Time Employment.	Average Weekly Earnings.	Number in Full-Time Employment.	Average Weekly Earnings.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Manufacturing Industries —				
Food, Drink and Tobacco (non-seasonal) ..	8,895	7 15 9	4,635	3 13 7
Textiles, Clothing and Leather ..	12,382	7 1 3	20,597	3 13 2
Building Materials and Furnishings ..	15,703	7 0 7	1,074	3 15 10
Engineering and Metal Working ..	39,015	6 15 11	3,753	3 19 1
Miscellaneous ..	13,618	7 12 3	5,776	3 14 1
Power and Water ..	7,783	7 18 11	563	4 1 4
All Manufacturing Industries	97,396	7 3 3	36,398	3 14 2
Primary Industries (Sawmilling, etc., Mining and Quarrying) ..	14,340	8 2 8	248	4 4 10
Transport and Communication ..	45,062	8 7 3	5,680	5 1 3
Distribution and Finance ..	52,289	7 10 0	29,570	3 18 9
Hotels and Personal Services ..	9,203	6 18 6	12,783	4 1 2
Administration and Professional ..	35,929	8 2 10	31,424	4 14 3
Building and Construction ..	31,839	7 3 6	730	4 2 5
Seasonal Industries (Meat Processing, Fruit, etc., Preserving, Dairying, Threshing, etc., Wool Stores)	20,887	8 8 6	1,410	3 16 7
All Industries and Services ..	306,945	7 12 9	118,243	4 2 10

EARNINGS AND HOURS OF WORK IN CANADA.

STATISTICS FOR MARCH AND SEPTEMBER, 1947.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics compile and publish monthly statistics of the average hourly earnings and the average number of hours worked in a week by wage-earners in manufacturing industries, mining, and some non-manufacturing industries and services in Canada. The figures relate to the week preceding the first day of each month and have been recorded by the Bureau since November, 1944.

For the purpose of these statistics, returns are made by undertakings, normally employing 15 persons or more, in respect of hourly-rated workers for whom a record of the aggregate hours worked is kept. The wages reported represent gross earnings before deductions are made for taxes, unemployment insurance contributions, etc. They include incentive and production bonuses and overtime payments, as well as payments made to workers on paid holiday during the period of the return, but they do not include the value of any board and lodging forming part of a worker's remuneration. The statistics of hours of work include overtime, hours worked by part-time and casual workers and hours credited to workers on paid holiday in the recorded pay-period.

The figures in the Table in the next column have been extracted from the Bureau's statistics and show the average hourly earnings and average number of hours worked in a week in the weeks preceding 1st March and 1st September, 1947, in the principal groups of manufacturing industries, mining, and some non-manufacturing industries and services in Canada. The figures for September, which are provisional, relate to rather more than a million hourly-rated workers. Articles giving earlier figures from the same series of statistics were published in the issues of this

GAZETTE for January, 1946, and February, 1947 (pages 13 and 51, respectively).

Industry.	Average Hourly Earnings in Pay-week preceding		Average Hours of Work in Pay-week preceding	
	1st March, 1947.	1st Sept., 1947.	1st March, 1947.	1st Sept., 1947.
	Cents.	Cents.		
Manufacturing :				
Petroleum and other Non-metallic Mineral Products ..	88.8	92.5	43.3	42.8
Chemical and Allied Products ..	76.3	82.5	43.5	42.8
Clay, Glass and Stone Products ..	74.3	81.8	45.3	43.7
Iron and Steel, Machinery, Vehicles, Aircraft, Steel Ships and other Iron and Steel Products ..	89.5	93.3	43.7	43.0
Electrical Apparatus ..	81.4	86.7	41.2	40.3
Aluminium and other Non-ferrous Metal Products ..	82.4	89.7	43.9	42.5
Textiles, Clothing and Personal Furnishings ..	60.2	63.2	42.1	40.5
Boots and Shoes and other Leather Products ..	60.9	64.4	42.3	40.2
Meat, Dairy and other Animal Food Products ..	75.8	75.0	42.6	42.6
Flour, Bread, Chocolate, Cocoa, Preserves and other Vegetable Food Products ..	62.2	65.8	41.9	40.6
Beverages ..	77.4	82.7	41.5	43.3
Tobacco ..	56.8	63.3	43.2	41.1
Rough and Dressed Timber, Furniture and other Wood Products ..	70.5	75.4	44.0	41.8
Pulp and Paper Products, Printing and Publishing ..	81.5	91.9	46.0	45.9
Rubber Products ..	84.1	91.1	44.7	41.8
Musical Instruments ..	65.3	67.9	45.6	45.1
Miscellaneous Manufactured Products ..	67.5	73.4	42.0	40.3
Total Manufacturing	77.1	82.2	43.4	42.3
Mining :				
Coal ..	114.7	110.8	35.9	38.8
Metallic Ores ..	95.8	102.3	45.9	44.1
Other Minerals ..	73.8	80.3	45.3	44.8
Total Mining	95.1	100.4	43.6	42.5
Street and Electric Railways and other Local Transportation ..	81.8	84.8	46.8	45.5
Building Construction ..	88.2	92.9	40.1	40.0
Highway Construction ..	67.4	71.4	46.3	39.7
Hotels and Restaurants ..	51.5	52.2	44.2	43.3
Laundries and other Personal Services ..	51.5	56.2	41.6	40.6

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION OF CANADA.

REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1947.

The Unemployment Insurance Commission of Canada, which was established under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1940, have presented their Sixth Report, for the fiscal year ended 31st March, 1947. The Report describes the work of the Commission in carrying out the principal purposes of the Act, viz., the provision of an employment service, with the object of finding suitable work for employable persons who desire employment, and the provision of aid, by way of insurance benefits, for insured persons whom the service has failed to place in suitable employment. (An account of the Unemployment Insurance Act was given in the issue of this GAZETTE for October, 1940, page 265.)

NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE.

The work during 1946-1947 of the National Employment Service, which is maintained by the Unemployment Insurance Commission throughout Canada, is illustrated by the figures in the Table below, which also includes comparative figures for the preceding twelve months. (Placements are termed "casual" when the duration of the employment offered is seven days or less.)

	Year ended March, 1947.			Year ended March, 1946.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Applications for Employment ..	1,414	478	1,892	1,852	590	2,442
Vacancies reported ..	1,337	573	1,910	1,600	603	2,203
Placements effected :						
Regular ..	593	189	782	954	272	1,226
Casual ..	32	51	83	18	35	53
Total ..	625	240	865	972	307	1,279

The Report states that the operations of the National Employment Service during the period under review reflected in large measure the transition from war-time to peace-time conditions, one of the outstanding problems encountered being the placing

in industry and commerce of demobilised men and women. Widespread industrial unrest created special difficulties for the Service, and the housing shortage had the effect of restricting the transfer of labour from place to place. Shortages in female labour continued, notably in the larger cities, and were particularly acute in such occupations as power sewing machine operators for secondary textile industry, stenographers, domestic workers, hotel and restaurant workers, professional nurses and other hospital workers.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

During the year ended March, 1947, there were over 482,000 new entrants to insured employment and the number of persons registered as being in insured employment at some time during the year was about 3½ million. Contributions amounted to 76 million dollars, of which the employers contributed 34½ million and the workers 41½ million. The Dominion Government contributed nearly 15½ million dollars, i.e., 20 per cent. of the aggregate of employers' and workers' contributions; and 7½ million dollars were received as interest on investment securities, bringing the total revenue for the year to 98½ million dollars. Benefit payments amounted to rather more than 43 million dollars (compared with 32 million in 1945-1946). The net revenue of the Unemployment Insurance Fund for 1946-1947 was thus approximately 55½ million dollars. At 31st March, 1947, the Fund amounted to nearly 373 million dollars.

In all, 503,287 claims for unemployment benefit were filed at the Local Offices of the Fund during 1946-1947. Of claims referred to Insurance Officers for adjudication, 370,258 were allowed and 124,850 were not established or were disqualified. Of claims referred for adjudication by higher authorities, Courts of Referees allowed 3,359 and disallowed 17,875, and the Umpire decided 27 in favour of the claimants and 124 in favour of the Insurance Officers.

EARNINGS AND WORKING HOURS IN THE NETHERLANDS.

The September-October, 1947, issue of *Maandschrift*, the journal of the Netherlands Central Statistical Bureau, contains a summary of the results of an official enquiry into the earnings and hours of work of men, 21 years of age and over, employed in the principal industries in the Netherlands in September or October, 1946. Returns were obtained by the Bureau from large and medium sized undertakings with a total of about a quarter of a million men employed in direct production, of whom approximately 35 per cent. were classed as skilled workers, 42 per cent. as semi-skilled workers and 23 per cent. as unskilled workers. The earnings taken into account were gross earnings, before deductions on account of insurance contributions, and included bonuses and other additions to wages and extra payment for overtime but not statutory family allowances.

The average hourly earnings in September or October, 1946, of men employed in all the industries covered by the enquiry (including coal mining) were 96.5 cents for skilled, 87.6 cents for semi-skilled and 82.7 cents for unskilled workers. Compared with the level of 1938-1939, these figures represent increases of about 70, 84 and 98 per cent., respectively. The average number of hours worked in a week was 49 for skilled and unskilled workers and 48½ for semi-skilled workers (these figures exclude coal miners).

The Table below shows, for the principal industries and for all industries covered by the enquiry, the average hourly earnings and the average weekly number of hours worked by adult male skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers in a week in September or October, 1946. Coal mining is represented in the aggregate figures relating to earnings but not in those relating to working hours. Earnings and hours in October or November, 1945, were the subject of an article in the issue of this GAZETTE for January, 1947 (page 17).

Industry.	Skilled Workers.		Semi-Skilled Workers.		Unskilled Workers.	
	Average Hourly Earnings.	Average Weekly Working Hours.	Average Hourly Earnings.	Average Weekly Working Hours.	Average Hourly Earnings.	Average Weekly Working Hours.
	Cents.		Cents.		Cents.	
Chemicals ..	102.6	54	89.8	48½	87.6	48
Engineering and Shipbuilding ..	99.4	48½	95.8	49	86.7	49
Other Metal Working ..	98.4	49	87.3	48½	86.2	49
Automobile Repair ..	87.5	49½	76.4	50	70.1	49
Cotton ..	86.8	46½	81.5	47	75.3	47½
Wool Textile ..	92.8	47½	89.2	47½	86.4	48
Boot and Shoe Manufacture ..	101.3	46½	90.2	46	85.1	46
Bakeries ..	89.8	48½	83.9	48½	83.6	49
Fruit and Vegetable Preserving ..	—	—	78.5	50½	74.0	50½
Beet Sugar ..	—	—	95.2	55½	88.2	54½
Cigars ..	86.2	47	80.7	47	70.7	47½
Millsawing ..	—	—	84.6	48	78.1	48
Furniture ..	92.7	48	86.8	48	76.9	48
Building ..	86.2	50	80.7	50	—	—
Public Works Contracting ..	95.1	53½	87.6	54½	82.1	51
Book, Newspaper, etc., Printing ..	98.5	49	90.8	49	78.6	49
Bookbinding ..	93.5	48½	86.7	48½	83.5	49
All Industries (including some not shown separately above) ..	96.5	49	87.6	48½	82.7	49



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EMPLOYMENT IN GREAT BRITAIN IN JANUARY.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

The total working population* declined during January by 7,000 men and 7,000 women. In the Economic Survey for 1948 a reduction of 213,000 in the total working population was forecast for the first six months of this year. The January decline is, therefore, substantially less than the estimated average monthly rate. Moreover, it compares favourably with the figure for January, 1947, when in spite of a much larger intake of juveniles there was a slight decline in the total working population.

Previous months' statements drew attention to fluctuations in the wastage rate for women; the January figures suggest that the wastage rate has fallen from the high December figure to a rate which is lower than the 1947 average but is well above the abnormally low October and November rates.

The loss in December of women in part-time employment did not continue in January and part-time workers in the manufacturing industries increased by 2,500 (counting each part-timer as half a unit) while there was little change in the number of part-time workers in distribution and consumers' services.

The number of foreign workers (including ex-prisoners of war given civilian status) placed in employment increased during January by 10,500, bringing the total number of foreign workers placed under the various post-war schemes to over 108,000.

The size of the Forces was reduced in January by 59,000, leaving a total of 1,054,000 at the end of the month. Releases from the Forces during January were over 79,000, the highest monthly figure for more than a year. There was a consequential increase in the estimated number of men and women on release leave who had not yet taken up employment.

There was a slight fall in the actual number of insured persons registered as unemployed from 318,200 at 12th January to 315,400 at 16th February, although the estimated figure of 317,000 at the end of January was 17,000 above the estimated figure for the end of December.

The total numbers in civil employment (industry, commerce and services of all kinds) were almost unchanged in January (a rise of 11,000 men being offset by a fall of 7,000 women). The main net reductions were in building and civil engineering among men (21,000) and in distribution among women (13,000). There were increases in certain consumers' services (10,000—including 4,000 in professional services and 1,500 in laundries and cleaning), in mining and quarrying (3,000) and in transport and shipping (3,000), but the main increase was in the manufacturing industries.

In the manufacturing industries, employment rose by almost 21,000 (of which 18,000 were men) compared with a fall of 12,000 in December. There was a net increase of employment in the textile industries of 2,000 men and 3,500 women, of which 700 men and 2,000 women were in cotton. In metals and engineering there was little change among women, but an increase of 10,000 men, mainly in general engineering but including 400 in the steel industry and 500 in general ironfounding (excluding engineers' ironfounding).

The following Report analyses in more detail the developments outlined above.

1. GENERAL MAN-POWER POSITION.

The broad changes in the man-power position between mid-1939 and the end of January, 1948, are shown in the following Table. The figures relate to males aged 14 and under 65 and females aged 14 and under 60 years.

	(Thousands)				
	Mid-1939.	Mid-1945.	End-1946.	End-1947.	Jan., 1948.
1. Total Working Population (excluding indoor private domestic service)					
Men	14,656	14,881	14,629	14,659	14,652
Women	5,094	6,768	5,785	5,764	5,757
Total .. .	19,750	21,649	20,414	20,423	20,409
2. Ex-H.M. Forces on release leave who have not yet taken up employment ..	—	40	300	123	147
3. Insured Persons registered as unemployed ..	1,270	103	398	300	317†
4. Total number in H.M. Forces, and in Civil Employment:†					
Men	13,643	14,786	14,044	14,316	14,269
Women	4,837	6,720	5,672	5,684	5,676
Total .. .	18,480	21,506	19,716	20,000	19,945

2. TOTAL WORKING POPULATION.

There was a decrease of 14,000 in the total working population during January, 1948 (men 7,000 and women 7,000). Since June,

* *i.e.*, the total number of persons in work or available for work, up to the age of 65 (men) and 60 (women). The figure includes the Forces, demobilised members of the Forces not yet in employment, and the unemployed; it excludes indoor private domestic servants.

† Estimate for 31st January.

‡ Including N.F.S., Police and Civil Defence.

1945, the total is estimated to have fallen by 1,240,000 (men 229,000 and women 1,011,000). The total working population at the end of January, 1948, was greater than at mid-1939 by 659,000 (men — 4,000, women + 663,000).

3. H.M. FORCES AND AUXILIARY SERVICES, AND CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT.*

The total numbers in the Forces, Auxiliary Services, and civilian employment decreased during January by 55,000 (men — 47,000, women — 8,000). At the end of January, the total was 1,561,000 less than at the end of June, 1945 (men 517,000 and women 1,044,000), but 1,465,000 greater than at mid-1939 (men 626,000 and women 839,000).

4. FORCES AND AUXILIARY SERVICES.

The numbers in the Forces and Auxiliary Services included in item 4 of the Table in paragraph 1 are as follows:—

	(Thousands)				
	Mid-1939.	Mid-1945.	End-1946.	End-1947.	Jan., 1948.
Men .. .	480	4,653	1,361	1,064	1,006
Women .. .	—	437	79	49	48
Total .. .	480	5,090	1,440	1,113	1,054

In the period from mid-1945 to the end of January, 1948, there has been a decrease of 4,036,000 (men 3,647,000 and women 389,000).

5. CIVIL EMPLOYMENT.*

The numbers in civil employment included in item 4 of the Table in paragraph 1 are as follows:—

	(Thousands)				
	Mid-1939.	Mid-1945.	End-1946.	End-1947.	Jan., 1948.
Men .. .	13,163	10,133	12,683	13,252	13,263
Women	4,837	6,283	5,593	5,635	5,628
Total :					
Equipment and Supplies for the Forces	1,270	3,830	460	350	350
Other Work† ..	16,730	12,586	17,816	18,537	18,541
Total .. .	18,000	16,416	18,276	18,887	18,891

Between mid-1939 and mid-1945, recruitment for the Forces, partly offset by substantial new intake from the non-industrial sections of the population, reduced the numbers in civil employment by nearly 1,600,000. Between mid-1945 and the end of January, 1948, however, there was a net increase of 2,475,000 (men increased by 3,130,000, women decreased by 655,000). During January, 1948, there was an increase of 4,000. The number in civil employment at the end of January, 1948, was 891,000 greater than at mid-1939 (men increased by 100,000 and women increased by 791,000).

6. MANUFACTURE OF EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FOR THE FORCES.

The number employed on the manufacture of equipment and supplies for the Forces is estimated to be now in the region of 350,000.

7. HOME CIVILIAN INDUSTRIES AND SERVICES AND MANUFACTURE FOR EXPORT.

The number employed in this sector at mid-1945 was 4,144,000 less than at mid-1939. Between mid-1945 and the end of January, 1948, there was an increase of 5,955,000 and at the latter date the number so employed was thus 1,811,000 greater than the number at mid-1939.

8. MANUFACTURE FOR HOME MARKET AND EXPORT.

The figures for this sector are shown in the following Table:—

	(Thousands)				
	Mid-1939.	Mid-1945.	End-1946.	End-1947.	Jan., 1948.
Home Market .. .	4,555	2,580	5,069	4,959	4,962
Export .. .	990	410	1,477	1,942	1,960
Total, Home Market and Export ..	5,545	2,990	6,546	6,901	6,922

* Including N.F.S., Police and Civil Defence.

† Home civilian industries and services and manufactures for export.

At mid-1945 the number employed on manufacture for home market and export was 2,555,000 lower than at mid-1939. Between mid-1945 and the end of January, 1948, there was an increase of 3,932,000, and the total at the latter date was thus 1,377,000 above the number at mid-1939.

The number estimated to be employed on manufacture for export increased in the period from mid-1945 to the end of January, 1948, by 1,550,000, and at the end of January exceeded the mid-1939 figure by 970,000.*

Employment on manufacture for the home market increased by 2,382,000 between mid-1945 and the end of January, 1948; at the end of January the total was 407,000 greater than at mid-1939.

9. ANALYSIS OF MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY.†

The total numbers engaged in the manufacturing industries are shown in the following Table. The grouping of industries that was used in the Economic Survey for 1948 (Cmd. 7344) has been adopted in this Table; it differs from the grouping that was used in the corresponding Table in previous issues of this GAZETTE and also from the grouping in the Table on pages 92 and 93 of this issue.†

	(Thousands)				
	Mid-1939.	Mid-1945.	End-1946.	End-1947.	Jan., 1948.
Building Materials, etc.	567	403	574	590	591
Metals and Engineering	2,267	3,336	2,822	2,876	2,886
Textiles	798	498	615	652	657
Clothing, etc.	1,005	652	807	831	834
Food, Drink and Tobacco	654	518	599	623	619
Chemicals, etc.	266	423	321	336	337
Other Manufactures ..	1,258	990	1,268	1,343	1,348
Total Manufactures ..	6,815	6,820	7,006	7,251	7,272

10. BASIC INDUSTRIES.

The figures for this sector are as follows:—

	(Thousands)				
	Mid-1939.	Mid-1945.	End-1946.	End-1947.	Jan., 1948.
Coal (Total Manpower)	773	738	730	758	760
(On Colliery Books)	(735)	(711)	(690)	(718)	(721)
Other Mining and Quarrying	100	61	71	73	74
Agriculture .. .	910	1,025	1,046	1,055	1,053
Fishing .. .	40	16	35	35	35
Transport and Shipping	1,233	1,252	1,384	1,438	1,441
Public Utilities ..	242	196	264	270	271
Total .. .	3,298	3,288	3,530	3,629	3,634

The total number in this group of industries was almost the same at mid-1945 as at mid-1939; since mid-1945 the number has increased by 346,000.

11. OTHER INDUSTRIES AND SERVICES.

The figures for other non-manufacturing industries and services are as follows:—

	(Thousands)				
	Mid-1939.	Mid-1945.	End-1946.	End-1947.	Jan., 1948.
Building and Civil Engineering	1,310	722	1,289	1,364	1,343
Distribution .. .	2,887	1,958	2,309	2,351	2,341
Consumers' Services—					
Hotels and catering; entertain- ment and sport ..	817	618	781	834	832
Other Services‡ ..	1,408	980	1,203	1,286	1,296
Public Service—					
Civil Service ..	408	715	722	692	1,065
Other National Government§	211	406	384	375	—
Local Government	846	909	1,052	1,105	1,108

* Comparison of the current figures with those for 1939 may be affected by (a) differences in the amount of work indirectly for export that is included and (b) changes in the average labour content of exports due to the changes in the relative amounts of different commodities exported.

† The groups in the Table are made up as follows:—Building Materials: Bricks, cement, cast stone, concrete, glass, constructional engineering, electric wiring, general ironfounding, sawmilling and miscellaneous woodworking, paint, heating and ventilating apparatus, brassware, and wallpaper.
Metals and Engineering: Metal manufacture, shipbuilding, engineering (excluding constructional engineering), motors and aircraft, railway carriages and wagons, tubes, wire, tools, bolts and nuts, and miscellaneous metal goods.
Textiles: Cotton, wool, silk, rayon, linen, jute, hemp and rope, carpets, and bleaching, finishing, etc.
Clothing, etc.: All clothing industries, hosiery, lace and smallwares, the boot and shoe industry, and leather tanning, etc.
Chemicals, etc.: Explosives, chemicals, coke ovens, oils, greases, etc.

‡ Commerce and finance, professional services, personal services, laundries and cleaning.

§ Including industrial staffs of Government Departments not classified to a particular industry, and Police, N.F.S. and Civil Defence.

12. COMPARISON—JANUARY, 1948, WITH MID-1939.

The numbers employed at the end of January, 1948, in certain important sectors of industry, expressed as percentages of the numbers so employed at mid-1939, are as follows:—

Manufacture for Home Market	109 per cent.
Equipment and Supplies for the Forces .. .	28 " "
Manufacture for Export .. .	198 " "
Public Service* .. .	148 " "
Basic Industries† .. .	110 " "
Building and Civil Engineering	103 " "
Distribution .. .	81 " "
Consumers' Services—	
Hotels and catering; entertainments and sport .. .	102 " "
Other Services .. .	92 " "

13. SUMMARY.

The following Table shows the totals in the main categories at mid-1939, mid-1945, end-1946, end-1947 and January, 1948:—

	(Thousands)				
	Mid-1939.	Mid-1945.	End-1946.	End-1947.	Jan., 1948.
Manufacture of Equipment and Supplies for the Forces	1,270	3,830	460	350	350
Manufacture for Home Market	4,555	2,580	5,069	4,959	4,962
Manufacture for Export .. .	990	410	1,477	1,942	1,960
Total Manuf. Industries ..	6,815	6,820	7,006	7,251	7,272
Basic Industries† .. .	3,298	3,288	3,530	3,629	3,634
Building and Civil Engineering	1,310	722	1,289	1,364	1,343
Public Service* .. .	1,465	2,030	2,158	2,172	2,173
Distribution .. .	2,887	1,958	2,309	2,351	2,341
Consumers' Services—					
Hotels and catering; entertain- ments and sport ..	817	618	781	834	832
Other Services .. .	1,408	980	1,203	1,286	1,296
Total in Civil Employment	18,000	16,416	18,276	18,887	18,891
Armed Forces and Aux. Services	480	5,090	1,440	1,113	1,054
Total of above .. .	18,480	21,506	19,716	20,000	19,945
Ex-H.M. Forces on release leave who have not yet taken up employment .. .	—	40	300	123	147
Insured persons registered as Unemployed .. .	1,270	103	398	300	317
Total Working Population‡	19,750	21,649	20,414	20,423	20,409

The Table below shows the changes in the main categories—increases (+) or decreases (—).

	(Thousands)			
	Mid-1939	Mid-1945 to January, 1948.		Changes during January, 1948.
	Mid-1945.	Number.	Per cent. of mid-1945.	
Manufacture of Equipment and Supplies for the Forces	+ 2,560	— 3,480	— 91	—
Manufacture for Home Market	— 1,975	+ 2,382	+ 92	+ 13
Manufacture for Export .. .	— 580	+ 1,550	+ 378	+ 8
Total Manuf. Industries ..	+ 5	+ 452	+ 7	+ 21
Basic Industries† .. .	— 10	+ 346	+ 11	+ 5
Building and Civil Engineering	— 588	+ 621	+ 86	+ 21
Public Service* .. .	+ 365	+ 143	+ 7	+ 1
Distribution .. .	— 929	+ 383	+ 20	+ 10
Consumers' Services—				
Hotels and Catering; entertainments and sport ..	— 199	+ 214	+ 35	+ 2
Other Services .. .	— 428	+ 316	+ 32	+ 10
Total in Civil Employment	— 1,584	+ 2,475	+ 15	+ 4
Armed Forces and Aux. Services	+ 4,610	— 4,036	— 79	— 59
Total of above .. .	+ 3,026	— 1,561	— 7	— 55
Ex-H.M. Forces on release leave who have not yet taken up employment .. .	+ 40	+ 107	+ 268	+ 24
Insured persons registered as Unemployed .. .	— 1,167	+ 214	+ 208	+ 17
Total Working Population‡	+ 1,899	— 1,240	— 6	— 14

* National and Local Government Service, including N.F.S., Police and Civil Defence.

† As defined in paragraph 10.

‡ Excluding indoor private domestic service.

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14. The Control of Engagement Order (details of which were given on pages 319 and 320 of the October, 1947, issue of this GAZETTE) came into operation on 6th October. In connection with the Order, the Ministry of Labour and National Service have introduced a system of priorities, under which "First Preference" is given to vacancies for workpeople which, in the national interest,

should take precedence over others. The numbers of vacancies filled in January and February in the principal "First Preference" industries are shown in a Table on page 98. Figures are given in the Table below to show the net change in employment in the principal First Preference industries and certain other industries in November, December and January.

Table with columns: Industries, Males (Net change in employment, Total employment at end of Jan.), Females (Net change in employment, Total employment at end of Jan.), Total (Net change in employment, Total employment at end of Jan.). Rows include Manufacturing Industries (First Preference, Other), Non-Manufacturing Industries and Services, and Other Industries and Services.

Note. The Table excludes the following industries which are accorded First Preference treatment but for which separate statistics on this basis are not available: agriculture and horticulture, open cast coal production, coke ovens, iron ore mining and quarrying, eng neers' iron and steel founding, iron and steel scrap merchants and shipbreakers, ball and roller bearing manufacture, china-clay and chalk, gypsum mining and quarrying, shale oil mining, limestone quarrying, and domestic service in hotels and canteens in essential industries. "Other industries and services" also exclude the following, for which monthly statistics of insured employees are not available: national and local government service, railway service, fishing, shipping service, dock and harbour service, professional and personal services. On the other hand, the Table includes the natural silk industry (not separately distinguishable from rayon weaving) and publishing and newspaper printing (not separately distinguishable from printing and bookbinding) to which First Preference treatment is not accorded.

NUMBERS EMPLOYED : INDUSTRIAL ANALYSIS. MID-1939, MID-1945, MID-1947 AND JANUARY, 1948.

The Table below shows, in respect of those industries for which comparable figures are available, the changes in the level of employment between mid-1939, mid-1945, mid-1947 and January, 1948. The figures include only persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, together with women in part-time employment, two of the latter being counted as one unit. They are thus different in scope from those given in the first part of the preceding article, which include estimates of the numbers of uninsured full-time employees, and of employers and workers on own account. Satisfactory estimates of the changes in the numbers within these uninsured classes in each industry cannot, at present, be made at monthly intervals.

part-time women workers at mid-1945 and mid-1947 derived from the returns rendered by employers under the Undertakings (Records and Information and Inspection of Premises) Order, 1943. The information as to changes, since mid-1947, in the level of employment in each industry, except coal mining, building and civil engineering, is also derived from these returns. Certain industries and services, which are not covered by the returns (or are only partially covered), or in which uninsured persons form a large proportion of the labour force, are omitted from the figures. These are agriculture, mining and quarrying (other than coal mining), National and Local Government service, railways, shipping, fishing, dock and harbour service, and professional services. Insured persons registered as unemployed and demobilised men and women taking paid leave are not included.

Table with columns: Industry, Males (14 and under 65), Females (14 and under 60), Total. Rows include Group I (Metal and Chemical Industries), Group II (Other Manufacturing Industries), and Group III (Non-Manufacturing Industries and Services).

NUMBERS EMPLOYED : INDUSTRIAL ANALYSIS—continued.

(Thousands)

Table with columns: Industry, Males (14 and under 65), Female (14 and under 60), Total. Rows include Other Metal Industries, Group II (Basic Industries), Group III (Other Manufacturing Industries), and Group III (Non-Manufacturing Industries and Services).

* Excluding agriculture, mining and quarrying (other than coal), National and Local Government service, railways, shipping, dock and harbour service. † Excluding professional and personal services.

UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG INSURED PERSONS AT 16th FEBRUARY, 1948.

SUMMARY FOR GREAT BRITAIN.

The numbers of insured persons registered as unemployed* in Great Britain at 12th January and 16th February, 1948, were as follows:—

	Men 18 and under 65 years.	Boys under 18 years.	Women 18 and under 60 years.	Girls under 18 years.	Total.
12th January ..	232,916	5,650	74,898	4,783	318,247
16th February ..	231,313	5,169	74,822	4,062	315,366

In addition there were on the registers at 16th February, 12,738* uninsured persons, including 1,328 boys and girls under 18 who had not yet entered industry.

The figures for 16th February are analysed below:—

—	Wholly Unemployed (including Casuals).				Temporarily Stopped.	Total.
	Unemployed for not more than 2 weeks.	Unemployed for more than 2 weeks but not more than 8 weeks.	Unemployed for more than 8 weeks.	Total.		
Men, 18-64 ..	47,305	59,513	119,751	226,569	4,744	231,313
Boys under 18 ..	2,977	1,263	853	5,093	76	5,169
Women, 18-59 ..	19,638	18,806	33,774	72,218	2,604	74,822
Girls under 18 ..	2,318	936	696	3,950	112	4,062
Total ..	72,238	80,518	155,074	307,830	7,536	315,366

The total of 315,366 includes 38,423 married women, and ex-Service personnel numbering 9,161 who had had no employment since leaving the Forces.

The changes between 12th January and 16th February, 1948, in each administrative Region were as follows:—

Region.	—	Wholly Unemployed (including Casuals).				Temporarily Stopped.	Total.
		Unemployed for not more than 2 weeks.	Unemployed for more than 2 weeks but not more than 8 weeks.	Unemployed for more than 8 weeks.	Total.		
London & South-Eastern	12th Jan.	22,092	12,992	14,184	49,268	772	50,040
	16th Feb.	19,700	14,509	16,189	50,398	426	50,824
	Inc. or Dec.	-2,392	+1,517	+2,005	-1,130	-346	+784
Eastern	12th Jan.	5,200	5,565	3,727	14,492	73	14,565
	16th Feb.	3,232	5,113	6,023	14,368	150	14,518
	Inc. or Dec.	-1,968	+452	+2,296	-124	+77	+47
Southern	12th Jan.	4,007	3,036	3,326	10,369	244	10,613
	16th Feb.	2,852	3,439	4,141	10,432	113	10,545
	Inc. or Dec.	-1,155	+403	+815	+63	-131	+68
South-Western	12th Jan.	4,238	3,494	4,879	12,611	71	12,682
	16th Feb.	3,249	4,438	5,351	13,038	80	13,118
	Inc. or Dec.	-989	+944	+472	+427	+9	+436
Midland	12th Jan.	4,681	2,100	4,500	11,281	507	11,788
	16th Feb.	4,614	2,691	4,753	12,058	463	12,521
	Inc. or Dec.	+67	+591	+253	+777	-44	+733
North-Midland	12th Jan.	3,047	3,849	3,631	10,527	573	11,100
	16th Feb.	1,892	2,599	5,616	10,107	451	10,558
	Inc. or Dec.	-1,155	-1,250	+1,985	-420	-122	-542
East and West Ridings	12th Jan.	4,887	3,580	7,305	15,772	845	16,617
	16th Feb.	4,098	3,577	7,677	15,352	871	16,223
	Inc. or Dec.	-789	-3	+372	-420	+26	-394
North-Western	12th Jan.	13,237	12,985	26,253	52,475	1,318	53,793
	16th Feb.	11,501	14,312	26,058	51,871	1,363	53,234
	Inc. or Dec.	-1,736	+1,327	-195	-604	+45	-559
Northern	12th Jan.	6,930	8,256	18,710	33,896	787	34,683
	16th Feb.	5,688	8,396	18,203	32,287	812	33,099
	Inc. or Dec.	-1,242	+1,140	-507	-1,609	+25	-1,584
Scotland	12th Jan.	10,865	15,166	31,209	57,240	1,778	59,018
	16th Feb.	10,285	13,127	32,491	55,903	1,327	57,230
	Inc. or Dec.	-580	-2,039	+1,282	-1,337	-451	-1,788
Wales	12th Jan.	5,890	7,312	27,056	40,258	1,365	41,623
	16th Feb.	4,986	7,930	27,418	40,334	1,480	41,814
	Inc. or Dec.	-904	+618	+362	+76	+115	+191
Great Britain (including Special Schemes)	12th Jan.	85,323	78,621	145,970	309,914	8,333	318,247
	16th Feb.	72,238	80,518	155,074	307,830	7,536	315,366
	Inc. or Dec.	-13,085	+1,897	+9,104	-2,084	-797	-2,881

* The figures exclude registered disabled persons who are suitable only for employment under sheltered conditions.

The following Table gives the numbers unemployed and the approximate percentage rates of unemployment at 16th February among insured males and females in each Region:—

Region.	Number of insured persons registered as unemployed at 16th February, 1948.			Number registered as unemployed expressed as percentage of the estimated total number of insured persons.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
London and South-Eastern ..	38,513	12,311	50,824	1½	1	1½
Eastern ..	9,616	4,902	14,518	1½	2½	2
Southern ..	7,969	2,576	10,545	1½	1½	1½
South-Western ..	10,227	2,891	13,118	1½	1½	1½
Midland ..	10,293	2,228	12,521	1	1	1
North-Midland ..	5,902	4,656	10,558	1	1½	1
E. and W. Ridings ..	12,691	3,532	16,223	1½	1	1
North-Western ..	41,773	11,461	53,234	3	1½	2½
Northern ..	25,013	8,086	33,099	3½	3½	3½
Scotland ..	43,078	14,152	57,230	3½	3	3½
Wales ..	30,377	11,437	41,814	5½	7	5½
Great Britain (excluding Special Schemes)	235,452	78,232	313,684	2	1½	2

NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM:

REGIONAL ANALYSIS.

The total number of insured persons registered as unemployed* in the United Kingdom at 16th February, 1948, was 348,035, including 265,032 men and boys and 83,003 women and girls. In addition, there were on the registers in the United Kingdom at 16th February, 13,250* uninsured persons, including 1,487 boys and girls under 18 who had not yet entered industry.

The numbers of insured unemployed persons on the registers in each Region are shown below.

Region.	Men 18 and under 65 years.	Boys under 18 years.	Women 18 and under 60 years.	Girls under 18 years.	Total.
London and South-Eastern ..	37,072	1,265	11,185	876	50,398
Eastern ..	9,355	208	4,612	193	14,368
Southern ..	7,658	208	2,388	178	10,432
South-Western ..	10,002	179	2,683	174	13,038
Midland ..	9,864	174	1,902	118	12,058
North-Midland ..	5,535	133	4,297	142	10,107
E. and W. Ridings ..	12,175	173	2,842	162	15,352
North-Western ..	40,092	882	10,546	351	51,871
Northern ..	24,054	466	7,274	493	32,287
Scotland ..	41,136	941	13,168	658	55,903
Wales ..	28,597	463	10,671	603	40,334
Special Schemes ..	1,029	1	650	2	1,682
Great Britain ..	226,569	5,093	72,218	3,950	307,830
Northern Ireland ..	27,674	651	3,594	158	32,077
United Kingdom	254,243	5,744	75,812	4,108	339,907
	Temporarily Stopped.				
London and South-Eastern ..	172	4	239	11	426
Eastern ..	48	5	95	2	150
Southern ..	103	—	10	—	113
South-Western ..	46	—	32	2	80
Midland ..	245	10	197	11	463
North-Midland ..	233	1	206	11	451
E. and W. Ridings ..	339	4	500	28	871
North-Western ..	797	2	553	11	1,363
Northern ..	485	8	304	15	812
Scotland ..	969	32	313	13	1,327
Wales ..	1,307	10	155	8	1,480
Great Britain ..	4,744	76	2,604	112	7,536
Northern Ireland ..	223	2	339	28	592
United Kingdom	4,967	78	2,943	140	8,128
	Total Registered as Unemployed.				
London and South-Eastern ..	37,244	1,269	11,424	887	50,824
Eastern ..	9,403	213	4,707	195	14,518
Southern ..	7,761	208	2,398	178	10,545
South-Western ..	10,048	179	2,715	176	13,118
Midland ..	10,109	184	2,099	129	12,521
North-Midland ..	5,768	134	4,503	153	10,558
E. and W. Ridings ..	12,514	177	3,342	190	16,223
North-Western ..	40,889	874	11,099	362	53,234
Northern ..	24,539	474	7,578	508	33,099
Scotland ..	42,105	973	13,481	671	57,230
Wales ..	29,904	473	10,826	611	41,814
Special Schemes ..	1,029	1	650	2	1,682
Great Britain ..	231,313	5,169	74,822	4,062	315,366
Northern Ireland ..	27,897	653	3,933	186	32,669
United Kingdom	259,210	5,822	78,755	4,248	348,035

* See footnote in previous column.

NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED IN THE PRINCIPAL TOWNS.

The Table below shows the total numbers of unemployed* insured persons on the registers of all Employment Exchanges and Juvenile Employment Bureaux in each Administrative Region at 16th February, 1948, and the numbers of insured persons on the registers of the Exchanges and Bureaux situated in some of the principal-towns in each Region, together with the increase or decrease compared with 12th January, 1948.

Regions (in italics) and Principal Towns.	Numbers of Insured Persons* on Registers at 16th February, 1948.				Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Totals as compared with 12th January, 1948.
	Men 18 and under 65 years.	Women 18 and under 60 years.	Juveniles under 18 years.	Total.	
<i>London and South-Eastern</i> ..	37,244	11,424	2,156	50,824	+ 784
<i>London (Administrative County)</i> ..	16,609	3,513	602	20,724	+ 64
Acton ..	134	49	9	192	+ 39
Brentford and Chiswick ..	212	60	10	282	+ 34
Brighton and Hove ..	1,542	611	47	2,200	+ 66
Chatham ..	844	700	79	1,623	+ 113
Croydon ..	1,132	277	60	1,469	+ 277
Dagenham ..	477	243	101	821	+ 242
East Ham ..	445	80	23	548	+ 34
Enfield ..	294	85	22	401	+ 80
Harrow and Wembley ..	378	188	31	597	+ 39
Hayes and Harlington ..	143	39	17	199	+ 13
Hendon ..	473	54	25	552	+ 13
Leyton and Walthamstow ..	1,005	120	46	1,171	- 24
Tottenham ..	679	161	37	877	- 77
West Ham ..	933	147	52	1,132	+ 69
Willesden ..	387	151	16	554	- 2
<i>Eastern</i> ..	9,403	4,707	408	14,518	- 47
Bedford ..	274	34	12	320	+ 72
Cambridge ..	50	27	7	84	+ 2
Ipswich ..	232	38	11	281	+ 56
Luton ..	176	18	26	220	+ 52
Norwich ..	1,018	101	21	1,140	+ 11
Watford ..	75	54	19	148	- 1
<i>Southern</i> ..	7,761	2,398	386	10,545	- 68
Oxford ..	242	48	15	305	+ 17
Portsmouth (inc. Gosport) ..	1,741	702	108	2,551	- 61
Reading ..	530	90	23	643	- 38
Slough ..	219	30	13	262	- 54
Southampton ..	1,020	351	43	1,414	+ 238
<i>South-Western</i> ..	10,048	2,715	355	13,118	+ 436
Bristol (inc. Kingswood) ..	2,933	396	98	3,427	+ 431
Exeter ..	350	94	8	452	- 18
Gloucester ..	86	55	8	149	+ 18
Plymouth ..	1,038	814	50	1,902	+ 127
Swindon ..	174	42	11	227	+ 15
<i>Midland</i> ..	10,109	2,099	313	12,521	+ 733
Birmingham ..	3,281	682	76	4,039	+ 421
Burton-on-Trent ..	15	1			

NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED : INDUSTRIAL ANALYSIS.

The statistics given below show, industry by industry, the numbers of persons aged 14 and over, insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, who were registered as unemployed at 16th February, 1948, 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 numbers include unemployed insured persons on the registers of Local Offices of the Ministry of Labour and National Service and of Juvenile Employment Bureaux, and claimants for benefit under the Special Schemes for banking and insurance.

The Unemployment Insurance Acts provide, subject to certain exceptions, for the compulsory insurance against unemployment of substantially all employed males under 65 years of age and females under 60 years of age. 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 £420 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, railway and public utility companies may, in certain circumstances, also be excepted. 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 the United Kingdom (e.g., migratory labourers from Eire) are not insurable in respect of employment in agriculture, and are accordingly not included in the figures. Part-time workers employed for not more than 30 hours a week, who entered employment during the war, are in most cases not insurable against unemployment, and are not, therefore, included. Registered disabled persons who require employment under sheltered conditions are also excluded.

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. The industries to which unemployed persons are classified for the purposes of these statistics are those in which they were employed at the annual exchange of unemployment books in July last (or, if they were then unemployed, the industries in which they were last employed). Some insured workpeople will have changed their industry since July and to the extent that this has happened the figures given below will not accurately represent the numbers unemployed in each industry.

Industry.	Great Britain.						United Kingdom.					
	Wholly Unemployed (including Casuals).			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.			Wholly Unemployed, Temporarily Stopped and Casuals.		
	Males aged 14 and under 65.	Females aged 14 and under 60.	Total.	Males aged 14 and under 65.	Females aged 14 and under 60.	Total.	Males aged 14 and under 65.	Females aged 14 and under 60.	Total.	Males aged 14 and under 65.	Females aged 14 and under 60.	Total.
Agriculture* :-												
Farming, Forestry, etc.	4,763	8,462	13,225	71	833	904	4,834	9,295	14,129	9,747	9,454	19,201
Market Gardening, Horticulture, etc.	649	642	1,291	6	75	81	655	717	1,372	766	726	1,492
Total, Agriculture	5,412	9,104	14,516	77	908	985	5,489	10,012	15,501	10,513	10,180	20,693
Fishing	2,653	3	2,656	192	—	192	2,845	3	2,848	2,920	3	2,923
Mining :-												
Coal Mining†	2,012	144	2,156	29	2	31	2,041	146	2,187	2,088	146	2,234
Iron Ore and Ironstone Mining, etc.	48	5	53	—	—	—	48	5	53	51	5	56
Lead, Tin and Copper Mining, etc.	41	1	42	—	—	—	41	1	42	41	1	42
Stone Quarrying and Mining	496	5	501	11	—	11	507	5	512	512	5	517
Slate Quarrying and Mining	112	—	112	9	—	9	121	—	121	121	—	121
Other Mining and Quarrying	72	37	109	1	—	1	73	37	110	90	37	127
Clay, Sand, Gravel and Chalk Pits	135	4	139	2	—	2	137	4	141	141	4	145
Total, Mining†	2,916	196	3,112	52	2	54	2,968	198	3,166	3,166	202	4,110
Non-Metalliferous Mining Products :-												
Coke Ovens and By-Product Works	186	8	194	1	—	1	187	8	195	193	8	201
Cast Stone and Cast Concrete Products, Patent Fuel, Stone Grinding, etc.	600	77	677	1	3	4	601	80	681	657	80	737
Cement, Limekilns and Whiting	124	16	140	12	—	12	136	16	152	137	17	154
Total, N.-M. Mining Products	910	101	1,011	14	3	17	924	106	1,030	1,030	105	1,135
Brick, Tile, Pipe, etc., Making	795	131	926	6	2	8	801	133	934	871	133	1,004
Pottery, Earthenware, etc.	307	58	365	—	1	1	307	59	366	324	61	385
Glass :-												
Glass Manufacture (exc. Bottles and Lenses, Prisms, etc.)	371	241	612	1	20	21	372	261	633	381	262	643
Glass Bottles, Jars, etc.	262	243	505	4	12	16	266	251	517	267	251	518
Total, Glass	633	484	1,117	5	28	33	638	512	1,150	648	513	1,161
Chemicals, Paints, Oils, etc. :-												
Chemicals	1,525	826	2,351	10	8	18	1,535	834	2,369	1,588	837	2,425
Explosives	3,413	1,829	5,242	3	4	7	3,416	1,833	5,249	3,434	1,835	5,269
Paint, Varnish, Red Lead, etc.	318	92	410	6	10	16	322	98	420	337	98	435
Oil, Glue, Soap, Ink, Matches, etc.	820	463	1,283	3	14	17	823	477	1,300	846	479	1,325
Total, Chemicals, Paints, Oils, etc.	6,076	3,210	9,286	20	32	52	6,096	3,242	9,338	6,205	3,249	9,454
Metal Manufacture :-												
Pig Iron (Blast Furnaces)	140	21	161	—	—	—	140	21	161	149	21	170
Steel Melting and Iron Puddling, Iron and Steel Rolling, etc.	1,895	537	2,432	1,234	25	1,259	3,129	562	3,691	3,161	563	3,724
Brass, Copper, Zinc, Tin, Lead, etc.	1,225	747	1,972	86	5	91	1,311	752	2,063	1,391	754	2,145
Tin Plates	280	153	433	58	10	68	338	163	501	338	163	501
Iron and Steel Tubes	428	107	535	256	—	256	684	107	791	695	112	807
Wire, Wire Netting, Wire Ropes, etc.	263	128	391	130	3	133	393	131	524	398	131	529
Total, Metal Manufacture	4,231	1,693	5,924	1,764	43	1,807	5,995	1,736	7,731	6,132	1,744	7,876
Engineering, etc. :-												
General Engineering : Engineers†	12,380	2,886	15,266	37	20	57	12,417	2,906	15,323	13,126	2,961	16,087
Iron and Steel Founding	1,268	580	1,848	4	2	6	1,272	582	1,854	1,356	594	1,950
Electrical Engineering	1,110	224	1,334	12	1	13	1,122	225	1,347	1,400	225	1,625
Marine Engineering, etc.	1,697	356	2,053	5	—	5	1,702	356	2,058	1,777	358	2,135
Total, Engineering, etc.	16,455	4,046	20,501	58	23	81	16,513	4,069	20,582	17,659	4,138	21,797
Construction and Repair of Vehicles :-												
Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft Carriages, Carts, etc.	10,636	1,402	12,038	28	6	34	10,664	1,408	12,072	11,735	1,485	13,220
Railway Carriages and Wagons, etc.	288	83	371	—	38	38	288	121	409	335	132	467
Total, Vehicles	11,773	1,501	13,274	29	44	73	11,200	1,545	12,747	12,342	1,633	13,975
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing	7,560	486	8,046	312	36	348	7,872	522	8,394	9,374	526	9,900
Other Metal Industries :-												
Stove, Grate, Pipe, etc., and General Iron Founding	561	137	698	3	1	4	564	138	702	632	139	771
Electrical Wiring and Contracting	817	43	860	6	—	6	823	43	866	933	46	979
Electric Apparatus, Cable, Lamps, etc.	1,903	1,573	3,476	6	5	11	1,909	1,578	3,487	1,953	1,594	3,547
Hand Tools, Cutlery, Saws, Files, etc.	228	82	310	7	—	7	235	82	317	237	82	319
Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Rivets, Nails, etc.	201	211	412	6	2	8	207	213	420	209	213	422
Brass and Allied Metal Wares	168	62	230	18	—	18	186	62	248	195	63	258
Heating and Ventilating Apparatus	387	29	416	4	1	5	391	30	421	425	33	458
Watches, Clocks, Plate, Jewellery, etc.	236	114	350	2	3	5	238	115	353	247	127	374
Total, Other Metals	4,146	1,669	5,815	42	34	76	4,188	1,703	5,891	4,383	1,729	6,112
Total, Ex-Services	8,647	3,920	12,567	94	44	138	8,741	3,964	12,705	9,214	4,026	13,240

* Excluding private gardeners, grooms, gamekeepers, park gardeners, sports ground keepers, etc., who are insured under the Agricultural Scheme but including workers in certain other employments, e.g., clerks, lorry drivers, etc., who are insured under the General Scheme.
† The figures for coal mining exclude all the unemployed at 16th February who, although their unemployment books bear the coal mining classification, have been found to be medically unfit for employment in that industry. These men are, however, included in the "grand total" on the next page.

NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED : INDUSTRIAL ANALYSIS—continued.

Industry.	Great Britain.						United Kingdom.					
	Wholly Unemployed (including Casuals).			Temporarily Stopped.			Total.			Wholly Unemployed, Temporarily Stopped and Casuals.		
	Males aged 14 and under 65.	Females aged 14 and under 60.	Total.	Males aged 14 and under 65.	Females aged 14 and under 60.	Total.	Males aged 14 and under 65.	Females aged 14 and under 60.	Total.	Males aged 14 and under 65.	Females aged 14 and under 60.	Total.
Textiles :-												
Cotton Preparing, Spinning, etc.	557	474	1,031	2	45	47	559	519	1,078	559	520	1,079
Cotton Manufacturing (Weaving, etc.)	281	245	526	5	15	20	286	260	546	286	260	546
Total, Cotton	838	719	1,557	7	60	67	845	779	1,624	845	780	1,625
Woolen and Worsted	504	246	750	2	5	7	506	251	757	517	259	776
Silk Spinning and Manufacture and Rayon, Nylon, etc., Weaving, etc.	67	72	139	—	2	2	67	74	141	71	81	152
Rayon, Nylon, etc., Yarn Manufacture	188	96	284	2	—	2	190	96	286	194	97	291
Linen	90	91	181	—	7	7	90	98	188	1,649	632	2,281
Jute	207	131	338	—	1	1	207	132	339	207	132	339
Hemp, Rope, Cord, Twine, etc.	164	257	421	1	2	3	165	259	424	206	341	547
Hosiery	95	228	323	11	25	36	206	253	459	208	267	475
Lace	17	24	41	1	5	6	18	29	47	18	29	47
Carpets	63	70	133	14	15	29	77	85	162	82	96	178
Other Textiles	362	309	671	6	12	18	368	321	689	396	385	781
Textile Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc.	428	104	532	68	3	71	496	107	603	739	155	894
Total, Textiles	3,023	2,347	5,370	212	137	349	3,235	2,484	5,719	3,332	3,254	6,586
Leather, Leather Goods and Fur	401	148	549	15	16	31	416	164	580	470	172	642
Tanning, Currying and Dressing, etc.	171	136	307	3	1	4	174	137	311	186	142	328
Leather Goods	572	284	856	18	17	35	590	301	891	656	314	970
Total, Leather												
Clothing :-												
Tailoring	1,577	1,269	2,846	119	176	295	1,696	1,445	3,141	1,772	1,493	3,265
Dress Making and Millinery	181	576	757	7	71	78	188	647	835	189	687	876
Hats and Caps (including Straw Plait)	91	58	149	221	688	909	558	279	837	566	282	848
Shirts, Collars, Underclothing, etc.	88	279	367	3	21	24	91	300	391	134	788	922
Other Dress Industries	67	89	156	6	4	10	73	93	166	77		



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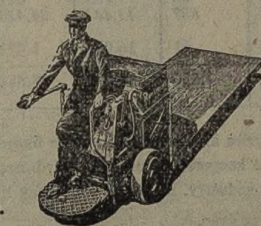
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PLACING WORK OF THE EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.

VACANCIES FILLED AND UNFILLED IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Statistics are compiled at four-weekly intervals showing the numbers of vacancies filled by Employment Exchanges and other Local Offices of the Ministry of Labour and National Service, together with the numbers remaining unfilled at the end of the period. The figures for the two four-weekly periods ended 21st January and 18th February, 1948, are given in the Table below. Figures for earlier periods were given in previous issues of this GAZETTE.

	Four weeks ended 21st January, 1948.		Four weeks ended 18th February, 1948.		Total Number of Placings 25th Dec., 1947, to 18th Feb., 1948 (8 weeks).
	Placings.	Vacancies Unfilled.	Placings.	Vacancies Unfilled.	
Men aged 18 and over	209,353	192,311	245,276	185,245	454,629
Boys under 18	13,110	55,869	14,033	57,941	27,143
Women aged 18 and over	87,564	191,902	103,032	189,369	190,596
Girls under 18	11,255	79,905	12,384	82,181	23,639
Total	321,282	519,987	374,725	514,736	696,007

The number of placings by Employment Exchanges during the four weeks ended 18th February was 53,000 higher than the total for the preceding period of four weeks. There was a slight decrease in the number of vacancies remaining unfilled, decreases in the number of vacancies notified for men and women being partly offset by an increase in the number notified for juveniles. The total at 18th February was well below the figure for October, 1947, when the Control of Engagement Order came into operation (i.e. 515,000 compared with 580,000).

Of the totals of 321,282 and 374,725 vacancies filled during the four-week periods ending on 21st January and 18th February, the numbers to which “First Preference” had been accorded under the Control of Engagement Order were 37,450 and 46,209, respectively, compared with 34,770 and 42,574 in the two preceding four-week periods. For each of these four periods the figure represented approximately 12 per cent. of the total number of vacancies filled in the period. During January, 55 directions were issued, including 35 to coal mining and 19 to agriculture.

The following Table shows in detail the total number of placings up to 18th February in vacancies to which First Preference had been accorded:—

Industry.	Four weeks ended 21st January, 1948.		Four weeks ended 18th February, 1948.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Industries generally undermanned:—				
Agriculture and Horticulture	2,921	406	3,347	332
Coal (deep mining)	4,186	59	5,402	74
Coal (open cast)	963	13	1,197	14
Cotton Preparing, Spinning, etc.	1,135	1,507	1,230	1,802
Cotton Manufacturing, Weaving, etc.	585	626	686	723
Woolen and Worsted	2,020	1,493	2,464	1,714
Rayon Yarn Manufacture	627	325	815	501
Rayon Weaving	218	152	199	214
Jute	197	137	188	167
Lace	51	130	47	115
Linen Manufacture	109	110	125	117
Miscellaneous Textile Industries	346	477	387	592
Textile Bleaching, Printing, etc.	987	413	865	418
Iron Ore Mining and Quarrying	97	2	102	1
Iron Founding, etc.	3,869	456	5,011	494
Pig Iron	180	1	302	4
Steel Melting, Rolling, etc.	1,992	286	2,286	304
Tin Plates	209	29	256	58
Iron and Steel Tubes	451	66	616	95
Wire, Wire Rope, Wire Netting	395	200	539	257
Iron and Steel Scrap Merchants	506	12	744	13
Ball and Roller Bearings	274	147	258	155
China Clay and Chalk	53	3	57	15
Pottery	615	461	776	622
Gypsum Mining	76	—	93	—
Shale Oil Mining	25	1	313	5
Limestone Quarrying	357	602	383	677
Printing and Bookbinding	333	570	208	724
Domestic Service in Hostels, etc.	204	—	—	—
Coke Ovens (iron and steel works)	116	—	92	1
Undermanned branches of other industries:—				
Electrical Generating Plant for Electricity Undertakings	337	33	562	75
Coal Mining Machinery	240	47	426	69
Plant for Gas Undertakings	92	2	109	1
Coal-Oil Conversion Equipment	17	—	19	—
Railway Freight Locomotives and Wagons	562	9	891	17
Atomic Energy Development	65	3	68	6
Refractories	179	18	284	38
Bricks and Tiles (certain undertakings only)	729	9	819	22
Power Stations Construction	371	2	170	6
Scottish Hydro-Electric Schemes	436	—	1,131	1
Other essential vacancies (not determined on an industry basis)	1,161	357	1,744	541
Total First Preference Vacancies	28,286	9,164	35,215	10,994

In considering the figures in the Table above it should be borne in mind that (a) the Ministry of Labour and National Service are not responsible for all placings in employment: a substantial proportion of placings (of persons outside the scope of the Control of Engagement Order) which are effected do not go through the Employment Exchanges; and (b) the number placed must not be regarded as equivalent to a net increase in employment.

WORK OF APPOINTMENTS DEPARTMENT.

MONTHLY STATISTICS.

The particulars given below, which relate to the work of the Appointments Department of the Ministry of Labour and National Service, are in continuation of those published in previous issues of this GAZETTE. Separate figures are given for the Technical and Scientific Register and for the Appointments Register.

TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC REGISTER.

The Technical and Scientific Register, which is situated at York House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, operates on a national basis. It is assisted in its work by six Advisory Committees for architecture and public utilities, chemistry, civil engineering, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, and scientific research. The Register provides a placing and advisory service for persons holding the necessary qualifications, these being, in general, possession of a University degree, or membership of the appropriate recognised professional institution.

A register of vacancies, notified by employers, is maintained, from which persons enrolled on the Register are supplied with full particulars of posts for which, by their qualifications and experience, they appear to be suitable. A wide range of overseas vacancies is also available. The services of the Register are available to physicists, mathematicians, chemists (other than pharmacists), metallurgists, agriculturists, biologists and all other scientists, professional engineers, architects, surveyors, town planners, estate agents and valuers.

The total number of persons enrolled on the Available Section of the Technical and Scientific Register at 16th February, 1948, was 5,087*; this figure included 4,041 registrants who were already in work but desired a change of employment and 1,046 who were unemployed. Among the unemployed were 413 ex-Service men and women.

The numbers of vacancies notified and filled between 13th January and 16th February, 1948 (5 weeks), are shown in the following statement:—

Vacancies outstanding at 13th January	4,529
“ notified during the period	1,060
“ filled during the period	208†
“ cancelled or withdrawn	550
“ outstanding at 16th February	4,831

APPOINTMENTS REGISTER.

The Appointments Register is concerned with the placing of persons having professional, administrative, managerial or executive experience or qualifications, and those having technical qualifications not appropriate to the Technical and Scientific Register. The registers are maintained at the London Appointments Office and at the Regional Appointments Offices in the towns shown in the Table below.

The total number of persons on the registers of the Appointments Offices at 16th February, 1948, was 32,482,† consisting of 29,236 men and 3,246 women. Of these, 17,307 men and 545 women were ex-Service personnel. The numbers on the registers included 17,481 men and 1,813 women who were in employment, while 11,755 men and 1,433 women had registered as unemployed at some date in the preceding two months and were not known to be in employment at 16th February. Of those in employment, 10,105 men and 292 women were ex-Service personnel. The numbers of ex-Service personnel included in the numbers unemployed were 7,202 men and 253 women.

The following Table shows the total figures of registrations at each of the Offices:—

Appointments Office.	In Employment.		Unemployed.	
	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.
London	4,815	589	5,124	553
Cambridge	621	40	396	30
Reading	590	59	314	50
Winchester	640	22	479	25
Bristol	1,021	83	673	107
Birmingham	1,884	180	925	91
Nottingham	691	56	300	38
Leeds	983	115	476	65
Liverpool	976	95	525	61
Manchester	1,667	140	697	96
Newcastle-on-Tyne	780	71	324	65
Edinburgh	1,091	137	625	118
Glasgow	1,258	191	605	74
Cardiff	464	35	292	60
Total‡	17,481	1,813	11,755	1,433

During the period 13th January to 16th February, 1948, there were new registrations by 5,247 men and 992 women, and during the same period the registrations of 5,667 men and 1,133 women lapsed or were passed to Local Offices of the Ministry.

* This figure included 479 registrants who were also registered with Appointments Offices.

† Including 75 vacancies filled by ex-Service men.

‡ Excluding 572 persons registered for overseas employment only and 3,198 whose registrations have been referred to the Local Offices for assistance in placing. Registrations of nurses and midwives are also excluded.

The Table below shows the numbers of vacancies (other than those for nurses and midwives) notified, filled, etc., between 13th January and 16th February, 1948.

Analysis of Vacancies, 13th January—16th February, 1948.

	Men.*	Women.
Vacancies outstanding at 12th January	4,433	1,180
Notified during the period	2,681	697
Cancelled or withdrawn during the period	1,187	402
Vacancies filled during the period †	1,133	341
Vacancies unfilled at 16th February	4,794	1,134

COAL MINING INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY.

The statistics given below in respect of employment, etc., in the coal mining industry in January, 1948, have been compiled by the Ministry of Fuel and Power.

The average weekly number of wage-earners on the colliery books in Great Britain during the four weeks ended 31st January, 1948, was 719,600, compared with 718,100 during the five weeks ended 3rd January, 1948, and 693,800 during the four weeks ended 25th January, 1947. The total numbers who were effectively employed were 674,800 in January, 1948, 674,700 in December, 1947, and 637,200 in January, 1947; these figures exclude wage-earners who were absent for any reason (including holidays) for the whole of any week. The next Table shows the numbers of wage-earners on the colliery books in the various Districts in January, 1948, together with the increase or decrease in each case compared with December, 1947, and January, 1947.

Average Numbers of Wage-earners on Colliery Books—Analysis by Districts.

District.	Average numbers of wage-earners on colliery books during 4 weeks ended 31st January, 1948.	Increase (+) or decrease (—) compared with the average for	
		5 weeks ended 3rd January, 1948.	4 weeks ended 25th January, 1947.
Northumberland	42,200	+ 100	+ 2,100
Cumberland	5,800	+ 100	+ 100
Durham	110,800	+ 5,200
South Yorkshire	98,800	+ 200	+ 3,100
West Yorkshire	41,500	+ 100	+ 1,700
North and South Derbyshire	44,800	+ 100	+ 2,100
Notts. and Leicestershire	52,300	+ 200	+ 3,800
Lancashire and Cheshire	51,600	+ 2,300
North Wales	9,000	+ 200
North Staffordshire	20,900	+ 100	+ 508
Cannock Chase	17,600	+ 100	+ 308
Salop	5,500	— 100	— 400
Warwickshire	15,200	+ 100	+ 600
South Wales and Mon.	107,900	+ 200	+ 1,100
Forest of Dean, Bristol and Somerset	7,300	+ 100	+ 200
Kent	6,300	+ 200
England and Wales	637,500	+ 1,300	+ 23,100
Fife and Clackmannan	21,100	+ 100	+ 1,100
The Lothians	12,000	+ 600
Lanarkshire, etc.	35,900	+ 700
Ayrshire, etc.	13,100	+ 100	+ 300
Scotland	82,100	+ 200	+ 2,700
Great Britain	719,600	+ 1,500	+ 25,800

It is provisionally estimated that during January 7,660 persons were recruited to the industry, while the total number of persons who left the industry was 5,160; the numbers on the colliery books thus showed a net increase of 2,500. During December there was a net increase of 2,400.

The average number of shifts§ worked per week by coal-face workers who were effectively employed was 5.01 in January, 1948, 4.56 in December, 1947, and 4.94 in January, 1947. The corresponding figures for all workers who were effectively employed were 5.29, 4.85 and 5.30, respectively.

With regard to absenteeism in the coal mining industry, separate figures are compiled in respect of (a) voluntary absenteeism (absences for which no satisfactory reason is given), and (b) involuntary absenteeism (absences due mainly to sickness). The figures for January and December, 1947, and January, 1948, which are given in the next Table, represent the numbers of shifts lost through absenteeism, expressed as percentages of the total numbers of shifts that could have been worked.¶

* This column includes vacancies for which employers were willing to accept either men or women.

† The number of vacancies filled included 749 filled by ex-Service men and 80 filled by ex-Service women.

‡ “No change” is indicated by three dots.

§ These figures are obtained by dividing the total number of man-shifts worked by the number of persons effectively employed.

¶ In comparing these figures, it should be borne in mind (a) that a five-day week was introduced in the coal mining industry on 5th May, 1947, and (b) that an agreement to work extra shifts came into operation on 1st November, 1947.

Percentages of Shifts lost through Absenteeism.

	January, 1947.	December, 1947.	January, 1948.
Coal-face workers :			
Voluntary ..	11.44	8.95	7.63
Involuntary ..	8.50	5.55	6.12
All workers :			
Voluntary ..	9.13	6.77	5.98
Involuntary ..	7.56	4.75	5.33

For face-workers the output per man-shift worked was 2.91 tons in January, 1948, compared with 2.91 tons in December, 1947, and 2.81 tons in January, 1947. The output per man-shift calculated on the basis of all workers was 1.11 tons in January, 1948; for December, 1947, and January, 1947, the figures were 1.10 tons and 1.06 tons, respectively.

DISABLED PERSONS (EMPLOYMENT) ACT.

STATISTICS FOR FEBRUARY, 1948.

The total number of persons registered under the Act at 19th January, 1948 (the last date on which a count was taken), was 853,846.

The number of disabled persons on the register who were unemployed at 16th February was 79,810, of whom 76,113 were males and 3,697 were females. The total included 43,515 persons who had seen service in H.M. Forces, and 36,295 who had had no such service. An analysis of these figures is given in the Table below.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Suitable for ordinary employment :			
Ex-Service ..	38,534	276	38,810
Non-Ex-Service ..	27,584	2,776	30,360
Total ..	66,118	3,052	69,170
Requiring employment under special conditions :			
Ex-Service ..	4,677	28	4,705
Non-Ex-Service ..	5,318	617	5,935
Total ..	9,995	645	10,640
Grand Total ..	76,113	3,697	79,810

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

AUSTRALIA.

According to information received by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, the number of persons employed in factories in October, 1947, was 0.2 per cent. higher than in September, 1947, and 3.9 per cent. higher than in October, 1946.

Returns received by the Bureau, covering 56 per cent. of the total membership of trade unions, and relating to between 20 and 25 per cent. of all wage and salary earners, showed that the percentage of members of the reporting trade unions who were out of work for three days or more during a specified week in the September quarter of 1947, was 1.1, compared with 1.2 in the preceding quarter, and 1.4 in the third quarter of 1946.

CANADA.

Returns received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from nearly 18,400 employers in industries other than agriculture and private domestic service indicate that the total number of workpeople in employment at 1st December, 1947, in the establishments covered by the returns was 1.0 per cent. higher than at 1st November, 1947, and 7.5 per cent. higher than at 1st December, 1946. The numbers employed in manufacturing industries at 1st December, 1947, showed no change compared with the previous month, but was 5.6 per cent. higher than at 1st December, 1946.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

According to the general index of employment compiled by the Office of Census and Statistics, the number of workpeople employed in manufacturing industries, transportation and mining in June, 1947, was 0.1 per cent. higher than in May, 1947, and 2.0 per cent. higher than in June, 1946.

ÉIRE.

The number unemployed on the live register of Employment Exchanges at 28th February, 1948, was 80,136 compared with 77,927 at 31st January, and 74,968 at 22nd February, 1947.

SWEDEN.

Preliminary information received by the Swedish Social Board from trade unions with a total membership of approximately 869,000 showed that 2.4 per cent. of their members were unemployed at 30th November, 1947, compared with 1.7 per cent. at 31st October, 1947, and 2.8 per cent. at 30th November, 1946.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The number of civilians in employment in industries other than agriculture and domestic service in December, 1947, is estimated by the United States Department of Labor to have been approximately 43,944,000. This was 1.1 per cent. higher than the figure for November, 1947, and 2.4 per cent. higher than that for December, 1946. The number of wage-earners employed in manu-

facturing industries in December, 1947, is estimated to have been 0.3 per cent. higher than in November, 1947, and 3.2 per cent. higher than in December, 1946.

The United States Bureau of the Census estimate that the total number of unemployed persons in the United States of America at the middle of December, 1947, was approximately 1,643,000, compared with 1,621,000 at the middle of November, 1947, and with 2,120,000 at the middle of December, 1946.

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS.

Since last month's issue of this GAZETTE was prepared, the undermentioned Orders* relating to matters with which the Ministry of Labour and National Service (or the Ministry of Labour and National Insurance for Northern Ireland) are concerned, either directly or indirectly, have been received in the series of Statutory Instruments or Statutory Rules and Orders of Northern Ireland. The price of each Order, unless otherwise indicated, is 1d. net (2d. post free).

The Rope, Twine and Net Wages Council (Great Britain) Wages Regulation Order, 1948 (S.I. 1948, No. 228; price 4d. net, 5d. post free), dated 10th February, 1948; The Flax and Hemp Wages Council (Great Britain) Wages Regulation Order, 1948 (S.I. 1948, No. 237; price 3d. net, 4d. post free), dated 11th February, 1948; The Boot and Shoe Repairing Wages Council (Great Britain) Wages Regulation Order, 1948 (S.I. 1948, No. 238), dated 11th February, 1948. These Orders were made by the Minister of Labour and National Service under the Wages Councils Act, 1945.—See page 111.

The Explosives in Coal Mines Order, 1948 (S.I. 1948, No. 181), made by the Minister of Fuel and Power on 4th February, 1948, under the Coal Mines Act, 1911.—This Order amends the Explosives in Coal Mines Order, 1934, as it applies to mines where permitted explosives only are allowed to be used, by applying restrictions (a) as from 16th February, 1948, on the firing of shots in the roof of longwall workings or in longwall waste and (b) as from 22nd March, 1948, on the number of shots to be fired.

The Coal Mines (Winding and Haulage) General Regulations, 1948 (S.I. 1948, No. 302), made by the Minister of Fuel and Power on 18th February, 1948, under the Coal Mines Act, 1911.—These Regulations which come into force on 1st April, 1948, modify the provisions of Part II of the Coal Mines Act, 1911, by (a) varying the conditions under which the use of a winding rope for more than 3½ years may be permitted, and (b) allowing for variation in the statutory maximum intervals between refuge holes.

The Aliens (Employment) (Polish Resettlement Forces) Order, 1948 (S.I. 1948, No. 212), made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department on 9th February under the Aliens Order, 1920, as amended. The present Order, which came into force on 16th February, 1948, provides that aliens who, being members of any of the Polish resettlement forces, are on leave for more than 16 days or have been released from actual service with these forces, or who have been members of any of the Polish resettlement forces, may not be engaged in any business, profession or occupation for reward, otherwise than in the service of an employer, in the United Kingdom, without the permission of the Secretary of State. (Articles on the Polish Resettlement Act, 1947, and the Polish Resettlement Corps were published in the issues of this GAZETTE for May and June, 1947, pages 148 and 188.)

The Electricity (Vesting Date) Order, 1948 (S.I. 1948, No. 217), made by the Minister of Fuel and Power on 6th February, 1948, under the Electricity Act, 1947. This Order fixes 1st April, 1948, as the vesting date for electricity undertakings which are to be transferred under the Act to public ownership (See the issue of this GAZETTE for September, 1947, pages 293 and 294).

The Brush and Broom Wages Council (Northern Ireland) Wages Regulation Order, 1948 (S.R. and O. of Northern Ireland 1948, No. 15; price 8d. net, 9d. post free) and The Brush and Broom Wages Council (Northern Ireland) Wages Regulation (Holidays) Order, 1948 (S.R. and O. of Northern Ireland 1948, No. 16; price 4d. net, 5d. post free), both made on 14th January, 1948, by the Ministry of Labour and National Insurance for Northern Ireland under the Wages Councils Act (Northern Ireland), 1945.—See page 78 of the February issue of this GAZETTE.

The Safeguarding of Employment (Exemption) Order (Northern Ireland), 1947 (S.R. and O. of Northern Ireland 1947, No. 210) and The Safeguarding of Employment (Exemption) Order (Northern Ireland), 1948 (S.R. and O. of Northern Ireland 1948, No. 13), made by the Ministry of Labour and National Insurance for Northern Ireland on 31st December, 1947, and 13th January, 1948, respectively, under the Safeguarding of Employment Act (Northern Ireland), 1947.—See page 86.

The National Insurance (Appointed Day) Order (Northern Ireland), 1948 (S.R. and O. of Northern Ireland, 1948, No. 32), made by the Ministry of Labour and National Insurance for Northern Ireland, in conjunction with the Ministry of Finance for Northern Ireland, on 4th February, 1948, under the National Insurance Act (Northern Ireland), 1946.—This Order fixes 5th July, 1948, as the "appointed day" on which the National Insurance Scheme will come into operation in Northern Ireland.

The National Insurance (Industrial Injuries) (Appointed Day) Order (Northern Ireland), 1948 (S.R. and O. of Northern Ireland 1948, No. 35), made by the Ministry of Labour and National Insurance for Northern Ireland on 4th February, 1948, under the National Insurance (Industrial Injuries) Act (Northern Ireland), 1946.—This Order fixes the 5th July, 1948, as the "appointed day" on which the National Insurance Industrial Injuries Scheme will come into operation in Northern Ireland.

* See footnote * in first column on page 112.

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

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 the United Kingdom during February resulted in an aggregate increase estimated at approximately £125,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 470,000 workpeople.† In addition, a number of workpeople had their hourly rates increased so as to give approximately the same weekly wages as before for a shorter working week.

The principal groups of workpeople affected by increases in rates of wages reported in February were employed in the road haulage of goods, in the cotton weaving industry, the hosiery industry in the Midlands, the electrical cable making industry, and those engaged in the manufacture of paper boxes, paper bags, and rope, twine and net. Among other groups of workpeople receiving increased rates of wages were those employed in aerated waters manufacture, flax and hemp manufacture in Great Britain, wool yarn and woven wool cloth manufacture in the South of Scotland, coal distribution in the London area, and workpeople employed in the letterpress section of the printing industry in Scotland.

For workpeople employed in the road haulage of goods, new statutory minimum rates of wages were fixed, involving general increases of 4s. a week for men 21 years or over and for workers under 21 to whom adult rates apply, of 2s. for other workers under 21, with larger increases for certain workers following a reclassification of the carrying capacity of vehicles as a basis of remuneration. In cotton manufacture, there was an increase of 7s. 6d. a week in the flat-rate addition to wages for operatives running a full normal complement of machinery or work. In the hosiery industry in the Midlands a new sliding scale was adopted, resulting in an increase in the cost-of-living wage from 11d. in the shilling on basic wages to 1s. in the shilling. In the electrical cable making industry there were increases of 1d. an hour for men and ½d. for women employed as timeworkers or pieceworkers, and additional temporary bonuses of ½d. an hour for men and ¼d. for women were granted to workers who are remunerated solely on minimum plain time rates. For workpeople employed in paper box making the general minimum time rates fixed under the Wages Councils Act were increased by 6s. a week for men and women; a similar increase was given to men and women employed in paper bag making. In the rope, twine and net manufacturing industry the general minimum time rates fixed under the Wages Councils Act were increased by 1½d. an hour for male and female workers of all ages.

Of the total increase of £125,000, about £58,000 was the result of Orders made under the Wages Councils Acts or the Road Haulage Wages Act; about £48,000 resulted from direct negotiations between employers and workpeople or their representatives; and most of the remainder resulted from arrangements made by Joint Industrial Councils or other joint standing bodies established by voluntary agreement.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Quarrying	Great Britain	Beginning of first full pay period following 7 Feb.	Men, youths and boys employed in the silica and moulding sands industry.	Increase of 2½d. an hour in the minimum basic rate for men 21 years and over, and a new scale of minimum rates adopted for youths and boys, resulting in increases of amounts varying from 1d. to 3d. an hour, according to age, following reduction in normal working week from 48 to 44 hours. Minimum basic rates after change: men 21 years and over 2s. 1½d. an hour, youths and boys 1s. 0d. at 16 years and under, rising to 1s. 10½d. at 20 and under 21.
	Various districts in England	9 Feb.	Workpeople employed on shift-work in chalk quarrying (other than for the manufacture of cement) and in the production of lime and whitening from chalk.	Differential rates fixed of 1½d. and 2d. an hour above minimum basic rates for two-shift and three-shift workers, respectively, regardless of the number of hours worked in any shift.
Pre-cast Concrete Products Manufacture.	Scotland	Pay week commencing on or after 2 Feb.	Youths and boys	New scale of wages adopted, resulting in increases of varying amounts, according to age. Rates after change: 1s. 1d. an hour at 15 to 16 years of age, rising to 2s. 2d. at 20 and under 21.
Building Brick and Allied Industries.	Scotland	First full pay period following 26 Jan.	Workpeople employed in the composition brick industry.	Increases of 2½d. or 2½d. an hour for adult workers, and of proportional amounts for female and younger workers; increase of ½d. an hour (1d. to 1½d.) on shift rates for 7-day workers, and 2d. an hour (1d. to 3d.) for other shift workers on 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. shifts; following reduction in normal working hours. Rates after change, inclusive of war wage addition now merged in basic rates, include: mixers, setters, bogie runners (day shifts), pan mill men (shovel fed) 2s. 0½d.; women—setters 1s. 5d., others 18 years and over 1s. 4d.; plus a good timekeeping bonus of 2s. a week in each case.†

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

† These figures do not show the effect of increases in wage rates, which came into effect during February, in certain occupations in the printing industry and in the railway service, particulars of which were received too late for inclusion in the statistics.

‡ See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour."

SUMMARY OF CHANGES REPORTED IN JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1948.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople in the United Kingdom affected by increases in rates of wages reported to the Department during the first two months of 1948, 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.
		£
Agriculture	—	—
Mining and Quarrying	9,500	1,200
Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc.	56,000	13,600
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	38,000	6,900
Textile	256,000	72,500
Clothing	88,000	43,200
Food, Drink and Tobacco	30,000	8,400
Woodworking, Furniture, etc.	5,500	1,200
Paper, Printing, etc.†	69,500	24,900
Building, Civil Engineering Construction, etc.	67,500	7,300
Gas, Water and Electricity Supply	500	100
Transport‡	151,000	46,000
Public Administration Services	—	—
Other	30,500	4,700
Total	802,000	230,000

In the corresponding months of 1947, there were net increases of about £138,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 647,000 workpeople

HOURS OF LABOUR.

The changes in hours of labour reported to have come into operation in February resulted in an average reduction of about 2 hours a week for about 90,000 workpeople. The principal groups of workpeople affected were those employed in the hair-dressing craft (including beauty specialists), whose normal weekly working hours were reduced from 48 to 46; electricians employed on electrical installation and maintenance work in Scotland, whose normal weekly working hours were reduced from 47 to 44 for day workers and from 45 to 44 for night shift workers; workpeople in the silica and moulding sand industry, with a reduction from 48 to 44 hours in the normal working week averaged throughout the year; and workpeople in the refractories and silica brick industries in England and Wales, other than kilnburners, boiler firemen and other shiftworkers, with a reduction from 48 to 44 hours in the normal working week.

During the first two months of 1948, changes in hours of labour reported to have come into operation in the industries covered by the Department's statistics* have resulted in an average reduction of about 3 hours a week for about 185,000 workpeople.

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

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Building Brick and Allied Industries (continued.)	England and Wales	Beginning of first full pay period following 31 Jan.	Workpeople employed in the refractories industry, other than transport drivers.	Increases of 2½d. an hour in minimum basic rates for adult male timeworkers, of 1½d. for women 18 years and over, and of proportional amounts for younger workers, following a reduction of normal working week from 48 to 44 hours; increase of 2½d. an hour in basic rate for kilnburners and boiler firemen employed on continuous shiftwork; existing differential rates to be maintained. Minimum rates after change include: men—labourers 2s. 1½d. an hour, rough fitters and rough bricklayers 2s. 2½d., rough blacksmiths, rough carpenters and joiners 2s. 3½d., mould makers (wood) 2s. 6½d.; women 1s. 5½d.†
	England and Wales	do.	Transport drivers	Increase of 2½d. an hour in minimum basic rates following reduction of normal working week from 48 to 44 hours. Minimum rates after change include: drivers of vehicles of up to and including 2 tons carrying capacity 2s. 2½d., over 2 tons and up to and including 3½ tons 2s. 3½d., over 3½ tons capacity but not over 12 tons gross laden weight 2s. 4½d., over 12 tons gross laden weight 2s. 5½d.†
Engineering	Swansea, Llanelly, Port Talbot and Neath.	1 Jan.‡	Workpeople employed in the silica brick industry, other than transport drivers.	Increases of 2½d. an hour in minimum basic rates for adult male timeworkers, of 1½d. for women 18 years and over, and of proportional amounts for younger workers, following a reduction of normal working week from 48 to 44 hours; increase of 2½d. an hour in basic rate for kilnburners and boiler firemen employed on continuous shiftwork; existing differential rates to be maintained. Minimum rates after change include: men—labourers 2s. 1½d. an hour; productive workers—hand moulders 2s. 4½d., kiln setters 2s. 3½d., other productive workers 2s. 2½d.; maintenance workers—rough fitters and rough bricklayers 2s. 2½d., rough blacksmiths, rough carpenters and joiners 2s. 3½d., mould makers (wood) 2s. 6½d.*; women 1s. 5½d.†
			Transport drivers	As for transport drivers employed in the refractories industry, see above.
Electrical Cable Manufacture.	Great Britain	Third pay day in Feb.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls employed in the electrical cable making industry, except plumber joiners, etc.	Increases of 1d. an hour for men 21 years and over and of ½d. for women 18 years and over, employed as timeworkers or pieceworkers, with proportional increases for younger workers; temporary bonuses of ½d. an hour for men, ¼d. for women, and proportional amounts for younger workers, granted to workers who are remunerated solely on minimum plain time rates; occupational rates of wages, previously in operation, revised so as to make a uniform difference between occupational classifications for men and between districts of ½d. an hour. Rates after change for timeworkers (exclusive of temporary bonus): men 21 years and over, district I 92s. 7d. a week to 106s. 4d., according to occupation, district II 89s. 10d. to 103s. 7d.; women 18 years and over in districts I and II 65s. 1d., 66s. 11d. and 68s. 9d.; youths and boys 30s. 3d. at 15 years, rising to 76s. 1d. at 20; girls 29s. 4d. at 15, 33s. 11d. at 16 and 39s. 5d. at 17.‡
Cotton Manufacturing.	Lancashire, Cheshire, Yorkshire and Derbyshire.	Pay day in week commencing 9 Feb. (for preceding pay week).	Workpeople, other than enginemens, firemen, etc., and skilled maintenance mechanics, etc.	Flat-rate addition to wages increased by 7s. 6d. a week of 45 hours (16s. to 23s. 6d.) for all operatives running a full adult normal complement of machinery or work, with proportional increases, rising from 3s. 9d. a week, for juveniles and other workers not on a full complement. Minimum rates after change, inclusive of percentage and flat-rate additions, include: weavers, on ordinary system of 4 looms per weaver 69s. 8d. † a week, on 6-loom system 77s. 2d. †, on more than 6-loom system 98s. 2d. plus one-fifth of earnings from all the looms calculated upon the piece-rates for the 6-loom system of working; winders (fully competent) 63s. 6d. †; warpers (beavers), male or female, 69s. 6d. †; cloth lookers 102s. 6d.; tape labourers and wettmen in charge of wett cellar 93s. 10d.; general warehousemen 91s. 8d.; warp tying and drawing machine men—front 126s. 5d., back 113s. 7d.
Shirtings, Costume Cloths and other Coloured Cotton and Woolen Goods Manufacture.	West of Scotland and Carlisle.	Beginning of first pay period following 16 Feb.	Adult workers	Increases of 7s. a week in standard time rates for beavers, warpers, twisters, drawers and tapdressers, of 5s. in guaranteed minimum wage for power loom tenters, and of 6s. 6d. in fall-back rate for female pieceworkers. Rates after change: males—tape dressers 122s. 6d. a week, beavers, warpers, twisters and drawers 110s., power loom tenters 110s., plus a bonus on production with a guaranteed minimum of 20s. a week; females 18 years and over (weavers, winders, damers, etc.) employed on piecework—fall-back rate 55s.
Woolen Textile	South of Scotland (various districts).**	Beginning of first full pay period in Feb.	Workpeople employed in the manufacture of wool yarn and woven wool cloth.	Increases of 10 per cent. on minimum time rates and current minimum average piece rates, representing increases of amounts varying from 8s. to 10s. 4d. a week, according to occupation, in minimum time rates for men, from 5s. 6d. to 9s. for women, of proportional amounts for apprentices and young persons, and of corresponding amounts in minimum average piece-work earnings; allowance of 1s. a shift granted to workpeople employed on staggered shifts. Minimum time rates after change include: male workers 21 years or over—unskilled labourers 88s. a week; semi-skilled (after one year's training) 90s. 9d.; skilled (after 2 years' training) 95s. 9d.; after short apprenticeship of 3 years 103s.; after full apprenticeship of 4 years, spinners 106s. 9d. ††; finishers, pattern weavers and fleece wool sorters for matchings 112s. 3d., tuners (10 looms or less) 114s. ††; assistant tuners, dyers and carders (ex-apprentice) 102s. 8d., power-loom weavers (2 ordinary looms) 106s. 9d., (1 ordinary loom) 90s. 9d.; female workers 18 years or over—unskilled 60s. 6d.; semi-skilled (after 6 months' to 1 year's experience) 63s. 3d. or 64s. 4d., according to occupation; on jobs requiring apprenticeship (after 1½ to 2 years' apprenticeship) 68s. 6d. to 100s., according to occupation.
Rope, Twine and Net Manufacture.	Great Britain	25 Feb.	Timeworkers	Increase of 1½d. an hour in general minimum time rates for male and female workers of all ages. General minimum time rates after change include: men 21 years or over 1s. 9½d. to 1s. 11½d. an hour, according to occupation, women 18 years or over 1s. 3½d. to 1s. 4½d. ††
			Pieceworkers	Increases of 1½d. an hour in piecework basis time rates and of varying amounts, according to type of work, in general minimum piece rates. Piecework basis time rates after change include: men (all ages) 1s. 10½d. to 2s. 0½d. an hour, according to occupation, women (all ages) 1s. 4d. to 1s. 4½d. ††

* Mould makers (wood) included in this category must be competent to make moulds from drawings, without supervision.

† See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour."

‡ These increases were agreed to on 4th March, 1948, and had retrospective effect to the date shown.

§ Temporary bonuses are to be entirely cancelled by the introduction of any scheme of incentive, compensatory bonus or lieu rates; the temporary bonuses are to be offset against such lieu rates in cases where lieu rates are already paid to timeworkers.

|| District I comprises London, Middlesex, Kent, Surrey, Essex, Hertfordshire, Buckingham, Berkshire and Sussex, and district II the remaining counties of Great Britain.

¶ These minimum rates apply to pieceworkers, who are paid the usual piece price rates or the stated minimum rates, whichever are the higher.

** Principally Peebles, Galashiels, Earliston, Selkirk, Dumfries, Langholm, Hawick, Jedburgh, Innerleithen, Walkerburn, Newtown St. Boswells, Alva and Keith.

†† Spinners in charge of more than one pair of mules to receive additional responsibility pay of 2s. each for 3rd and 4th headstocks, and 3s. each for 5th and 6th headstocks; tuners to be paid 2s. a loom (on time rates) or 2s. plus 10 per cent. a loom (on piecework) for each loom above 10 in section.

‡‡ These increases took effect under an Order issued under the Wages Councils Act. See page 111 of this GAZETTE.

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

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Flax and Hemp Manufacture.	Great Britain	27 Feb.	Timeworkers	Increases in general minimum time rates of 5s. 8d. a week for male workers 21 years or over, of 4s. 8d. for female workers 18 years or over, and of 4s. 8d. or 3s. 9d., according to age or period of employment, for younger workers; new minimum time rates fixed for male linen weavers 21 or over. Rates after change include: male workers 21 years or over—tenters 102s. 10d. a week, under tenters (after 3 years' experience after age of 21) 90s. 1d., dressers, mounters, card-cutters and hacklers 96s. 6d., hemp-rollers on non-reciprocating machines and hemp-breakers 98s. 8d., day shift spinners 84s. 8d., night shift spinners 86s. 1d., linen weavers (after 6 months' experience after age of 21) 90s. 1d., other workers (except learners and improvers) 82s. 5d.; female workers 18 years or over—spinners, card-cutters, weavers, winders, reelers and warpers 58s. 9d., other workers (except learners) 52s. 10d.*
			Pieceworkers	Increases of 5s. 8d. a week in piecework basis time rates for male hose-pipe weavers, and of 4s. 8d. for female workers (all ages); increases of 4s. 8d. in pieceworkers' guaranteed time rates for women 18 years or over, and of 3s. 9d. for girls under 18; new guaranteed time rates fixed for male linen weavers 21 or over employed on piecework. Rates after change include: piecework basis time rates—male hose-pipe weavers 95s. 8d. a week, female workers 59s. 10d.; guaranteed time rates—male linen weavers (after 6 months' experience) 90s. 1d., female workers 18 years or over 52s. 10d.*
Hosiery Manufacture.	Midlands†	Pay day in week beginning 22 Feb.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls.	New cost-of-living sliding scale adopted, resulting in an increase of 1d. in the shilling (11d. to 1s. 0d.) on basic wages.‡
Linen and Cotton Handkerchief and Household Goods and Linen Piece Goods Manufacture.	Northern Ireland	25 Feb.	Male workers—Timeworkers	Increases in general minimum time rates of 2½d. or 3d. an hour, according to area, for measurers and sample makers, of 2½d. or 3d. for lappers, of 3d. or 3½d. for warehouse assistants or warehouse clerks, of 1½d. to 2½d., according to area and year of apprenticeship, for apprentices to lapping, measuring, and sample making, and of 1½d. to 4d., according to area, age and experience, for all other male workers except those employed in the Swiss embroidery branch of the trade. General minimum time rates after change include: measurers and samplers Area A 2s. 4d. an hour, Area B 2s. 1½d., lappers 2s. 3d., 2s. 0½d., warehouse assistants or warehouse clerks 2s. 1d., 1s. 10½d., other male workers, except apprentices and workers in the Swiss embroidery branch—21 years or over, with not less than 2 years' employment in the trade within the preceding 5 years, Area A 1s. 9d., Area B 1s. 7d., with less than 2 years' employment, 1s. 6½d., 1s. 4½d.§
			Pieceworkers	Increases in piecework basis time rates of 3½d. or 4d. an hour, according to area, for workers other than lappers, measurers, samplers, warehouse assistants or warehouse clerks and workers operating machines in the Swiss embroidery branch of the trade. Piecework basis time rates after change: Area A 1s. 9½d. an hour, Area B 1s. 7½d.§
Baking (other than home bakeries)	Northern Ireland	25 Feb.	Men, youths and boys (except transport workers, stablemen, harness cleaners or van washers).	New general minimum time rates fixed for doughmakers, ovenmen and confectionery mixers in all areas; increases in general minimum time rates for workers in Area C of 2s. 9d. for journeymen bakers, of 9d. to 1s. 9d., according to year of apprenticeship, for apprentice bakers, of 2s. 3d. for bakehouse labourers, of 7s. for all other workers 21 and over, and of 9d. to 5s. 3d., according to age, for younger workers. General minimum time rates after change include: doughmakers, ovenmen, confectionery mixers—Area A 112s. 6d., Area B 107s. 3d., Area C 104s. 6d.; workers in Area C—journeymen bakers 99s. 6d., bakehouse labourers 80s., packers and all other workers 21 and over 76s. 9d.¶
			Women and girls	Increases in general minimum time rates of 6s. 6d. in Area A, 6s. 3d. in Area B, and 7s. 6d. in Area C for bakers, of 5s., 4s. 9d. and 5s. 9d. for other workers 21 and over, except learners, and of proportional amounts, according to year of apprenticeship, for learners, and according to age for other workers under 21. General minimum time rates after change include: bakers—Area A 67s. 6d., Area B 64s. 3d. and Area C 62s. 6d.; other workers 21 and over, except learners, 49s. 6d., 47s. and 45s. 9d.¶
Aerated Waters Manufacture.	England and Wales	16 Feb.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls.	Increases of 8s. a week in general minimum time rates for men 21 years or over, of 6s. for youths 19 and under 21, of 3s. for youths 16 and under 19, of 3s. 8d. for boys under 16, of 6s. for women 19 years and over, of 4s. for girls 17 and under 19, of 3s. for girls 16 and under 17, and of 3s. 8d. for girls under 16; increases of 2d. an hour in piecework basis time rates for male workers and of 1½d. for female workers. General minimum time rates after change include: men 21 years or over 94s. a week, women 19 or over 64s.; piecework basis time rates, males 2s. 4d. an hour, females 1s. 6½d.**
Brewing	Scotland	11 Feb.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls.	Increases in general minimum time rates of 2d. an hour for male and female workers 18 years or over, and of 1½d. for all younger workers. Rates after change include: men 21 years or over 1s. 10½d. an hour, women 20 or over 1s. 3½d. (Orkney and Shetland Islands—1d. an hour less in each case).**
	Scotland		First pay week beginning after 5 Jan.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls.
Paper Bag Manufacture.	Great Britain	2 Feb.	Men 21 years and over and women 18 years and over.	Increases of 6s. a week in general minimum time rates for men and women other than late entrants, and of 2s. to 6s., according to period of employment, for late entrants; increase of 6s. a week in piecework basis time rate for female workers. General minimum time rates after change include: men, other than late entrants, machine tacklers 108s. a week, paper bag cutters or slitters 101s., hydraulic pressers, stock keepers, packers or despatchers 92s., other workers 86s., women 18 or over 60s.; piecework basis time rate for female workers of all ages 63s.**

* These increases took effect under an Order issued under the Wages Councils Act. See page 111 of this GAZETTE.

† Including Hinckley, Leicester, Loughborough, Nottingham, Sutton-in-Ashfield and Mansfield and district.

‡ The bonus quoted above corresponds to an official index figure of retail prices of 100-104.

§ These increases took effect under an Order issued under the Wages Councils Act (Northern Ireland). See page 111 of this GAZETTE.

¶ Home bakeries are bakeries (other than those producing 1 lb. or 2 lb. batch loaves or pan loaves exceeding 1 lb. in weight) in which the number of workers engaged in occupations within the scope of the Wages Council does not exceed six.

** These increases took effect under an Order issued under the Wages Councils Act (Northern Ireland). See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour," and page 111 of this GAZETTE. Area A consists of the County Borough of the City of Belfast and districts situated within a radius of 15 miles, Area B the County Borough of the City of Londonderry, and Area C all other districts.

** These increases took effect under Orders issued under the Wages Councils Act. See page 77 of the February, 1948, issue of this GAZETTE.

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

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Paper Box Manufacture.	Great Britain	2 Feb.	Men 21 years and over and women 18 years and over.	Increases of 6s. a week in general minimum time rates for men and women other than late entrants, and of 2s. to 6s., according to period of employment, for late entrants; increase of 6s. a week in piecework basis time rates. General minimum time rates after change include: men, other than late entrants, employed in the manufacture of cartons on carton cutting and creasing machines fitted with fully automatic feeders 103s. 6d. a week, carton or rigid box die makers, forme setters or carton automatic glueing machinists 106s., die makers or forme setters on fibre packing case making, shear cutters, guillotine cutters, head stock keepers, sample makers, etc., 103s. 6d., other workers 86s.; women 60s.; piecework basis time rates—males 91s. 6d. a week, females 63s.*
Printing	Scotland	Pay day in week commencing 2 Feb. (for preceding week).	Workpeople employed in the letterpress section of the general jobbing and weekly newspaper printing industry.	Increases of 9s. a week on basic rates of wages for journeymen, including female compositors, and female auxiliary time-workers with 5 years' or more experience after training, of 7s. 6d. for male and 5s. for female auxiliary workers, and of proportional amounts for apprentices and learners. Rates after change include: compositors and machine men—Grade I towns 122s. 6d., Grade II, 119s. 6d., Grade III, 116s. 6d.; monotype keyboard operators and readers 127s. 6d., 124s. 6d., 121s. 6d.; linotype operators 130s., 127s., 124s.; auxiliary workers, male—101s. 6d., 99s. 6d., 98s., female—67s. 6d., 66s., 64s. 6d.; females with 5 years' or more experience as adult workers 71s. 6d., 70s., 68s. 6d.
Building	England and Wales (certain localities).	1 Feb.	Men, youths and boys	Increases of ½d. an hour for craftsmen, of ¼d. for labourers, and of proportional amounts for young male labourers and apprentices, as a result of the upgrading of some localities for wages purposes.
Civil Engineering Construction.	Great Britain (various districts).	4 Feb.	Men, youths and boys	Increases of ¼d. to 1½d. an hour for men, according to district, and of proportional amounts for youths and boys, as a result of the upgrading of all localities hitherto classified as Class III for wages purposes, and of the reclassification of various other localities. Rates after change for navvies and labourers: London Area Super-Grade 2s. 3½d., Class I districts 2s. 2½d., 1A, 2s. 2d., 2s. 1½d., 2A, 2s. 1d.
Electrical Installation.	Scotland	9 Feb.	Journeymen electricians and apprentices employed on electrical installation and maintenance work (excluding work on ships).	Increases of 3½d. an hour in standard rates of wages for journeymen, and of ¼d. to 1½d., according to year of apprenticeship, for apprentices, representing net increases of 5s. 4d. in weekly rates for journeymen and of proportional amounts for apprentices, following a reduction of the normal working week from 47 to 44 hours. Rates after change: journeymen 2s. 9½d. an hour, apprentices 5½d. an hour in first year of apprenticeship, rising to 1s. 4½d. in fifth year.†
Road Haulage (Goods).	Great Britain	2 Feb.	Workpeople employed in road haulage (goods): Drivers and mates of mechanically propelled vehicles, foremen, removal packers and porters employed in furniture warehousing and removing, statutory attendants and other road haulage workers.	New statutory minimum rates of remuneration fixed, involving general increases of 4s. a week for men 21 years or over and for workers under 21 to whom adult rates apply, and of 2s. for other workers under 21, and varying increases for certain workers, following a reclassification of the carrying capacity of vehicles as a basis of remuneration. Rates after change for workers 21 years or over include: drivers of motor vehicles—of 2 tons carrying capacity or less, London area 101s. a week, Grade I areas 96s., Grade II areas 92s., over 2 tons and up to and including 5 tons 107s., 102s., 98s., over 5 tons to 8 tons 111s., 106s., 102s., over 8 to 12 tons 115s., 110s., 106s., over 12 tons 119s., 114s., 110s.; drivers of tractors not exceeding 2 tons unladen weight used exclusively for furniture removal work, 107s., 102s., 98s.; drivers of other tractors and steam wagons—up to and including 8 tons, London area 111s., over 8 to 12 tons 115s., over 12 tons 119s.; mates on steam wagons, London area 98s.; furniture warehousing and removing—foremen 101s., 96s. 6d., 94s. 6d., removal packers 96s., 93s. 6d., 91s. 6d., porters 94s., 91s. 6d., 88s. 6d.; other road haulage workers 96s., 93s., 89s.; workers employed on carriage of indivisible loads—over 6 tons and up to and including 10 tons, London area—drivers 119s., mates 100s., over 10 to 16 tons 126s., 100s., over 16 to 20 tons 132s., 103s., over 20 to 25 tons 137s., 107s., over 25 to 45 tons 142s., 107s., over 45 tons 167s., 107s., Grade I and II areas, drivers 4s. less than London rates, mates 3s. less than London rates, heavy brakemen and steersmen, London area 117s., Grade I and II areas 114s.‡
	Great Britain	do.	Bankstaffs employed in the road haulage industry.	New minimum rates of wages adopted for men 21 years of age or over, as follows: Metropolitan area—category 1, unskilled workers (porters, truckers and labourers) 96s., category 2, semi-skilled workers (checkers engaged in the checking off, entering, checking away and stowage of loads) 100s., category 3, fully skilled bank workers (men who have special knowledge and qualifications and can accept responsibility for accurate work connected with checking off, entering, checking away and stowage of loads) 104s.; Grade 1 areas—93s., 97s. and 101s.; Grade 2 areas—89s., 93s. and 97s.‡
	London area	do.	Horse drivers, assistant horse keepers, stablemen and vanguarders employed in road haulage.	Increases of 4s. a week for workers 21 years and over, and of 2s. for those under 21. Rates after change: man—drivers, one-horse 95s. a week, two-horse 99s., three-horse 101s., four-horse 105s., 25 cwt. light singles 94s., 50 cwt. light pairs 98s.; assistant horse keepers and stablemen 95s.; youths—drivers of cobs and pony vehicles 45s. 6d. to 50s. 6d.; vanguarders 34s. 9d. at under 15 years, rising to 46s. 9d. at 17 and under 18.
	Liverpool, Bootle, Birkenhead and Wallasey.	do.	Drivers, etc., of mechanically propelled vehicles employed on local haulage work (within a radius of 10 miles from Liverpool and Birkenhead Town Halls), and on journey work outside the above radius.	New minimum rates of remuneration adopted, involving general increases of 4s. a week (44 hours) for permanent workers, and of corresponding amounts for casual workers, with varying increases for certain workers following a reclassification of the carrying capacity of vehicles as a basis of remuneration. Rates after change for permanent men engaged on local haulage work: drivers of vehicles of carrying capacity of 1 ton and under 96s. a week, over 1 ton and up to 2 tons 97s., over 2 tons and up to 5 tons 104s., over 5 tons and up to 8 tons 106s., over 8 tons and up to 12 tons 110s., over 12 tons 114s., secondmen 97s., stand trailermen 100s., trailermen 93s.; the rates for workpeople engaged on journey work are the current rates fixed for Grade 1 areas by the Road Haulage Central Wages Board.
			Horse carters employed on traffic and coal work.	Increases of 4s. a week (44 hours) for seniors and 2s. for juniors in permanent employment, and of corresponding amounts for casual workers. Rates after change for permanent workers: seniors—teamsmen 100s. a week, one-horse drivers 94s., juniors 51s. or 57s. 6d., according to type of vehicle or district.
	Lancashire and Cheshire (except Merseyside and Chester) and the Buxton and High Peak District of Derbyshire.	do.	Men and youths employed as horse carters.	Increases of 5s. 6d. a week for men and for youths 18 years and over, and of 2s. 6d. for youths and boys under 18. Minimum rates after change: men and youths 18 years and over—one-horse drivers 94s. a week, teamsmen 99s.; youths and boys under 16 years 68s., 16 and under 17, 71s. 6d., 17 and under 18, 79s.
	Bristol	do.	Drivers of mechanically propelled vehicles operating under "C" licence and horse carters, horse keepers, stable and foragemen.	Increases of 4s. a week for horse carters, horse keepers, stable and foragemen, and of varying amounts for drivers of mechanically propelled vehicles operating under "C" licence, following a reclassification of the carrying capacity of these vehicles as a basis of remuneration. Rates after change: one-horse drivers 96s. a week, two-horse drivers 100s. 6d., horse keepers 98s., stable and foragemen 96s.; the rates for workers operating under "C" licence are the current rates fixed for Grade I areas by the Road Haulage Central Wages Board.

* These increases took effect under an Order issued under the Wages Councils Act. See page 77 of the February, 1948, issue of this GAZETTE.
 † See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour."
 ‡ In the London area rates in respect of vehicles of over 1 ton and up to and including 8 tons carrying capacity are 1s. a week higher for drivers in employment as such on 8th June, 1932, who have remained in the service of the same employer.
 § These rates are contained in an Order made under the Road Haulage Wages Act. See page 78 of the February, 1948, issue of this GAZETTE.
 ¶ These rates are contained in a memorandum of agreement made between the Road Haulage Association and the trades unions represented on the Road Haulage Central Wages Board; the agreement has been adopted by the National Joint Industrial Council for the Road Haulage Industry and applies to workers in the industry who are outside the scope of Road Haulage Central Wages Board Orders. It is provided that, where higher rates or superior conditions than those specified in the agreement are in operation, no reductions or variations in rates or conditions are to be made except by mutual consent. The Metropolitan area, Grade 1 and Grade 2 areas are to be in accordance with the grades into which the country is divided in the current Order of the Wages Board.

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

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Road Haulage (Goods) (continued).	Scotland (excluding County of Angus)	2 Feb.	Horse carters employed by general contractors.	Increases of 4s. a week for workers 21 years and over, and of 2s. for youths and boys. Rates after change: adults—one-horse carters 97s. a week, two-horse carters 103s.; youths and boys 40s. at 16 years, rising to 66s. 6d. at 20 and under 21.
	County of Angus	do.	do.	Increases of 5s. a week for workers 21 years and over, and of 2s. 6d. for youths and boys. Rates after change: County of Angus (excluding Dundee): adults—one-horse carters 96s. a week, two-horse carters 102s.; Dundee, 98s. and 104s.; youths and boys 41s. at 16 years, rising to 72s. at 20 and under 21.
Roller Leather Manufacture.	England and Wales	First pay period commencing after 12 Jan.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls.	Increases in basic time work rates of ¼d. an hour for men 21 years and over and for women 20 years and over, and of ¼d. or ½d., according to age, for younger workers; increase of 5 per cent. (2½ to 3½ per cent.) on pro-rata piecework prices. Minimum basic rates after change for dayworkers: men, all areas (excluding rural areas in Wales)—skilled workers 2s. 4d. an hour, semi-skilled (wet) 2s. 1¼d., semi-skilled (dry) 2s. 1d., rural areas in Wales—skilled 2s. 4d., semi-skilled (wet) 2s. 0¼d., semi-skilled (dry) 1s. 11¼d.; youths and boys 10d. at 15 years, rising to 1s. 10¼d. at 20½; women and girls 9½d. at 15 years, rising to 1s. 6d. at 20 and over when competent. Minimum piecework rates to be fixed so as to enable the average pieceworker to earn at least 25 per cent. over the appropriate daywork rate; women performing the same work as men to be paid the same piecework rate.*
Coal Distribution.	London area	16 Feb.	Horse cartmen	Minimum daily and weekly rates increased by 1s. and 5s., respectively. Minimum rates after change: daily paid workers 15s. a day, weekly paid workers 85s. a week.
			Horse cartmen, motor drivers, trolleyman and loaders.	Tonnage rates for loading and delivering coal and manufactured fuels other than coke, and for trolley sales of all fuels, increased by 2d. a ton, and rates for carrying coal during delivery beyond 120 feet or to basement, first floor or floors above, increased by 1d. a ton; output bonus, payable in addition to and based on the total weekly earnings, adjusted as follows: mechanical transport drivers and loaders at sidings 1s. when earnings exceed 110s. a week but do not exceed 115s., rising to 20s. when earnings exceed 170s.; horse cartmen 1s. at over 95s. to 20s. 6d. at over 160s.; loaders at bays and shoots 1s. at over 130s. to 20s. at over 190s.
Wholesale Meat Distribution.	London	2 Feb.	Manual workers	War bonus increased by 5s. a week. Rates after change for a 44-hour week: nightmen, cutters and scalesmen 119s. a week including 35s. war bonus, humpers 117s. including 38s. 6d. war bonus, workers employed on cleaning and bag salvage 103s. 6d. including 38s. 6d. war bonus.
Fencing Industry.	Great Britain	Pay day in week beginning 9 Feb. do.	Men 21 years and over employed in the fence erection section. Workpeople employed in the fencing manufacturing section.	Increase of 3d. an hour in minimum rates. Minimum rates after change: skilled fencers 3s. an hour, fence fixers 2s. 10¼d., fencer's labourers 2s. 5¼d. Piecework prices to be adjusted so as to yield not less than 25 per cent. above the new basic rates.†
				Minimum hourly rates adopted for a 44-hour week as follows: London (within a 20 mile radius of Charing Cross)—machinists, sawyers and carpenters 2s. 10¼d., labourers 2s. 3½d.; London and elsewhere—cleavers 2s. 4d., labourers 2s. 2d. (except London); women 18 years and over 1s. 9¼d. Piecework rates fixed so as to yield not less than 25 per cent. above the normal basic rate.‡

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED DURING FEBRUARY.

Quarrying	Great Britain	Beginning of first full pay period following 7 Feb.	Men, youths and boys employed in the silica and moulding sands industry.	Normal working week, averaged throughout the year, reduced from 48 to 44 hours (to be worked in 5½ days unless otherwise agreed between the parties concerned in areas or at individual undertakings).§
Building Brick and Allied Industries.	England and Wales	Beginning of first full pay period following 31 Jan.	Workpeople employed in the refractories industry, other than kilnburners, boiler firemen and other shiftworkers.	Normal weekly working hours reduced from 48 to 44 (to be worked in 5½ days unless otherwise agreed between the parties concerned in areas or at individual undertakings).§
	do.	do.	Workpeople employed in the silica brick industry, other than kilnburners, boiler firemen and other shiftworkers.	Normal weekly working hours reduced from 48 to 44.‡
	Scotland	First full pay period following 26 Jan.	Workpeople employed in the composition brick industry.	Normal working week for day workers reduced from 48 to 44 hours (to be worked over 5 days where practicable); normal days of work for 7-day workers reduced from 14 to 13 a fortnight (2 weeks of 6½ days, or 1 week of 6 days and 1 of 7 days).§
Baking	Northern Ireland	25 Feb.	Workpeople employed in baking establishments, other than home bakeries.	Normal weekly hours beyond which overtime rates become payable reduced from 48 to 44 for transport workers in all Areas, from 48 to 45 for other workers in Area A, and from 48 to 46 for other workers in Areas B and C.‡
Electrical Installation.	Scotland	9 Feb.	Journeymen electricians and apprentices employed on electrical installation and maintenance work (excluding work on ships).	Normal weekly working hours reduced from 47 to 44 for dayworkers (to be worked over 5 or 5½ days) and from 45 to 44 for night shift workers.‡
Hairdressing	Great Britain	16 Feb.	Male and female workers	Normal weekly working hours reduced from 48 to 46.

* These increases were agreed to on 12th February, 1948, and had retrospective effect to the date shown.
 † Existing piecework rates which yield not less than 25 per cent. above the new basic rates are to be adjusted as from the first pay day in August, 1948, in order to yield a proportionate increase irrespective of the present piecework rates.
 ‡ Wage rates for sawyers, carpenters and machinists outside the London area, and for juveniles, are under consideration, and will be determined at a later date.
 § See also under "Changes in Rates of Wages."

INDEX OF RATES OF WAGES

The index figure of rates of wages measures the movement, from month to month, in the level of full-time weekly rates of wages in the principal industries and services in the United Kingdom compared with the level at 30th June, 1947, taken as 100. The industries and services covered by the index and the method of calculation were described on page 41 of the issue of this GAZETTE for February, 1948. The index is based on the recognised rates of wages fixed by collective agreements between organisations of employers and workpeople, arbitration awards or statutory orders. The percentage increases in the various industries are combined in accordance with the relative importance of the industries, as measured by the total wages bill in 1946. The index does not reflect changes in earnings due to such factors as alterations in working hours, or in piece-work earnings due to variations in output or the introduction of new machinery, etc.

The figures for the end of each month, on the basis of 30th June, 1947 = 100, are as follows:—

Date (end of month).	Men.	Women.	Juveniles.	All Workers.
1947				
June	100	100	100	100
July	100	100	100	100
August	101	101	102	101
September	101	101	102	101
October	101	103	103	102
November	103	103	105	103
December	103	103	106	104
1948				
January	104	104	106	104
February	104	105	106	104

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN FEBRUARY.

Number and Magnitude.—The number of stoppages of work* arising from industrial disputes in the United Kingdom, reported to the Department as beginning in February, was 176. In addition, 18 stoppages which began before February were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The approximate number of workers involved, during February, in these 194 stoppages, including workers thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, is estimated at about 71,000. The aggregate number of working days lost at the establishments concerned, during February, was about 288,000.

Of the stoppages of work through industrial disputes known to have been in progress at some time in February, the coal mining industry accounted for 105, involving over 42,000 workers, and resulting in an aggregate loss of nearly 106,000 working days.

The following Table gives an analysis, by groups of industries, of disputes involving stoppages of work in February:—

Industry Group.	Number of Stoppages in progress in Month.			Number of Workers involved in all Stoppages in progress in Month.	Aggregate Number of Working Days lost in all Stoppages in progress in Month.
	Started before beginning of Month.	Started in Month.	Total.		
Coal Mining	3	102	105	42,400	106,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	7	32	39	13,600	123,000
Transport	4	15	19	11,200	50,000
Other Industries and Services	4	27	31	3,900	9,000
Total, February, 1948	18	176	194	71,100	288,000
<i>Total, January, 1948</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>176</i>	<i>183</i>	<i>32,700</i>	<i>83,000</i>
<i>Total, February, 1947</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>154</i>	<i>49,700</i>	<i>158,000</i>

In the 176 stoppages which began during February, nearly 38,000 workers were directly involved, and over 24,000 indirectly involved (i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes). In the 18 stoppages which began before February, and were still in progress at the beginning of that month, the total number of workers involved during February, either directly or indirectly, was nearly 9,000.

Duration.—Of 177 stoppages of work, owing to disputes, which ended during February, 66, directly involving 6,100 workers,

lasted not more than one day; 43, directly involving 7,600 workers, lasted two days; 18, directly involving 2,800 workers, lasted three days; 30, directly involving 10,400 workers, lasted four to six days; and 20, directly involving 8,500 workers, lasted over six days.

Causes.—Of the 176 disputes leading to stoppages of work which began in February, 17, directly involving 2,600 workers, arose out of demands for advances in wages, and 56, directly involving 16,400 workers, on other wage questions; 4, directly involving 1,100 workers, on questions as to working hours; 29, directly involving 4,300 workers, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; 60, directly involving 7,300 workers, on other questions respecting working arrangements; and 6, directly involving 600 workers, on questions of trade union principle. Four stoppages, directly involving 5,400 workers, were in support of workers involved in other disputes.

TOTALS FOR THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 1948 AND 1947.

The following Table gives an analysis, by groups of industries, of all stoppages of work through industrial disputes in the United Kingdom in the first two months of 1948 and in the corresponding months of 1947:—

Industry Group.	January and February, 1948.				January and February, 1947.			
	Number of Stoppages beginning in period.	Number of Workers involved in all Stoppages in progress.	Number of Working Days lost in all Stoppages in progress.	Number of Stoppages beginning in period.	Number of Workers involved in all Stoppages in progress.	Number of Working Days lost in all Stoppages in progress.	Number of Stoppages beginning in period.	Number of Workers involved in all Stoppages in progress.
Coal Mining	199	51,200†	121,000	181	24,100†	36,000	17	4,900
Engineering	27	5,800	17,000	18	2,400	8,000	17	4,900
Shipbuilding	14	11,200	116,000	17	49,700	227,000	17	4,900
Iron and Steel and Other Metal	20	2,300	7,000	13	4,100	5,000	17	4,900
Textile	15	2,700	5,000	4	500	2,000	17	4,900
Clothing	4	1,500	5,000	4	500	5,000	17	4,900
Food, Drink and Tobacco	7	900	6,000	4	300	1,000	17	4,900
Building, etc.	7	700	2,000	11	700	5,000	17	4,900
Transport	32	17,100	77,000	17	38,700	184,000	17	4,900
All Other Industries	27	4,800	14,000	34	13,200	97,000	17	4,900
Total	352	98,200†	370,000	303	134,200†	570,000	17	4,900

PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING FEBRUARY.

Occupations† and Locality.	Approximate Number of Workers involved.		Date when Stoppage		Cause or Object.	Result.
	Directly.	Indirectly.‡	Began.	Ended.		
COAL MINING:—						
Colliery workers—Bothwell, Glasgow (one colliery).	450	..	5 Feb.	27 Feb.‡	In support of a number of oncost workers who had been dismissed. In sympathy with the workers involved in the above dispute.	Work resumed unconditionally.
Colliery workers—Lanarkshire (various collieries).	1,000	..	26 Feb.	26 Feb.	Protest against alleged interference by management with working arrangements, and dissatisfaction with certain payments.	Resumption on old conditions.
Colliery workers—Godre'r Graig, Glam. (one colliery).	20	200	12 Feb.	20 Feb.	In sympathy with the workers involved in the above dispute.	Dispute referred to arbitration.
Colliery workers—West Wales (various collieries).	3,800	..	16 Feb.	20 Feb.	Protest against alleged slowness of negotiations for increased wages for shotfirers.	Work resumed pending negotiations.
Shotfirers, deputies, overmen and other colliery workers—Yorkshire and Lancashire.	810	22,300	23 Feb.‡	27 Feb.	Objection to the proposed termination, on 29th March, of payment-by-results schemes.	Work resumed to permit normal negotiating procedure to operate.
SHIP REPAIRING:—						
Workers employed on ship repairing—Merseyside.	9,500	750	10 Feb.	8 Mar.	Protest against the operation of new working schedules following the introduction of a 44-hour week.	Work resumed.
TRANSPORT:—						
Omnibus drivers, conductors and conductresses—Central Scotland.	1,800	..	25 Jan.	8 Feb.	In sympathy with the workers involved in the above dispute.	Notice of dismissal withdrawn.
Omnibus drivers, conductors and conductresses—East, West and South-west Scotland.	4,660	..	27 Jan.	7 Feb.	Dissatisfaction with proposed new duty schedules.	Work resumed.
Port transport workers—London	475	..	20 Feb.	25 Feb.		
Omnibus drivers and conductors—Salford, Lancs.	800	..	28 Feb.	29 Feb.		

* Stoppages of work due to disputes not connected with terms of employment or conditions of labour are excluded from the statistics. In addition, stoppages involving less than 10 workers, and those which lasted less than one day, are also excluded, unless the aggregate number of working days lost exceeded 100. The figures for the month under review are provisional and subject to revision; those for earlier months have been revised where necessary in accordance with the most recent information.

† Some workers, chiefly in the coal mining industry, were involved in more than one stoppage and are counted more than once in the totals. The net number of individuals involved in coal mining stoppages in the period under review in 1948 was approximately 45,000 and in the corresponding period in 1947 was approximately 20,000. For all industries combined the corresponding net totals were approximately 90,000 and 130,000 respectively.

‡ The occupations printed in italics are those of workers indirectly involved, i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes.

§ Work was resumed on 16th February, but a further stoppage occurred on 19th February. After a resumption on 23rd February another stoppage occurred on 24th February.

¶ The stoppage began with the night shift of 22nd–23rd February at one colliery.

INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES.

FIGURES FOR 17th FEBRUARY, 1948
(PRICES AT 17th JUNE, 1947, TAKEN AS = 100).

All Items 106 : Food 108.

The index of retail prices measures, for the United Kingdom, the average changes, as compared with 17th June, 1947, in the prices of the goods and services which entered into working-class expenditure in 1937–38, as recorded in the family budgets collected from large numbers of households in that period. The relative changes in the price levels of the various items included are combined by the use of "weights" representing the proportions in which these items entered into working-class expenditure in 1937–38, adjusted to take account of changes in prices between that date and mid-June, 1947.*

The following Table shows the indices at 17th February for each of the main groups of items and for all the groups combined, together with the relative weights which are used in combining the group indices into a single "all items" index:—

GROUP.	INDEX FIGURE FOR 17th FEBRUARY, 1948.	WEIGHT.
I. Food	108.3	348
II. Rent and rates	100.1	88
III. Clothing	103.6	97
IV. Fuel and light	110.1	65
V. Household durable goods	107.6	71
VI. Miscellaneous goods	111.2	35
VII. Services	104.3	79
VIII. Drink and tobacco	104.1	217
All items	106.1†	1,000

The figures given above are shown in the form in which they are used in the procedure adopted for calculating the index for all the groups combined, i.e., to the nearest first place of decimals. The decimals are shown only in order that, if desired, calculations may be made of the effect of combining particular groups and excluding others.† The information available as to price changes, however, is such that no precise significance can be attributed to the decimals, and for any other purpose, therefore, the figures should be used to the nearest whole number.

On the above basis, and taking the level of prices at 17th June, 1947, as 100, the "all items" index at 17th February was 106, compared with 104 at 13th January. The rise in the index during the month under review was mainly accounted for by increased prices for bacon and eggs. There were also increases of smaller extent in the price indices for some other articles of food, clothing, gas, and boot and shoe repairs.

In the food group the average price for bacon rose by about 35 per cent., following the raising of the maximum permitted prices by amounts ranging mainly from 5d. to 8d. per lb. The average price for large fresh shell eggs rose by about 71 per cent., following an increase of 1½d. each in the maximum permitted price. There were also some increases in the prices of potatoes, cooking apples, some kinds of fresh vegetables, canned salmon and custard powder. These increases were offset to a small extent by lower prices for some other kinds of fresh vegetables and by a seasonal reduction in the price of milk in some areas in Scotland. The remaining articles of food covered by the index showed relatively little movement in price between 13th January and 17th February. For the food group as a whole there was a rise of between 4 and 5 per cent. in the average level of prices during the month and, to the nearest whole number, the index for 17th February was 108, compared with 104 at 13th January.

In the clothing group there were increases, averaging between 2 and 3 per cent., in the prices of footwear following the removal of the leather subsidy and an increase in wages in the industry. There were also small increases in the prices of many other articles covered by the index. As a result, the average level of clothing prices rose by nearly 1 per cent. during the month and, expressed to the nearest whole number, the clothing index was 104 at 17th February compared with 103 at 13th January.

In the fuel and light group the principal changes in retail prices between 13th January and 17th February were increases in the charges for gas in many areas, as a result of which the index of gas prices rose by about 3 per cent. For the group, taken as a whole, prices were about 1 per cent. higher than at 13th January and the index at 17th February, expressed to the nearest whole number, was 110, compared with 109 at 13th January.

In the group covering household durable goods there was relatively little change during the month in the average level of prices of most of the articles included, but there were small increases in the prices for some kinds of furniture and drapery. For the group as a whole there was a slight rise in the index figure which, expressed to the nearest whole number, was 108 at 17th February, compared with 107 at 13th January.

* A full description of the method of construction and calculation of the index has now been published—"Industrial Relations Handbook, Supplement No. 2, Index of Retail Prices," H.M. Stationery Office; price 6d. net (7d. post free). See page 82 of this issue of the GAZETTE.

† Taken as equivalent to 106 (see paragraph following the Table).

‡ The combination of any two or more group indices is effected by multiplying the respective indices by their corresponding weights and dividing the sum of the resulting products by the sum of the weights used.

In the group covering miscellaneous goods there were relatively few changes in prices during the month and for the group as a whole the index figure at 17th February, expressed to the nearest whole number, was 111, the same figure as at 13th January.

In the services group there were further increases in the charges for repairs to boots and shoes in most areas. For the services group as a whole the index at 17th February, expressed to the nearest whole number, was 104, compared with 103 at 13th January.

In the drink and tobacco group there was little change in the level of prices during the month and at 17th February the index figure was 104, the same figure as at 13th January.

In the remaining expenditure group, viz., rent and rates, there has been no appreciable movement since the base date and the index figure at 17th February was 100.

The price comparisons utilised in the compilation of these index figures relate to a fixed list of items, and steps are taken to ensure that, so far as possible, the index figures reflect real changes in price levels but not changes in the prices quoted which are attributable to variations in quality.

SUMMARY OF INDEX FIGURES.

The following Table shows the index figures for food and for "all items" from 17th June, 1947, onwards:—

Date.	Food Index.	All items Index.
1947:—		
17th June	100	100
15th July	101	101
12th August	99	100
16th September	100	101
14th October	101	101
18th November	103	103
16th December	103	104
1948:—		
13th January	104	104
17th February	108	106

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

In the Table below a summary is given of the latest information relating to changes in retail prices in overseas countries, contained in official publications received since last month's issue of this GAZETTE was prepared.

Country and Base of Index.*	Latest Period for which Index Figure is available.	Index Figure.	Rise (+) or Fall (–) of Index Figure compared with Previous Month (in Index Points).	Rise of Index Figure since August, 1939.†	
				Index Points.	Per Cent.
EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.					
Belgium (1936–1938 = 100)	December	347	+ 8	244	237
Czechoslovakia (Prague) (March, 1939 = 100)	Dec. (1st week)	288.6	+ 2.3	188.6†	189†
Food	"	295.5	+ 4.7	195.5†	196†
All Items	"				
Finland (Aug., 1938–July, 1939 = 100)	January (end)	763†	+ 43	658†	627†
Food	"	950†	+ 39	843†	788†
All Items	"				
France (Paris) (1938 = 100)	December	1,373	– 5	1,265	1,171
Food	"				
Hungary (Budapest) (1–23 Sept., 1946 = 100)	December (end)	144.8	– 6.6	44.8†	45†
Food	"	177.6	– 13.3	77.6†	78†
All Items	"				
Iceland (Reykjavik) (Jan.–Mar., 1939 = 100)	January (1st)	319	– 9	218†	216†
Food	"	360	– 22	259†	256†
All Items	"				
Norway (1938 = 100)	October (15th)	155.5	– 0.8	54.7	54
Food	"	152.3	– 1.8	51.4	51
All Items	"				
Poland (April, 1945 = 100)§	November	137	+ 1	37†	37†
Food	"	148	+ 5	48†	48†
Food, Warsaw	"	111	+ 5	11†	11†
Food, Lodz	"	131	+ 5	31†	31†
All Items	"				
Portugal (Lisbon) (July, 1938–June, 1939 = 100)	November	207.9	+ 0.9	109.2	111
Food	"	216.8	+ 1.1	118.4	120
All Items	"				
Spain (July, 1936 = 100)	September	428.0	+ 7.7	279.4	188
Food	"	579.9	+ 11.8	410.0	241

* The items of expenditure on which the "all-items" index figures are based are food, house-rent, clothing, fuel and light, and other or miscellaneous items, except in the case of Portugal and the Union of South Africa (food, house-rent, fuel and light, and certain other household articles only), and Peru (food, house-rent, clothing, and miscellaneous items only).

† In the following countries the comparison is with a period other than August, 1939: Czechoslovakia, March, 1939; Finland, October, 1939; Hungary, average of 1st–23rd September, 1946; Iceland, 1st September, 1939; Poland, April, 1945; Sweden, 1st July, 1939; Argentine Republic, average of 1943; Canada, beginning of September, 1939; New Zealand, 15th December, 1942; Palestine, pre-war period; Peru, average of 1934–36.

‡ Figure supplied by Labour Attaché.

§ The index figures are based on free market prices supplied by the municipalities, rationing not being taken into consideration.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS—continued.

Country and Base of Index.*	Latest Period for which Index Figure is available.	Index Figure.	Rise (+) or Fall (–) of Index Figure since August, 1939,†		Per Cent.
			Index Points.	Per Cent.	
EUROPEAN COUNTRIES (contd).					
Sweden (1935=100) All Items .. .	December	169‡	+ 1‡	61‡	56‡
Food .. .	"	172	Nil	58‡	51‡
Switzerland (June, 1914=100) All Items .. .	November	223.0	+ 0.3	85.8	63
Food .. .	"	229.7	+ 0.4	98.5	75
OTHER COUNTRIES.					
Argentina Republic (Buenos Aires) (1943=100) All Items .. .	August	163.7	+ 1.4	63.7†	64†
Food .. .	"	172.5	+ 11.4	72.5†	73†
Canada (1935-39 = 100) All Items .. .	Jan. (beginning)	148.3	+ 2.3	47.5†	47†
Food .. .	"	182.2	+ 3.5	82.8†	83†
India (Bombay) (July, 1933=June, 1934=100) All Items .. .	November	287	– 9	182	173
Food .. .	"	356	– 17	244	218
New Zealand (15th Dec., 1942=1,000) All Items .. .	December	1,085	+ 53‡	85†	9†
Palestine (Arab and Jewish Markets) (Pre-war period=100) All Items .. .	November	281	– 2	181†	181†
Peru (Lima 1934-36 = 100) All Items* .. .	January	361.11‡	+ 17.03	261.11†	261†
Food .. .	"	408‡	+ 2	308†	308†
South Africa, Union (urban areas) (1938=100) All Items* .. .	October	140.8	– 0.1	41.5	42
Food .. .	"	152.2	– 0.5	54.5	56
Southern Rhodesia (Aug., 1939=100) All Items .. .	December	140	+ 1	40	59
Food .. .	"	159	+ 4	59	59

VOCATIONAL AND DISABLED TRAINING SCHEMES.

MONTHLY STATISTICS.

The statistics given below, which relate to the Vocational and Disabled Training Schemes, are in continuation of those published in last month's issue of this GAZETTE (page 72). The figures relate to the four weeks ended 12th January, and the four weeks ended 9th February, 1948.

The total numbers of applicants admitted to training during the periods under review were 1,154 and 1,333, respectively. In all, 9,299 persons were in training at the end of the second period. The latter figure included 7,652 males and 1,647 females, and of the total 3,450 were disabled persons. Over 3,200 trainees were placed in employment during the two periods. The figures are analysed in the two Tables which follow:—

Statistics for four weeks ended 12th January, 1948.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Applicants admitted to training during period:			
Able-bodied .. .	497	206	703
Disabled .. .	398	53	451
Total .. .	895	259	1,154
Number of persons in training at end of period at:			
Government Training Centres—			
Able-bodied .. .	3,143	203	3,346
Disabled .. .	1,913	27	1,940
Technical and Commercial Colleges—			
Able-bodied .. .	1,485	1,130	2,615
Disabled .. .	480	224	704
Employers' Establishments—			
Able-bodied .. .	526	81	607
Disabled .. .	419	17	436
Residential (Disabled) Centres .. .	283	46	329
Total .. .	8,249	1,728	9,977
Trainees placed in employment during period:			
Able-bodied .. .	1,029	182	1,211
Disabled .. .	315	33	348
Total .. .	1,344	215	1,559

*† See footnotes *† in second column on page 107.
‡ Miscellaneous items include direct taxation. If direct taxation is excluded, the figure was 158, the same as at September, 1947, and an increase of 50 points or 46 per cent. compared with 1st July, 1939.
§ The index is quarterly and comparison is with the previous quarter.
¶ The base date of the official index is January, 1942; a comparison with the pre-war period has been effected by the Palestine Government by assuming that retail prices at the base date were, on average, 75 per cent. above the pre-war level.
† Figure supplied by Labour Attaché.

Statistics for four weeks ended 9th February, 1948.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Applicants admitted to training during period:			
Able-bodied .. .	656	109	765
Disabled .. .	534	34	568
Total .. .	1,190	143	1,333
Number of persons in training at end of period at:			
Government Training Centres—			
Able-bodied .. .	2,570	165	2,735
Disabled .. .	1,900	23	1,923
Technical and Commercial Colleges—			
Able-bodied .. .	1,466	1,084	2,550
Disabled .. .	514	231	745
Employers' Establishments—			
Able-bodied .. .	485	79	564
Disabled .. .	399	18	417
Residential (Disabled) Centres .. .	318	47	365
Total .. .	7,652	1,647	9,299
Trainees placed in employment during period:			
Able-bodied .. .	1,122	200	1,322
Disabled .. .	300	35	335
Total .. .	1,422	235	1,657

During the period from the inception of the Vocational Training Scheme on 2nd July, 1945, up to 9th February, 1948, the total number of trainees placed in employment was 65,536, of whom 60,756 were males and 4,780 were females.

FURTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING SCHEME.

MONTHLY STATISTICS.

The figures given below show the progress made under the Further Education and Training Scheme up to the end of February, 1948; they are in continuation of those published in previous issues of this GAZETTE.

Up to the end of February, 151,788 applications for financial assistance had been received under the Scheme; of this total, 138,271 applications were from men and 13,517 from women. Awards had been made in 98,586 cases, consisting of 90,324 awards in respect of men and 8,262 in respect of women; in addition, over 2,900 applicants had been informed that awards would be made in their case.

The Table below gives particulars of the progress made under the Scheme (a) during February, 1948, and (b) during the period since the inception of the Scheme up to 29th February, 1948.

Further Education and Training Scheme—Progress up to 29th February, 1948.

	Men.	Women.	Total.
February, 1948.			
Number of applications for assistance made	3,222	97	3,319
Number of awards made by—			
Ministry of Labour and National Service .. .	642	12	654
Ministry of Education .. .	1,119	115	1,234
Other award-making Departments .. .	109	2	111
Total awards .. .	1,870	129	1,999
Number of applications rejected .. .	706	74	780
Applications transferred to other training schemes or withdrawn .. .	290	36	326
Cumulative totals up to end of February, 1948.			
Number of applications for assistance made	138,271	13,517	151,788
Number of awards made by—			
Ministry of Labour and National Service .. .	29,906	1,206	31,112
Ministry of Education .. .	48,910	5,560	54,470
Other award-making Departments .. .	11,508	1,496	13,004
Total awards .. .	90,324	8,262	98,586
Number of applications rejected .. .	22,992	1,996	24,988
Applications transferred to other training schemes or withdrawn .. .	11,982	1,590	13,572
Cases under consideration at end of period	12,973	1,669	14,642*

BUSINESS TRAINING STATISTICS. BUSINESS TRAINING SCHEME.

The figures given below relate to the Business Training Scheme for the period ended 28th February, 1948.

As indicated in the issue of this GAZETTE for February, 1948 (page 72), the last General Business Courses to be held under the scheme have been completed. Of the total number of persons who took a General Business Course during the whole period

* This figure includes over 2,900 applicants who had been informed by the Ministry of Education that awards would be made in their case.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

The number of workpeople (other than seamen) in the United Kingdom whose deaths from accidents in the course of their employment were reported in February was 132, compared with 147 in January, 1948, and 142 in February, 1947. In the case of seamen employed on ships registered in the United Kingdom, 21 fatal accidents were reported in February, 1948, compared with 13 in January, 1948, and 42 in February, 1947.* Detailed figures for separate industries are given below in respect of February, 1948.

	Four weeks ended 28th February, 1948.	Cumulative totals up to 28th February, 1948.		
Mines and Quarries.†		6,508	Factories—continued.	
Under Coal Mines Acts :	33		Electrical Stations .. .	1
Underground .. .			Other Industries .. .	3
Surface .. .			6	
Metalliferous Mines .. .	19	206	WORKS AND PLACES UNDER ss. 105, 107, 108, FACTORIES ACT, 1937.	
Quarries .. .	3	1,474	Docks, Wharves, Quays and Ships .. .	
TOTAL, MINES AND QUARRIES 42				1
Factories.				12
Clay, Stone, Cement, Pottery and Glass .. .	5			5
Chemicals, Oils, Soap, etc.	5			55
Metal Extracting and Refining .. .	5			1
Metal Conversion and Founding (including Rolling Mills and Tube Making) .. .	5			1
Engineering, Locomotive Building, Boilermaking, etc. .. .	4			7
Railway and Tramway Carriages, Motor and other Vehicles and Aircraft Manufacture .. .	2			1
Shipmentbuilding .. .	6			4
Other Metal Trades .. .	2			14
Cotton .. .	2			111
Wool, Worsted, Shoddy .. .	2			18
Other Textile Manufacture	2			3
Textile Printing, Bleaching and Dyeing .. .	1			21
Tanning, Currying, etc. .. .	1			132
Food and Drink .. .	1			1
General Woodwork and Furniture .. .	2			1
Paper, Printing, etc. .. .	1			1
Rubber Trades .. .	1			1
Gas Works .. .	1			1

RELEASES AND DISCHARGES FROM THE FORCES.

STATISTICS FOR JANUARY, 1948.

During January, 1948, the number of men and women reported as released and discharged from the Forces and Auxiliary and Nursing Services was 79,400. The total number of men and women released and discharged in the period from 18th June, 1945, to the end of January, 1948, was 5,008,590.

Particulars are given below showing in detail the numbers of releases and discharges (a) reported during January, and (b) effected during the period from 18th June, 1945, to 31st January, 1948, together with (c) a comparison of the latter with the numbers laid down in the Government's programme.

Releases and Discharges from the Forces and Auxiliary and Nursing Services.

Service.	Class A.	Class B.	Other Releases and Discharges.	Total.
January, 1948.				
Men.				
Royal Navy .. .	10,230	50	830	11,110
Army .. .	47,250	270	1,700	49,220
Royal Air Force .. .	14,860	30	1,590	16,420
Total .. .	72,340	350	4,060	76,750
Women.				
Royal Navy .. .	300	—	10	310
Army .. .	1,200	—	160	1,360
Royal Air Force .. .	890	—	90	980
Total .. .	2,390	—	260	2,650
Total, Men and Women.				
Royal Navy .. .	10,530	50	840	11,420
Army .. .	48,450	270	1,860	50,580
Royal Air Force .. .	15,750	30	1,620	17,400
Total .. .	74,730	350	4,320	79,400
18th June, 1945, to 31st January, 1948.				
Men.				
Royal Navy .. .	671,660	21,550	53,200	746,410†
Army .. .	2,451,740	207,180	203,290	2,862,210
Royal Air Force .. .	828,900	56,610	61,590	947,100
Total .. .	3,952,300	285,340	318,080	4,555,720
Women.				
Royal Navy .. .	72,490	310	5,910	78,710†
Army .. .	192,840	2,900	21,660	217,400
Royal Air Force .. .	139,190	990	16,580	156,760
Total .. .	404,520	4,200	44,150	452,870
Total, Men and Women.				
Royal Navy .. .	744,150	21,860	59,110	825,120†
Army .. .	2,644,580	210,080	224,950	3,079,610
Royal Air Force .. .	968,090	57,600	78,170	1,103,860
Total .. .	4,356,820	289,540	362,230	5,008,590

Comparison of the Numbers released and Discharged with the Numbers in the Government's Programme.

Service.	Men.			Women.		
	Programme.	Releases and Discharges.	Excess (+) or Deficit (–) on Programme.	Programme.	Releases and Discharges.	Excess (+) or Deficit (–) on Programme.
Royal Navy .. .	746,250	746,410	+ 160	78,750	78,710	– 40
Army .. .	2,857,210	2,862,210	+ 5,000	222,950	217,400	– 5,550
Royal Air Force .. .	939,620	947,100	+ 7,480	158,900	156,760	– 2,140
Total .. .	4,543,080	4,555,720	+ 12,640	460,600	452,870	– 7,730

* These figures exclude fatal accidents to seamen directly attributable to causes arising from the recent war. Fifteen such accidents were reported during February, 1948, seven were reported in January, 1948, but none were reported in February, 1947.

† For mines and quarries, weekly returns are furnished, and the figures cover the 4 weeks ended 28th February, 1948, in comparison with the 5 weeks ended 31st January, 1948, and the 4 weeks ended 1st March, 1947.

‡ Deaths comprise all fatal cases reported during the month; they have also been included (as cases) in the same or previous returns.

INDUSTRIAL DISEASES.

The Table below shows the number of cases and deaths‡ in the United Kingdom reported during February under the Factories Act, 1937, or under the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act, 1926:—

I. Cases.		I. Cases—continued.	
LEAD POISONING.		EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION (SKIN CANCER).	
Operatives engaged in :		Pitch .. .	
Smelting of Metals .. .	1	Tar .. .	
Plumbing and Soldering .. .	1	Paraffin .. .	
Shipbreaking .. .	2	Oil .. .	
Printing .. .	1	TOTAL .. .	
Other Contact with Molten Lead .. .	2		
White and Red Lead Works .. .	2		
Electric Accumulator Works .. .	2		
Paint and Colour Works .. .	2		
Shipbuilding .. .	2		
Paint used in Other Industries .. .	2		
Other Industries .. .	2		
Painting of Buildings .. .	2		
TOTAL .. .	21		
ANTHRAX.		II. Deaths.	
Nil.		Nil.	

* These figures exclude fatal accidents to seamen directly attributable to causes arising from the recent war. Fifteen such accidents were reported during February, 1948, seven were reported in January, 1948, but none were reported in February, 1947.

† For mines and quarries, weekly returns are furnished, and the figures cover the 4 weeks ended 28th February, 1948, in comparison with the 5 weeks ended 31st January, 1948, and the 4 weeks ended 1st March, 1947.

‡ Deaths comprise all fatal cases reported during the month; they have also been included (as cases) in the same or previous returns.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACTS—APPROVED SOCIETY OBJECT TO THE REGISTRATION OF MEMORANDA OF AGREEMENT RECORDING A LUMP SUM REDEMPTION PAYMENT.

The National Coal Board entered into agreement with certain workers in their employ, who had contracted pneumoconiosis, to pay them £400 each in settlement of claims for compensation under the Coal Mining Industry (Pneumoconiosis) Compensation Scheme, 1943. In accordance with Section 23 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1925, the Registrars of the County Courts concerned were asked to register the Memoranda of Agreement. Under Section 25 a Registrar may refuse to register the agreement if it appears to him that the amount agreed to be paid is inadequate.

In recording the Memoranda the Registrars to the County Courts of Pontypridd and of Aberdare and Mountain Ash did not consider in each case whether the sum was adequate but were guided by the knowledge that the sum of £400 had been paid in previous cases in satisfaction of claims and was, in fact, the largest sum that the employers would pay.

The Approved Societies with which the workmen were insured for National Health Insurance contended that the records of the Memoranda should be quashed, since the Scheme did not provide for a lump sum redemption payment and, further, that the Registrars had not given proper consideration to the right matters.

The Divisional Court (Lord Goddard, C.J., and Humphreys and Singleton, J.J.) held (1) that there was power under the Scheme to redeem weekly payments with a lump sum. Section 13 of the Act of 1925, which deals with redemption of weekly payments, and also Sections 23 and 25, which contain the provisions of necessity to register and the invalidity of certain agreements unless registered, applied to cases of pneumoconiosis under the Scheme. They held (2) that it was the Registrars' duty to consider whether it was in the workman's interest to commute his right to weekly payments for a lump sum and if he did so whether the agreed amount was adequate. They might properly take into consideration the fact that the amount proposed had generally been regarded as a satisfactory settlement, but in this case they had regarded this factor as conclusive. They had, therefore, not discharged their duty properly and the Memoranda must be quashed.

In the case against the Registrar of the Tredegar County Court, the Registrar when recording the Memorandum of Agreement did consider whether it was in the interests of the workman to accept a lump sum but he did so in ignorance of the fact that the Approved Society with which the workman was insured for National Health Insurance had filed an objection. The Court held that since the Registrar proceeded in error and did not give the Society, which was an interested party, an opportunity to be heard, the recording of the Memorandum must be quashed.—*Rex v. Registrar of Pontypridd County Court*; *Rex v. Registrar of Aberdare and Mountain Ash County Court*; *Rex v. Registrar of Tredegar County Court*; all *Ex parte National Amalgamated Approved Society*. King's Bench Division, 16th January, 1948.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT AND NATIONAL ARBITRATION ORDERS.

NATIONAL ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL AWARDS.

During February, 1948, the National Arbitration Tribunal issued twelve awards,* Nos. 1054-1065. Four of the awards are summarised below; the others related to individual employers.

Award No. 1055 (5th February).—*Parties*: Members of the North-East Branch of the Provincial Entertainments Proprietors' and Managers' Association Ltd., and members of the Musicians' Union in their employment. *Claim*: For increased minimum rates of wages. *Award*: The Tribunal awarded the following minimum rates of wages: Palace Theatre, Newcastle, Empire Theatre, Gateshead, Empire Theatre, West Hartlepool, Empire Theatre, Middlesbrough, £5 7s. 6d.; Grand Theatre, Byker, Hippodrome Theatre, Darlington, Eden Theatre, Bishop Auckland, £5 2s. 6d.; the Tribunal further awarded that principal violinists should be paid at the rate of 10s. a week above the aforementioned minimum rates, and referred back to the parties for settlement by negotiation, in the light of the rates provided under the award, the minimum rates for first trumpeters, drummers and repetiteurs.

Award No. 1059 (9th February).—*Parties*: Members of the Tyne Shipbuilders' Association, and members of the Amalgamated Engineering Union in their employment. *Claim*: That during the period 6th January to 3rd March, 1947, engineering workpeople employed for a week of 47 hours in shipbuilding departments of certain firms, members of the Association, should be paid the inclusive hourly plain time rate then applicable in the engineering industry for a 44-hour week. *Award*: The Tribunal found in favour of the claim.

Award No. 1061 (11th February).—*Parties*: Members of the Sheffield and District Engineering Trades Employers' Association, and members of the Association of Scientific Workers employed on scientific or technical work in the chemical, metallurgical and research laboratories of steel and iron manufacturing firms, members of the above-mentioned employers' association. *Claim*: For specified payments in respect of shift work, overtime and week-end work. *Award*: The Tribunal awarded that the employers concerned should, as respects the workers covered by the claim, implement the offer made in full settlement thereof contained in

the letter dated 27th August, 1947, from the Sheffield and District Engineering Trades Employers' Association to the Association of Scientific Workers.

Award No. 1064 (23rd February).—*Parties*: Members of the affiliated Associations of the Essex County Federation of Master Bakers, and members of the Amalgamated Union of Operative Bakers, Confectioners and Allied Workers in their employment. *Claim*: For the observance by the employers concerned of wages and conditions of employment set out in certain specified baking trade agreements. *Award*: The Tribunal found against the claim as stated but awarded that the employers concerned should, for a week of 48 hours, pay the adult male and female workers covered by the claim uniform rates of wages higher by the following amounts than those provided by the current Baking Wages Council Order: Greater London District, males 5s., females 4s.; Areas A and B, males 4s., females 3s.

NATIONAL ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL (NORTHERN IRELAND) AWARDS.

Since the last issue of this GAZETTE was prepared the National Arbitration Tribunal (Northern Ireland) issued five awards, Nos. 686 to 690. One of these awards is summarised below.

Award No. 688 (12th February, 1948).—*Parties*: The member firms of the Belfast and Ulster Mineral Water Manufacturers' Association, and certain employees of the member firms. *Claim*: For (1) an increase of 5s. a week in the standard rate; (2) a uniform method of payment of commission, and the increase of the commission to 1s. 6d. per £ of sales; (3) two weeks' consecutive holiday with pay, plus amount of commission ordinarily earned; and (4) the provision of assistants for all van salesmen. *Award*: (1) The Tribunal awarded that the existing rate of wages (exclusive of commission) of the employees on whose behalf the claim was made should be increased from 60s. to 65s. a week. They found that the claim as set forth in (2) (3) and (4) above had not been established and awarded accordingly.

CIVIL SERVICE ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL.

During February, 1948, the Civil Service Arbitration Tribunal issued one award, No. 92, dated 14th February, 1948. This award related to a claim made by the Association of First Division Civil Servants against the Treasury that, for the purpose of applying certain Establishment Officers' Circulars relating to extra duty allowances, temporary officers in the Administrative Class in London should be deemed to be notionally conditioned to a normal working week of 42 hours. The Tribunal found in favour of the claim.

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

INDUSTRIAL COURT AWARDS.

During February, 1948, the Industrial Court issued nine awards, Nos. 2130 to 2138. Seven of these are summarised below.

Award No. 2130 (6th February).—*Parties*: The Miscellaneous Trades Joint Council for Government Industrial Establishments, Trade Union Side and Official Side. *Claim*: That the rate of pay for the male adult unskilled labourer in establishments covered by the Council in the London area should be 100s. for a 44-hour week. *Award*: The Court awarded that, pending the settlement of a claim for engineering workers now before the Engineering Trade Joint Council, the present "M" rate for unskilled labourers covered by the Miscellaneous Trades Joint Council (which by custom and practice is identical with the unskilled engineering rate payable in Government Establishments in London) should not be disturbed. Any increase to engineering workers resulting from the present negotiations would apply to the workers concerned in the present Reference, but, if the resulting "M" rate for London did not substantially redress any disparity between that rate and the rates which would be payable if the "M" rate for London were assessed on the usual "M" rate principle of assessment, then in the absence of mutual agreement between the two Sides of the Miscellaneous Trades Joint Council the "M" rate should be revised in accordance with the normal method of assessment. In this event, the Court considered it would be unreasonable again to revert to the practice of maintaining parity between the "M" rate and the engineering rate in London, should subsequent variations in the engineering rate exceed those resulting from the periodic assessments of the "M" rate.

Award No. 2131 (16th February).—*Parties*: West of Scotland Joint Committee of Textile Trade Unions and the West of Scotland Textile Association. *Claim*: For increased holiday pay and increases in the fall-back rate for female workers, in the time rates for male workers and in the guaranteed minimum for power loom tenters. *Award*: The Court awarded a fall-back rate of 55s. for female pieceworkers, time rates of £5 10s. for beamers, warpers, twisters and drawers and of £6 2s. 6d. for dressers, and a guaranteed minimum wage of £6 10s. for power loom tenters.

Award No. 2132 (17th February).—*Parties*: North-East Coast Tugboat-men and Fishermen's Association and the Tyne Tugowners' Association. *Claim*: For an increase of 20s. a week per man, for work to finish at 12 noon on Saturdays, and for the grading of boy apprentices. *Award*: The Court awarded wages of £6

for masters, £5 7s. for enginemen and £4 17s. for mates and firemen for a 50-hour week and £2 a week to apprentices during their first year, £2 7s. 6d. a week during their second year, and £2 17s. 6d. a week thereafter. The Court found against the claim to finish the day's work at 12 noon on Saturdays and awarded accordingly.

Award No. 2133 (17th February).—*Parties*: The Wear Steam Packet Trade Protecting and Friendly Society and the Sunderland Tugowners' Association. *Claim and Award* as in *Award No. 2132*.

Award No. 2134 (17th February).—*Parties*: The Joint Industrial Council for London Meat Carriers, Employers' Side and Employees' Side. *Claim*: To determine whether for Meat Transport Pool drivers' starting time before 6 a.m. and staggering of starting time after 8 a.m. are necessary and, if so, to determine the appropriate remuneration to be paid to drivers for the staggering of hours of commencing day work. *Award*: The Court found that the case for a starting time before 6 a.m. or after 8 a.m. for Meat Transport Pool drivers had not been established and awarded accordingly, but without prejudice to the practice which had operated in the past under which the employers and the union might make arrangements for exceptional cases of men required to start before 6 a.m. or after 8 a.m.

Award No. 2137 (24th February).—*Parties*: The Joint Co-ordinating Committee for Government Industrial Establishments, Trade Union Side and Official Side. *Claim*: To determine the applicability to the employees of the Royal Mint of an agreement reached on the 16th December, 1946, for a shorter working week. *Award*: The Court awarded that the agreement should apply to employees of the Royal Mint with effect from 22nd October, 1947, and that the parties should jointly decide the method of its application.

Award No. 2138 (27th February).—*Parties*: Admiralty Industrial Council, Trade Union Side and Official Side. *Claim*: That an assisted travel scheme should be introduced for Admiralty industrial employees at the Royal Naval Armament Depot, Brackla, with retrospective effect. *Award*: The Court found against the claim and awarded accordingly.

SINGLE ARBITRATORS AND AD HOC BOARDS OF ARBITRATION.

During February, 1948, two awards, one of which related to a dispute reported under the Conditions of Employment and National Arbitration Orders, 1940-1944, were issued by Single Arbitrators appointed under the Industrial Courts Act, 1919. Both the awards related to individual undertakings.

One award was issued by an independent Chairman appointed under the Conciliation Act, 1896, to deal with a difference between the two Sides of the Board of Conciliation for the Cumberland Iron Ore Trade.

WAGES COUNCILS ACT, 1945.

NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

During February, 1948, notices of intention to submit to the Minister of Labour and National Service wages regulation proposals were issued by the following Wages Councils:—

Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Wages Council (Scotland).—Proposal W.E.S. (43), dated 10th February, 1948; relating to the fixing of revised general minimum time rates for certain classes of female workers.

Aerated Waters Wages Council (England and Wales).—Proposal A.(34), dated 13th February, 1948; relating to the increase of the annual holiday with pay from 6 days to a maximum of 12 days and fixing payment for such holidays.

Jute Wages Council (Great Britain).—Proposal J. (77), dated 20th February, 1948; relating to the fixing of revised general minimum time rates, guaranteed time rates, piece work basis time rates and additional time rates, general minimum piece rates and overtime rates.

Shirtmaking Wages Council (Great Britain).—S. (32), dated 27th February, 1948; relating to workers training under the Government Scheme for Vocational Training.

Further information concerning any of the above proposals may be obtained by persons engaged in the trade affected by application to the Secretary of the Council in question at Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, London, S.W.1.

WAGES REGULATION ORDERS.

During February, 1948, the Minister of Labour and National Service made the following Wages Regulation Orders* giving effect to the proposals made to him by the Wages Councils concerned:—

The Rope, Twine and Net Wages Council (Great Britain) Wages Regulation Order, 1948: S.I. 1948, No. 228 (R. (91)), dated 10th February, and effective from 25th February, 1948.—This Order prescribes the general minimum time rates, piece work basis time rates, general minimum piece rates and overtime rates.—See page 102.

The Boot and Shoe Repairing Wages Council (Great Britain) Wages Regulation Order, 1948: S.I. 1948, No. 238 (D. (93)), dated 11th February, and effective from 1st March, 1948.—This

Order prescribes the piece rates for certain specified operations, the provision for guaranteed weekly remuneration, the provision for guaranteed daily remuneration for casual workers and the amendment of the provision for trainees under the Government Vocational Scheme.

The Flax and Hemp Wages Council (Great Britain) Wages Regulation Order, 1948: S.I. 1948, No. 237 (F.H. (60)), dated 11th February, and effective from 27th February, 1948.—This Order prescribes the general minimum time rates, piece work basis time rates, guaranteed time rates and overtime rates.—See page 103.

WAGES COUNCILS ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND), 1945.

NOTICE OF PROPOSAL.

During February, 1948, notice of intention to submit to the Ministry of Labour and National Insurance a wages regulation proposal was issued by the following Wages Council:—

Aerated Waters Wages Council (Northern Ireland).—Proposal N.I.A. (N.27), dated 27th February, 1948; relating to the fixing of revised general minimum time rates and overtime rates for male and female workers in the trade.

Further information about the above proposal may be obtained by persons engaged in the trade affected by application to the Secretary of the Council in question at Tyrone House, Ormeau Avenue, Belfast.

WAGES REGULATION ORDERS.

During February, 1948, the Ministry of Labour and National Insurance made the following Wages Regulation Orders* giving effect to the proposals made by the Wages Councils concerned:—

The Linen and Cotton Handkerchief and Household Goods and Linen Piece Goods Wages Council (Northern Ireland) Wages Regulation (Amendment) Order, 1948 (N.I.H.G. (94)), dated 20th February, and effective from 25th February, 1948.—This Order prescribes increased general minimum time rates, piece work basis time rates and overtime rates for certain male workers in the trade.—See page 103.

The Baking Wages Council (Northern Ireland) Wages Regulation (Holidays) Order, 1948 (N.I.Bk. (57)), which prescribes the customary and annual holidays to be allowed to workers employed in establishments other than home bakeries, and fixes payment for all such holidays.

The Baking Wages Council (Northern Ireland) Wages Regulation (No. 1) Order, 1948 (N.I. Bk. (58)), which provides for the reduction in the normal weekly hours of work for certain male workers employed in establishments other than home bakeries from 48 to 44 while maintaining the current statutory minimum remuneration appropriate to a 48-hour week.

The Baking Wages Council (Northern Ireland) Wages Regulation (No. 2), (No. 3) and (No. 4) Orders, 1948 (N.I.Bk. (59), N.I.Bk. (60), and N.I.Bk. (61), respectively), which prescribe increased general minimum time rates and overtime rates for certain male and female workers employed in establishments other than home bakeries, and the reduction of the normal weekly hours of work for such workers from 48 to 45 in Area A, and from 48 to 46 in Areas B and C.

The above five Orders relating to proposals made by the Baking Wages Council (Northern Ireland) are dated 20th February, and effective from 25th February, 1948.—See page 103.

AGRICULTURAL WAGES (REGULATION) ACTS.

ORDERS RELATING TO WAGES, ETC., IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

Orders were made on 4th February, 1948, by the Agricultural Wages Board for England and Wales, with effect on 15th February, 1948, (a) (No. 1704) fixing the statutory minimum time rate of wages at 1s. 5d. an hour for male and female workers, 17 years and over, employed in agriculture in all counties in England and Wales and working from Volunteer Agricultural Camps organised by County Agricultural Executive Committees; and (b) (No. 1705) fixing the statutory minimum time rate of wages at 1s. an hour for male and female workers, 14 years and under 19 years, employed in agriculture in all counties in England and Wales, who are members of parties or teams organised with the approval of County Agricultural Executive Committees or the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in connection with schools and other youth institutions and working from camps or otherwise than from their homes, under conditions where the composition of the actual teams sent out to the farmers is arranged by the camp organiser or person otherwise responsible, and where the wages of the worker are paid direct to the organiser or other responsible person for subsequent pooling.

Each Order provides that the workers in question, if working by the piece, shall receive wages of not less than the amount to which they would have been entitled had the hours spent on piece work been employment at the appropriate time rate.

* See footnote * in first column on page 112.

* See footnote * in first column on page 112.

* See footnote * in first column on page 112.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.*

(Note.—Except in the case of publications of the International Labour Office the prices shown are net and those in brackets include postage.)

CHINA-CLAY INDUSTRY.—*Working Party Reports: China-Clay Board of Trade.* Price 2s. 6d. (2s. 8d.).—See page 84.

COTTON INDUSTRY.—*Cotton Manufacturing Commission: Interim Report of an Enquiry into Wages Arrangements and Methods of Organisation of Work in the Cotton Manufacturing Industry.* Ministry of Labour and National Service. Price 1s. 3d. (1s. 5d.).—See page 83.

DEFENCE.—*Statement Relating to Defence, 1948.* Cmd. 7327. Minister of Defence. Price 4d. (5d.).

ECONOMIC SURVEY.—(1) *Economic Survey for 1948.* Cmd. 7344. Price 1s. (1s. 2d.). (2) *A Short Economic Survey, 1948.* (Popular Edition.) Price 3d. (4d.).—See page 80.

INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION.—*Standard Industrial Classification.* Central Statistical Office. Price 9d. (10d.).—See page 85.

RETAIL PRICES INDEX.—*Industrial Relations Handbook, Supplement No. 2. Index of Retail Prices.* Ministry of Labour and National Service. Price 6d. (7d.).—See page 82.

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