



# THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE

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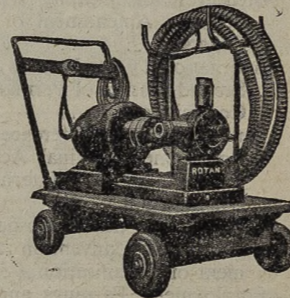
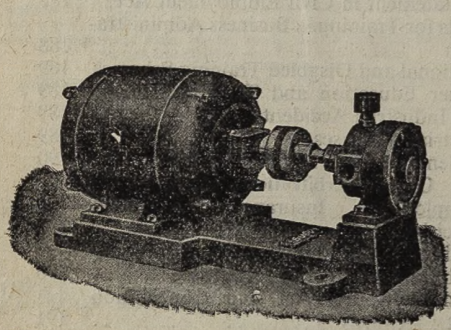
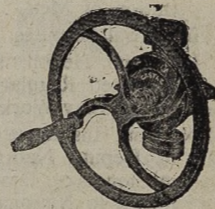
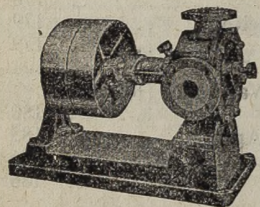
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# THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE

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## SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL STATISTICS.

### EMPLOYMENT.

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

	(Thousands)				
	Mid-1939.	Mid-1945.	Dec., 1947.	Feb., 1948.	Mar., 1948.
Number in Civil Employment:—					
Manufacture for Export ..	990	410	1,942	1,983	1,992
Other Manufacture:—					
Equipment, etc., for the Forces ..	1,270	3,830	350		
Manufacture for Home Market ..	4,555	2,580	4,959	5,300	5,275
Agriculture, Fishing, Mining, etc., Utilities and Transport ..	3,298	3,288	3,629	3,648	3,657
Building and Civil Engineering ..	1,310	722	1,364	1,340	1,355
Government Services ..	1,465	2,030	2,172	2,179	2,185
Distribution ..	2,887	1,938	2,351	2,340	2,341
Other Services ..	2,225	1,598	2,120	2,132	2,128
Total in Civil Employment	18,000	16,416	18,887	18,922	18,933
Armed Forces and Auxiliary Services ..	480	5,090	1,113	997	928
Ex-H.M. Forces who have not yet taken up Employment ..	—	40	123	170	195
Insured Persons registered as Unemployed ..	1,270	103	300	307	301
Total Working Population (excluding Indoor Private Domestic Service) ..	19,750	21,649	20,423	20,396	20,357

The total number in civil employment in March, 1948, included 13,326,000 males and 5,607,000 females. There was an increase in the number of males compared with February of 32,000 and a decrease in the number of females of 21,000, the net increase being 11,000. Compared with mid-1939, the number of males showed an increase of 163,000 and the number of females an increase of 770,000.

The above figures are analysed in greater detail on pages 168 and 169.

### UNEMPLOYMENT.

The numbers of insured persons registered as unemployed in Great Britain at 12th April, 1948, are given below, together with the corresponding figures for March and for mid-1939.

	Mid-1939.	15th Mar., 1948.	12th April, 1948.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) at April compared with March.
Men (18 and under 65)	992,000	222,501	227,217	+ 4,716
Boys (under 18)	20,000	4,661	4,711	+ 50
Women (18 and under 60)	239,000	68,804	65,607	— 3,197
Girls (under 18)	19,000	3,439	3,305	— 134

The numbers unemployed at 12th April, 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 of 300,840 persons unemployed, 293,528 were wholly unemployed and 7,312 were temporarily stopped. Of the former, 79,490 had been out of work for not more than two weeks, 61,828 for more than two but not more than eight weeks, and 152,210 for more than eight weeks.

The figures for April, 1948, are analysed in greater detail on pages 172 to 175, on which statistics are given for each of the Regions and for a number of the larger towns and also for the separate industries.

### WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

In the industries covered by the Department's statistics, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in April resulted in an aggregate increase estimated at approximately £146,000 for about 555,000 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 wage rates were employed in the iron and steel industry, the woollen and worsted industry in Yorkshire, the gas industry, the pottery industry, and the hosiery industry in the Midlands.

At the end of April, 1948, the average level of weekly rates of wages compared with the level at the end of June 1947 (taken as 100), was 105, the same figure as at 31st March, 1948.

The changes in hours of labour reported to have come into operation in April resulted in an average reduction of about 2½ hours a week for about 48,000 workpeople. The principal groups of workpeople affected were those employed in waterworks undertakings in England and Wales, and in the manufacture of linen and cotton handkerchiefs and household goods and linen piece goods in Northern Ireland.

Full particulars of the changes in rates of wages and hours of labour in April are given on pages 180 to 184.

### INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.

The number of stoppages of work arising from industrial disputes reported to the Department as beginning in April was 184. In addition, 18 stoppages which began before April were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The approximate number of workers involved, during April, in these 202 stoppages (including workers thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred) was about 86,000, and the aggregate number of working days lost at the establishments concerned, during April, was about 619,000.

Further particulars of disputes involving stoppages of work during April are given on page 185, and an article reviewing statistics of industrial disputes during the year 1947 appears on pages 163 and 164.

### RETAIL PRICES.

At 13th April, 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 108. The corresponding figure at 16th March was 106.

The rise in the index during the month under review was mainly due to the effect of the recent increase in the duties on alcoholic drink and tobacco.

Further details of changes in retail prices during the month under review are given on page 186.









## INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION.

### SECOND SESSION OF PERMANENT MIGRATION COMMITTEE.

A Permanent Committee on Migration for Settlement was set up in February, 1940, by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, but on account of the war the first meeting of the Committee was not held as planned. In December, 1944, the Governing Body decided that the Committee's terms of reference should be widened to cover other forms of migration as well as migration for settlement. The First Session of the Permanent Migration Committee was held in August, 1946.

The Committee held their Second Session in Geneva from 23rd February to 2nd March, 1948. The Session was attended by representatives of 28 Governments, the United Kingdom representative being Miss M. F. Yates of the Ministry of Labour and National Service. Advisory members also attended from the United Nations, the Preparatory Commission of the World Health Organisation, and the Preparatory Commission of the International Refugee Organisation and from the Food and Agriculture Organisation, and a delegation of three representatives of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office and an expert member from Brazil were also present. The agenda for the Session was as follows: (1) Consideration of proposals for the revision of the Migration for Employment Convention, 1939, and related Recommendations; (2) draft model migration agreement; (3) technical selection and training of migrants; and (4) co-operation of the International Labour Organisation in measures for the co-ordination of international responsibilities in the field of migration.

On the question of the revision of the existing international instruments dealing with migration for employment, the Committee recommended that there should be a single Convention and a single Recommendation and that a model bilateral agreement should be annexed to the Recommendation. The draft Convention proposed by the Committee is limited to general and basic principles, with the intention of ensuring wide acceptance by the countries concerned. The Committee made detailed proposals for the revision of the Recommendations adopted in 1939 and agreed on draft clauses for a model bilateral agreement applicable to both temporary and permanent migration for employment, including the migration of refugees and displaced persons. Provisions dealing with technical selection and vocational training were proposed for inclusion in the new Recommendation and in the model agreement.

In considering the question of the co-ordination of international responsibility in the field of migration, the Committee noted the Agreement between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the International Labour Organisation on the co-ordination of migration activities, and agreed that this document would provide the basis for the development of further co-operation in this field. The Committee made to the Governing Body a number of specific recommendations for the further development of international action through the International Labour Office. These suggestions dealt with: (a) The demand for improved statistical and other information relating to migration movements; (b) the need for an international information employment service to help countries in the resettlement of man-power; and (c) the development of a corps of experts available to conduct migration surveys and give assistance to Member States. The Committee also urged that the Governing Body should authorise the Office to develop at the regional level their activities with regard to migration.

A Resolution, introduced by the Peruvian delegate, was adopted, which drew attention to "the need to co-ordinate the international efforts of Latin American countries able to assimilate in the immediate future a large-scale flow of immigrants from Europe which is essential for European recovery."

The Committee also agreed to a Belgian Resolution proposing that Members of the International Labour Organisation should be asked to report to the Office on the conditions of labour of displaced persons in their countries and on how far the provisions of the 1939 Convention and Recommendations had been applied to these people in their recruitment, placing and conditions of employment.

In a further Resolution, the Committee recommended that there should be the closest co-operation between the International Labour Office and the Permanent Co-ordination Committee for European Migration Movements recently set up in Rome (see the issue of this GAZETTE for last month, page 132).

## UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT.

### FINAL ACT AND THE HAVANA CHARTER FOR AN INTERNATIONAL TRADE ORGANISATION.

The Final Act of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment, which sat at Havana, Cuba, from 21st November, 1947, to 24th March, 1948, has been published by H.M. Stationery Office as a Command Paper (Cmd. 7375; price 2s. net, 2s. 2d. post free). The Command Paper also reproduces the English text of the Havana Charter for an International Trade Organisation which was drawn up by the Conference, together with related documents. The Final Act was signed on 24th March by the representatives of 53 countries, including the United Kingdom.

The Conference had before it a draft of the Charter which had been drawn up by a Preparatory Committee in 1947. A brief description of this draft of the Charter, which included provisions relating to employment and economic activity, was given on pages 337 and 338 of the issue of this GAZETTE for October, 1947. The Havana Charter, which is on the same general lines as the draft but includes amendments to a number of provisions, will be submitted to the Governments represented at the Conference.

The Charter is to enter into force on the sixtieth day after the day on which a majority of the Governments signing the Final Act of the Conference have intimated their acceptance of the Charter, or, if this has not taken place by 24th March, 1949, on the sixtieth day after the day on which twenty of the Governments have intimated acceptance. If the Charter has not entered into force by 30th September, 1949, the Governments that have accepted the Charter are to be invited to enter into consultation to determine whether and on what conditions they desire to bring the Charter into force.

A Resolution was adopted by the Conference establishing an Interim Commission for the International Trade Organisation, to perform certain functions pending the establishment of the Organisation. Another Resolution, addressed to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, embodied suggestions as to the maintenance of full employment and economic stability, the international aspects of population problems as these relate to employment, production and demand, and the problems of temporary or seasonal migration of workers. Other Resolutions concerned relations with the International Trade Organisation and the International Court of Justice; the Interim Co-ordinating Committee for International Commodity Arrangements; and economic development and reconstruction.

## EUROPEAN ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION.

### SIGNATURE OF CONVENTION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF ORGANISATION.

In view of the offer of United States aid and support for a programme of economic recovery to be agreed upon by European countries, which was made in June, 1947, by Mr. George Marshall, United States Secretary of State, a Conference was held in Paris in the following month to draw up a plan of organisation and work. The countries represented at the Conference were Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Eire, France, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom. At this Conference a Committee of European Economic Co-operation was established to continue the work of the Conference, which was then adjourned.

The Committee of European Economic Co-operation drew up a Report which was forwarded to the United States Government in September. The Report included statements of production, requirements and future plans for the participating countries and a proposal for the establishment of a joint organisation to review the progress achieved and to secure the execution of the programme of European economic recovery by joint action to the fullest possible extent. In March, 1948, a Working Party was constituted to submit proposals to the next conference of the Committee as to the purpose, functions and organisation of the new body and to prepare a draft multilateral agreement for submission to the conference. The Working Party having agreed upon the text of a draft Convention, incorporating both the multilateral agreement and the constitution of the new organisation, a further meeting of the Committee was held at Paris on 16th April, under the presidency of Mr. Ernest Bevin, at which the Final Act of the Conference, the Convention of the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation, was signed by the representatives of the participating countries, and by the Commanders-in-Chief of the French, United Kingdom and United States Zones of Germany, and the inaugural meeting of the Organisation itself was held. In the meantime, the United States Congress had approved the United States Economic Co-operation Act of 1948.

The English texts of the Convention and the Resolutions transmitted by the Committee to the Council of the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation, with a covering Memorandum by the Foreign Office, have been published by H.M. Stationery Office (Cmd. 7388; price 6d. net, 7d. post free).

The Convention lays down a number of General Obligations to which the Contracting Parties pledge themselves. These General Obligations are concerned with the development of production in such manner as may best promote the joint recovery programme; the interchange of goods and services; the relaxation and abolition of restrictions on trade and payments; the furthering of Customs Unions and free trade areas; the reduction of tariff and other barriers to the expansion of trade; the achievement and maintenance of financial stability; the fullest and most effectual use of available man-power; and the supply to the Organisation of all requisite information. As regards the use of man-power, the Parties state that they will endeavour to provide full employment for their own people and that they may have recourse to man-power available in the territory of any other Contracting Party. In the latter case, they will, by mutual agreement, take the necessary measures to facilitate the movement of workers and to ensure their establishment in conditions satisfactory from the economic and social point of view. The Parties further state that they will co-operate in the progressive reduction of obstacles to the free movement of persons.

The Convention declares that the aim of the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation is the achievement of a sound European economy through the economic co-operation of its members, and that an immediate task of the Organisation will be to ensure the success of the European recovery programme in accordance with the undertakings expressed in the General Obligations of the Convention. The membership, functions, powers, constitution, etc., of the Organisation are specified.

The Convention requires ratification by the Governments of the Contracting Parties. It will come into force when ratified by at least six of the signatories, and, for each signatory ratifying thereafter, it will come into force at the date of ratification. Until the Convention comes into force, the signatories have agreed, in order to avoid delay in execution, to put it into operation on signature on a provisional basis and in accordance with their several constitutional requirements. Provision is made for the accession to the Convention of non-signatory European countries and for withdrawals.

## EMPLOYMENT, EARNINGS AND PRICES IN THE BRITISH ZONE OF GERMANY.

The Monthly Statistical Bulletin of the Control Commission for Germany (British Element) contains statistics relating to employment, earnings and prices in the British Zone at recent dates. A summary of the latest figures on these subjects is given below. The figures given do not cover the British Sector of Berlin. The Bulletin also contains figures on a variety of other subjects. Copies may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, price 2s. 9d. post free.

**Employment.**—In the British Zone of Germany all males aged 14-65 and all females aged 15-50 are required to register, and, in addition, all persons employed or seeking work, irrespective of age. At the end of 1947, the total registered population was 13,461,600, of whom 9,090,800 formed the working population. The working population was constituted as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Employers and persons working on own account .. .. .	1,140,800	796,600	1,937,400
Working for employers .. .. .	5,031,900	1,909,300	6,941,200
Unemployed .. .. .	156,200	36,000	212,200
Total .. .. .	6,328,900	2,761,900	9,090,800

The following is an analysis by the principal industry groups of the number of persons working for employers:—

Agriculture, forestry and fishing .. .. .	857,100
Mining .. .. .	503,000
Metals .. .. .	970,800
Textiles .. .. .	379,000
Transport and communications .. .. .	579,600
Building and civil engineering .. .. .	558,500
Commerce and banking .. .. .	570,300
Hotel, domestic and entertainment .. .. .	496,100
Public administration .. .. .	533,800
Other .. .. .	1,493,000
Total .. .. .	6,941,200

The labour force in the coal mining industry at the end of February, 1948, was 456,400, showing a net increase of 80,200 since 1st January, 1947.

The number of persons unemployed had fallen from 407,900 at the end of March, 1946, to 212,200 at the end of December, 1947, and was 217,700 at the end of January, 1948. Of the last figure, 162,000 were males and 55,700 were females. Analysed by occupations, the largest numbers unemployed at the end of January, 1948, were 16,300 agricultural workers, 16,900 metal workers, 15,700 transport workers, 15,600 domestic servants, 26,500 unskilled workers, and 56,700 in commerce and administrative occupations.

**Average Earnings.**—The average gross weekly earnings in the principal manufacturing industries in the British Zone at December, 1947, were 41.73 Reichsmarks for males and 23.46 Rm. for females. The average weekly working time was 40.7 hours for males and 37.4 hours for females, and the average hourly earnings 102.6 Reichspfennigs and 62.8 Rpf. respectively. For males, the average hourly earnings ranged from 85.9 Rpf. in sawmills, 87.1 Rpf. in textiles, and 88.9 Rpf. in boots and shoes to 116.1 Rpf. in book printing, 114.5 Rpf. in iron and steel, and 114.4 Rpf. in foundries. The average hourly earnings for skilled male workers were 110.3 Rpf., for semi-skilled 103.0 Rpf., and for unskilled 86.7 Rpf.

For miners in the Ruhr, the average cash earnings a man-shift at December, 1947, were 8.64 Rm., those for hewers being 11.01 Rm., for all underground workers 9.53 Rm., and for surface workers 7.30 Rm. The gross monthly earnings, inclusive of the value of coal paid as wages, were 223 Rm. In 1938 the monthly averages were 7.24 Rm. a man-shift and 184 Rm. a month.

**Cost of Living.**—The principal cost-of-living index numbers for the British Zone at February, 1948 (1938=100), were as follows:—

All Items.	Food.	Clothing.	Rent.
Manual worker's family of 5 members, not bombed out .. .. .	121.9	116.0	141.1
Manual worker's family of 5 members, bombed out .. .. .	126.1	116.0	175.2
Miner's family of 4 members .. .. .	130.2	125.8	180.2

The index numbers have remained fairly steady, apart from seasonal variations in the price of food, since mid-1946. The all-items numbers for the three classes of families compare with 110.6, 112.0 and 114.6 at October, 1945.

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## NATIONAL INSURANCE—EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY AT COMMON LAW REMAINS

WHEN the new National Insurance Schemes are introduced on July 5th, the Workmen's Compensation Acts will be repealed. Compensation for accidents of employment will then be paid by the State.

But the employer will still be liable for claims made by workmen at Common Law. In fact, an increasing number of these claims have been made of recent years, and the cost to employers has been generally greater than under the Compensation Acts.

In addition, the Law Reform (Personal Injuries) Bill provides for the abolition of the defence of "Common Employment." This means more claims, in that employers will be held responsible for accidents to employees caused by the carelessness of fellow employees.

Existing Employers' Liability Policies cover claims at Common Law and it is important that these policies be continued.

In the past, some employers have not covered their liability for injuries sustained by non-manual workers earning over £420 a year, since these workers have not been subject to the Compensation Acts. This distinction will cease to exist. It is,

indeed, to be expected that a larger number of claims from these employees will follow upon the abolition of the defence of Common Employment, also that damages awarded to higher salaried persons will be proportionately greater.

To meet these eventualities, Insurers will assume, unless otherwise instructed, that Policyholders will, from the 5th July, desire to be covered in respect of all their employees. It will be understood:

1 That, from the 5th July, salaries and wages of all employees will be included by employers in the annual adjustment statement.

2 That, on the first renewal date after the 5th July, premium will be adjusted to allow for the fact that, as from the 5th July, cover will be restricted to Common Law, but will have been provided in respect of all employees.

Every effort will be made to bring about the transition with as little inconvenience to the employer as possible, and, in accepting the position outlined above, he may rely on his interests being fully protected.

The above statement is issued on behalf of the Insurance market generally.







UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG INSURED PERSONS AT 12th APRIL, 1948.

SUMMARY FOR GREAT BRITAIN.

The numbers of insured persons registered as unemployed\* in Great Britain at 15th March and 12th April, 1948, were as follows:—

Table with 5 columns: Men 18 and under 65 years, Boys under 18 years, Women 18 and under 60 years, Girls under 18 years, Total. Rows for 15th March and 12th April.

In addition there were on the registers at 12th April 13,832\* uninsured persons, including 1,716 boys and girls under 18 who had not yet entered industry.

Table showing the figures for 12th April analysed below, including categories like Wholly Unemployed (including Casuals), Unemployed for not more than 2 weeks, etc.

The total of 300,840 includes 32,852 married women, and ex-Service personnel numbering 9,576 who had had no employment since leaving the Forces.

The changes between 15th March and 12th April, 1948, in each administrative Region were as follows:—

Large table showing regional analysis of unemployment for Great Britain, with columns for Region, 15th Mar, 12th April, Inc. or Dec., and Total.

\* 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 12th April among insured males and females in each Region:—

Table showing the number of insured persons registered as unemployed at 12th April, 1948, broken down by Region, Males, Females, and Total.

NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM:

REGIONAL ANALYSIS.

The total number of insured persons registered as unemployed\* in the United Kingdom at 12th April, 1948, was 327,726, including 254,966 men and boys and 72,760 women and girls.

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

Table showing regional analysis of unemployment for the United Kingdom, with columns for Region, Men 18 and under 65 years, Boys under 18 years, Women 18 and under 60 years, Girls under 18 years, Total.

\* 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 12th April, 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 15th March, 1948.

Table showing numbers of insured persons on registers at 12th April, 1948, by Regions (in italics) and Principal Towns, with columns for Men 18 and under 65 years, Women 18 and under 60 years, Juveniles under 18 years, and Total.

\* The figures exclude registered disabled persons who are suitable only for employment under sheltered conditions. They include, however, some persons who are not available for employment away from home and others who for various reasons are not suitable for the types of vacancies current.

Table showing the increase or decrease compared with 15th March, 1948, in the numbers of insured persons on registers at 12th April, 1948, by Regions (in italics) and Principal Towns.

NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED: 1939 to 1948.

The Table below shows the average numbers of insured persons registered as unemployed in the years 1939 to 1947, and the numbers so registered in each month of 1948.

Table showing average numbers of insured persons registered as unemployed in the years 1939 to 1947, and numbers in each month of 1948, categorized by Great Britain and United Kingdom.

NUMBERS UNEMPLOYED\*: COMPOSITION OF STATISTICS.

The Table below gives an analysis of the numbers of persons registered as unemployed\* in Great Britain at 12th April, distinguishing (1) claimants for benefit and applicants for unemployment allowances and (2) non-claimants.

Table showing the composition of statistics for unemployed persons, including categories like Insured Unemployed, Uninsured Persons on Registers of Employment Exchanges, and Applicants for Unemployment Allowances.

\* See footnote in previous column. † The averages for 1947 are based on the numbers actually registered as unemployed at Employment Exchanges. During the fuel and power crisis in February and March of that year, considerable numbers of the workpeople who were stood off from employment did not register at Employment Exchanges and were therefore excluded from the unemployment figures.







## CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN APRIL.

## 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 April resulted in an aggregate increase estimated at approximately £146,000 in the weekly full-time wages of about 555,000 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 April were employed in the iron and steel industry, the woollen and worsted industry in Yorkshire, the gas industry, the pottery industry and the hosiery industry in the Midlands. Among other groups of workpeople receiving increased rates of wages were workers engaged in milk distribution in Scotland, manual workers employed in the non-trading services of certain local authorities in Glamorganshire and Monmouthshire, female workers in the retail confectionery trade in Scotland, male and female workers in the bleaching, dyeing and finishing trades in Northern Ireland and in the waterproof garment manufacturing trade in Lancashire and Cheshire.

In pig iron and iron and steel manufacture there were increases due to a revision of the sliding-scale arrangements whereby flat-rate additions to wages now fluctuate in accordance with movements in the index of retail prices; the majority of men concerned received increases of about 1s. 2½d. a shift. In the woollen and worsted industry in Yorkshire there were increases of 7½ per cent. on current time rates and 5 per cent. on current piece rates. In the gas industry the total war advances of male workers 18 years and over were increased by 1½d. an hour for day workers and by 1s. a shift for shiftworkers, with a corresponding advance for workers on piece rates. In the pottery industry the principle of a 44-hour working week was conceded, but it was agreed to continue the present 47 or 48-hour week, and, as an incentive to increase production, to pay a bonus of 5 per cent. of their total weekly earnings to operatives who work not less than 44 hours in any working week; some workers also received increases of varying amounts following the reclassification of certain occupations for wages purposes. In the hosiery industry in the Midlands the cost-of-living bonus operating under sliding-scale arrangements, was increased from 1s. in the shilling on basic rates to 1s. 1d. in the shilling.

Of the total increase of £146,000, about £97,000 resulted from direct negotiations between employers and workpeople or their representatives; about £30,000 was the result of arrangements made by Joint Industrial Councils or other joint standing bodies established by voluntary agreement; about £8,000 resulted from

arbitration awards; and the remainder resulted from the operation of sliding scales based on the index of retail prices or from Orders made under the Wages Councils Acts.

## SUMMARY OF CHANGES REPORTED IN JANUARY-APRIL, 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 four 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 .. .. .	10,000	1,300
Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc. . . . .	115,500	28,300
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding .. .. .	192,500	46,600
Textile .. .. .	483,000	132,700
Clothing .. .. .	332,000	136,000
Food, Drink and Tobacco .. .. .	72,500	20,900
Woodworking, Furniture, etc. . . . .	7,000	1,400
Paper, Printing, etc. . . . .	170,000	68,300
Building, Civil Engineering Construction, etc. . . . .	68,500	7,700
Gas, Water and Electricity Supply .. .. .	194,500	49,900
Transport .. .. .	765,000	186,900
Public Administration Services .. .. .	7,500	3,100
Distributive Trades .. .. .	50,500	20,900
Other .. .. .	76,000	15,700
Total .. .. .	2,544,500	719,700

## HOURS OF LABOUR.

The changes in hours of labour reported to have come into operation in April resulted in an average reduction of about 2½ hours a week for about 48,000 workpeople. The principal groups of workpeople affected were those employed in waterworks undertakings in England and Wales, whose normal working week was reduced from 47 to 44 hours for dayworkers and from 48 to an average of 44 hours for shiftworkers, and in the manufacture in Northern Ireland of linen and cotton handkerchiefs and household goods and linen piece goods, whose normal weekly working hours were reduced from 47 to 45.

During the first four 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 235,000 workpeople.

## PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING APRIL.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Herring Fishing	Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth.	1 April	Crews employed on steam and motor drifters.	Guaranteed weekly wages adopted as follows: skipper 120s. a week, mate and engineer 110s., houseman 105s., stoker, net-rope-man, net-stower and whaleman 100s., cast-off and cook 90s.; 5 per cent. of the gross value of the catch to be paid to the crew weekly and divided equally among them as stock-bait; share earnings to continue on the rates and methods already operating at each port.
Pottery Manufacture.	Great Britain	30 April	Men, youths, boys, women and girls. Lavatory attendants and light sweepers (except night work). Biscuit and glost placers on continuous ovens and kilns. Male workers in certain other occupations.† Oven odd men . . . . . Stokers . . . . .	Bonus granted of 5 per cent. of total weekly earnings to operatives who work not less than 44 hours in any working week.† Adoption of a minimum rate for men of 85s. a week (occupational group M1). Increase of 1d. an hour (2s. to 2s. 1d.) resulting from transfer from occupational group M5 to new group M5B. Workers hitherto classified in occupational group M1 and remunerated on scale E transferred to group M2 and remunerated on scale F, resulting in increases of 5s. a week (85s. to 90s.) in minimum rates for men 21 years and over and of 2s. 6d. for youths and boys. Increase of 1½d. an hour (1s. 11d. to 2s. 0½d.) resulting from transfer from occupational group M3 to new group M5C. Increase of 2s. a week (90s. to 92s.).
Match Manufacture.	Great Britain	Pay week commencing 5 April.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls.	Increases of 1½d. an hour for all workers in the London area (within a 15-mile radius of Charing Cross) and of 1d. elsewhere. Minimum rates after change: men 21 years and over, London 2s. 2½d., elsewhere 2s. 2d.; youths and boys 1s. 0½d. and 1s. 0½d. at 15, rising to 2s. 2d. and 2s. 1½d. at 20; women 18 and over 1s. 5½d. and 1s. 5d.; girls 11d. and 10½d. at 15, rising to 1s. 3½d. and 1s. 3d. at 17.
Coke Manufacture.	Cumberland, South Durham, Cleveland, South Lincs. and Northants.	4 April	Men, youths, boys, women and girls employed at coke oven plants attached to blast-furnaces.	Flat-rate additions to wages, previously granted, increased by 1s. 2-4d. a shift (5s. to 6s. 2-4d.) for men and for women and youths employed on men's work, by 10-8d. (3s. 9d. to 4s. 7-8d.) for youths 18 and under 21 years, and for women employed on youths' work, and by 7-2d. (2s. 6d. to 3s. 1-2d.) for boys and for girls doing boys' work.§
Pig Iron Manufacture.	Cleveland, Durham, West Cumberland, North Lincs., North Lincs., Staffs., Bilston and Corby.	do.	Workpeople employed at blast-furnaces, except those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries.	do. do.

\* 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.

† The principle of a 44-hour working week is conceded by the Joint Industrial Council for the Pottery Industry, but the present 47 or 48-hour week is to continue as the normal working week during the existing economic crisis, the bonus being granted as an incentive to increased production.

‡ The occupations affected were those of labourers (except mill), male assistants on continuous and intermittent ovens and kilns not paid as placers or setters-in, leadhouse workers, sliphouse workers (including blunger chargers) other than slipmakers and pressmen, clay carriers, ware carriers, mould carriers, marl mixers, dust carriers, night sweepers, sagger washers, saggermakers' bottom knockers, machine saggermakers' assistants.

§ These increases resulted from a revision of the cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements, whereby the flat-rate additions to wages are now proportionate to the number of points by which the interim index of retail prices exceeds 44; formerly, the additions were proportionate to the number of points by which the cost-of-living index figure exceeded 54.

## PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING APRIL—continued.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Pig Iron Manufacture (continued).	Notts., Leics. and Northants.	11 April	Workpeople employed at blast-furnaces, except those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries.	Flat-rate additions to wages, previously granted, increased by 1s. 3-6d. a shift (4s. 10-8d. to 6s. 2-4d.) for men, and for women and youths employed on men's work, by 11-7d. (3s. 8-1d. to 4s. 7-8d.) for youths 18 and under 21 years, and for women employed on youths' work, and by 7-8d. (2s. 5-4d. to 3s. 1-2d.) for boys and for girls doing boys' work.*
	West of Scotland.	First pay day following 20 April.	do.	Flat-rate additions to wages, previously granted, increased by 1s. 2d. a shift (4s. 10d. to 6s.) for men, with usual proportions for youths.†
Iron and Steel Manufacture.	Great Britain‡	8 Mar.§	Workpeople employed at steel sheet rolling mills.	Flat-rate additions to wages, previously granted, increased by 1s. 2-4d. a shift (5s. to 6s. 2-4d.) for men and women 21 years and over, by 10-8d. (3s. 9d. to 4s. 7-8d.) for youths and girls 18 and under 21 years, and by 7-2d. (2s. 6d. to 3s. 1-2d.) for those under 18.‖
	Great Britain¶	4 April	Workpeople employed in steel melting shops (melters, pit-men, slagmen, lademen, furnace helpers, gas producermen, semi-skilled workers and labourers, etc.).	Flat-rate additions to wages, previously granted, increased by 1s. 2-4d. a shift (5s. to 6s. 2-4d.) for men and women 21 years and over, by 10-8d. (3s. 9d. to 4s. 7-8d.) for youths and girls 18 and under 21 years, and by 7-2d. (2s. 6d. to 3s. 1-2d.) for those under 18.*
	North-East Coast Area.	do.	Workpeople employed at steel rolling mills.	do. do.
	Barrow-in-Furness	do.	Rail millmen, merchant millmen, enginemmen, crane-men, etc.	do. do.
	Workington	do.	Steel millmen and labourers (datal workers).	do. do.
	Scunthorpe	do.	Steel millmen, wagon builders and repairers.	do. do.
	Bilston	do.	Steel millmen, melting shop workers, maintenance men, etc.	do. do.
	West of Scotland.	do.	Millmen, gas producermen, enginemmen, crane-men, firemen and mill labourers, semi-skilled workers and general labourers and locomotive drivers and firemen employed at steel rolling mills.	do. do.
	North-East Coast	do.	Iron puddlers and millmen and semi-skilled workers, labourers, etc., employed at iron puddling furnaces and rolling mills.	do. do.
	Midlands and parts of South Yorkshire and South Lancashire.	8 Mar.§	Workpeople employed at iron puddling furnaces and iron and steel rolling mills and forges, other than those engaged on maintenance work.	Flat-rate additions to wages, previously granted, increased by 1s. 2-4d. a shift (5s. 2-4d. to 6s. 4-8d.) for men and women 21 years and over, and by 10-8d. (3s. 10-8d. to 4s. 9-6d.) for workers 18 years and under 21, and by 7-2d. (2s. 7-2d. to 3s. 2-4d.) for those under 18.**
	West of Scotland.	11 April	Workpeople employed at iron puddling forges and mills and sheet mills.	Flat-rate additions to wages, previously granted, increased by 1s. 2d. a shift (5s. 1-6d. to 6s. 3-6d.) for men, by 10½d. (3s. 10-2d. to 4s. 8-7d.) for youths 18 and under 21 years, and by 7d. (2s. 6-8d. to 3s. 1-8d.) for boys under 18.††
	South-West Wales.	14 Mar.§	Workpeople employed in Siemens steel manufacture, except bricklayers and carpenters.	Flat-rate additions to wages, previously granted, increased by 1s. 4-4d. a shift (3s. 10d. to 5s. 2-4d.) for men and for women employed on men's work, by 11-1d. (2s. 6½d. to 3s. 5-6d.) for youths 18 and under 21 years, and by 8-2d. (1s. 11d. to 2s. 7-2d.) for youths under 18 years and for boys.‡‡
Galvanising	England and Wales	8 Mar.§	Galvanisers and ancillary workers employed at steel sheet works other than those engaged in the process of annealing.	Flat-rate additions to wages, previously granted, increased by 1s. 2-4d. a shift (5s. to 6s. 2-4d.) for men and women 21 years and over, by 10-8d. (3s. 9d. to 4s. 7-8d.) for youths and girls 18 and under 21 years, and by 7-2d. (2s. 6d. to 3s. 1-2d.) for those under 18.‡‡
Tinplate Manufacture.	South Wales, Mon. and Gloucestershire.	7 Mar.§	Men, youths, women and juveniles (except apprentices).	Flat-rate additions to wages, previously granted, increased by 1s. 2-4d. a shift (5s. to 6s. 2-4d.) for men and for women 21 years and over engaged specifically to replace male labour, by 9-6d. (3s. 4d. to 4s. 1-6d.) for youths 18 and under 21 and for women 18 years and over, and by 7-2d. (2s. 6d. to 3s. 1-2d.) for juveniles under 18.*
Shuttlemaking	Lancs. and Yorks.	First pay day in April.	Men, apprentices and youths	Increase of 3 per cent. on gross wages. Minimum daywork rates after change for journeymen: 1s. 3d. an hour basic rate, plus existing cost-of-living bonus of 104 per cent. on basic rate, plus 6 per cent. on gross rate (i.e., basic rate plus bonus).§§
Metallic Bedstead Manufacture.	Birmingham and district.	2 April	Men, youths, boys, women and girls.	Increase§§ in flat-rate bonus of ½d. an hour (6½d. to 7½d., castors 5d. to 5½d.) for men 21 years and over, of 1½d. (3½d. to 5½d. for youths 20 and under 21, of 1d. (2½d. to 3½d.) for youths 18 and under 20, of 6d. a week (5s. to 5s. 6d.) for boys, of ½d. an hour (3½d. to 3¾d.) for women 18 years and over, and of ¼d. (1½d. to 1¾d.) for girls.
Light Castings Manufacture.	England and Scotland.	22 Mar.	Apprentices	Increase of 3s. a week on the basis rates in the first and second years of apprenticeship, and of 5s. in the third, fourth and fifth years of apprenticeship.

\* These increases resulted from a revision of the cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements, whereby the flat-rate additions to wages are now proportionate to the number of points by which the interim index of retail prices exceeds 44; formerly, the additions were proportionate to the number of points by which the cost-of-living index figure exceeded 54.

† These increases resulted from a revision of the cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements, whereby the flat-rate additions to wages are now proportionate to the number of points by which the interim index of retail prices exceeds 34; formerly, the additions were proportionate to the number of points by which the cost-of-living index figure exceeded 46. An additional payment of 1s. 2d. a shift for men, with usual proportions for youths, was made from the first pay beginning on or after 29th February, 1948, to the date shown above.

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

§ The revision was agreed in April and made retrospective to the date shown above.

¶ These increases resulted from a revision of the cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements, whereby the flat-rate additions to wages are now proportionate to the number of points by which the interim index of retail prices exceeds 44; formerly, the additions were proportionate to the number of points by which the cost-of-living index figure exceeded 58.

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

\*\* These increases resulted from a revision of the cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements, whereby the flat-rate additions to wages are now proportionate to the number of points by which the interim index of retail prices exceeds 42; formerly, the additions were proportionate to the number of points by which the cost-of-living index figure exceeded 52.

†† These increases resulted from a revision of the cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements, whereby the flat-rate additions to wages are now proportionate to the number of points by which the interim index of retail prices exceeds 52; formerly, the additions were proportionate to the number of points by which the cost-of-living index figure exceeded 60. Additional payments of 1s. 2d. a shift for men, 10½d. for youths and 7d. for boys were made, for the period from 8th February, 1948, to 10th April, 1948.

‡‡ These increases resulted from a revision of the cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements, whereby flat-rate additions to wages of 1-2d. a shift for men, 0-8d. for youths 18 and under 21 years, and 0-6d. for youths under 18 years and boys are now proportionate to the number of points by which the interim index of retail prices exceeds 54; formerly, the additions of 1d., 0-6d. and 0-5d., respectively, were proportionate to the number of points by which the cost-of-living index figure exceeded 58.

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

|||| Including Smethwick, Brierley Hill, Dudley, Wednesbury, Sowerby Bridge and Keighley.

## PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING APRIL—continued.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Electrical Cable Manufacture.	Great Britain	Third pay day in April.	Plumber jointers, plumber jointers' mates, youths and boys employed in laying, jointing and maintenance of cables (including tele-communication cables) and accessories.	Increase of 1½d. an hour in war bonus for plumber jointers, with consequential increases for plumber jointers' mates, youths and boys. Minimum rates after change for plumber jointers fully qualified—London area (within a radius of 18 miles from Charing Cross) 2s. an hour, plus 1s. 1d. an hour war bonus, provinces 1s. 9½d. plus 1½d. war bonus; plumber jointers' mates to receive 85 per cent. of the rates for plumber jointers including war bonus, and boys and youths 30 per cent. of plumber jointers' rates, including war bonus, at 16 years, rising to 85 per cent. at 21 years.*
Orthopaedic and Surgical Appliance Manufacture.	England and Wales	First pay day in week commencing 8 Mar.	Men, youths and boys	New basic rates adopted, incorporating the national bonus previously paid, and resulting in increases of 1s. a week for grades I, "A" and "B," workers, 13s. 2d. for grade "C" workers, and of varying amounts for juniors. Basic rates after change: grade I (exceptionally high skill) 3s. 9d. an hour, grade "A" (highly skilled) 3s. 8d., "B" 3s. 5½d., "C" 3s. 2½d., younger workers 10d. at 15 years (previously the lowest rate was paid to workers at 16 years) rising, according to age, to 2s. 5d. at 20.†
Wool Textile	West Riding of Yorkshire.	Pay day in week ending 3 April for full pay period covered by that pay day.	Woolcombing operatives employed in the woolcombing section.	Weekly time rates increased by 7½ per cent. Minimum weekly rates after change for lowest rated workers: men (night work) 10s. 1d. plus special night allowance of ½d. an hour for all hours worked, (day work) 9s. 5d.; women 6s. 4d.
	West Riding of Yorkshire.	do.	Workpeople employed in the woollen and worsted spinning and weaving industry:— Time workers Pieceworkers	Increase of 7½ per cent. Minimum rates after change for lowest rated workers: men 9s. 4d. a week, women 6s. Increase of 5 per cent. on current piece rates.
	Leicester	1 April	Men, youths, boys, women and girls employed in the lambs' wool and worsted yarn spinning industry, except those workers whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries.	Cost-of-living bonus increased by ½d. in the shilling (7½d. to 7½d.) on basic wages.‡
Hostery Manufacture.	Midlands§	First pay day in April.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls.	Cost-of-living bonus increased by 1d. in the shilling (1s. to 1s. 1d.) on basic wages.‡
Textile Making-up and Packing.	Manchester	Pay day in week ending 3 April.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls.	Increases in basic rates of 6s. to 8s. a week, according to occupation, for men 21 years or over, of 5s. for women 18 years or over, other than learners, of 2s. 6d. to 6s., according to age, for junior warehousemen, of proportional amounts for apprentices to hydraulic packing and making-up, of 5s. to 7s. 2d. for female learners over 18 and of 3s. 3d. to 4s. 6d. for female juniors; cost-of-living additions, based on index of retail prices, increased (at index figure of 106) to 6s. a week for men 21 years and over, and to 4s. for men 18 years and over except learners, with proportional increases for other workers. Rates after change (inclusive of war wage and cost-of-living addition) include: men—packers and makers-up 117s. 6d. a week, competent grey and print lookers 114s., assistant lookers, stampers, etc., 110s. 6d., plaiters, general warehousemen, etc., 107s., porters 103s.; women—markers-off 72s., cutters and machine creasers 69s., other workers 67s.
Bleaching, Dyeing and Finishing.	Northern Ireland	First full pay period following 23 April.	Adult male and female workers	Increases of 1d. an hour in minimum rates for men 21 years and over, and of ½d. for women 21 years and over. Minimum rates after change: men—skilled workers (including engine drivers) 2s. 1d. an hour, semi-skilled (including firemen) 1s. 11d., general workers or labourers 1s. 9d.; women 1s. 236d.
Linen and Cotton Handkerchief and Household Goods and Linen Piece Goods Manufacture.	Northern Ireland	19 April	Male workers in the Swiss Embroidery branch of the trade. Female workers	Increases in general minimum time rates of 1½d., 2½d. or 5d. an hour, according to period of employment; increase of 3½d. in piecework basis time rates for workers operating Swiss embroidery machines. Rates after change include: general minimum time rate after 12 months' employment in the Swiss embroidery branch 1s. 9d. an hour; piecework basis time rates—workers employed on single machines having 2 or 3 tiers 1s. 9½d., workers employed on single machines having 4 tiers or on any coupled machines 1s. 11½d.¶
				Increase of 1d. an hour in general minimum time rates and piecework basis time rates; revised general minimum piece rates adopted for some classes of work, and percentage addition to general minimum piece rates increased by 5 per cent. (70 to 75 per cent.) or 1s. in the £ (14s. to 15s.). Rates after change include: general minimum time rates—workers employed on stitching machines (other than Swiss embroidery machines), vice folding or hand smoothing 1s. 1d. an hour after 6 months' employment, other workers (except learners) 1s. 1d.; piecework basis time rate 1s. 3d.¶
Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Manufacture.	Scotland	30 April	Women and girls employed in the retail branch.	Increases of 2d. an hour in general minimum time rates for all workers other than learners, and of 1d. or ½d., according to year of employment, for learners. General minimum time rates after change: bodice, coat, skirt, gown or blouse hands Area A 1s. 5d. an hour, Area B 1s. 3½d.; learners Area A 5½d. in 1st year of learnership, rising to 1s. 0½d. in 4th year, Area B 5d. to 10½d.; all other workers Area A 1s. 3½d., Area B 1s. 2d.**
Waterproof Garment Manufacture.	Lancashire and Cheshire.	Second pay day in April.	Male and female workers	Cost-of-living bonus increased by 2½ per cent. (40 to 42½ per cent.)†† Inclusive minimum time rates after change include: adult males—makers, machinists and passers 117s. 7d., adult females—makers, machinists, buttonhole machinists, passers and finishers 71s. 3d., button machinists, bar tackers, folders, markers, eyeletters and studders 65s. 7d.
Baking	London	Beginning of first full pay period following 21 April.	Adult workers	Adult male workers to receive uniform minimum rates 5s. a week, and adult female workers 4s. a week, higher than the current rates operating under the Baking Wages Council Order.
Distilling	Scotland	First pay day in April.	Men employed in pot still malt distilleries.	Increase of 1d. an hour (1s. 10½d. to 1s. 11½d.) in minimum rate of pay; existing differential rates maintained for stillmen, mashmen, tunmen, kilnmen and boiler firemen; workers on corner night shift or on alternate day and night shifts to receive a shift differential of 1d. an hour for all hours worked.

\* Plumber jointers' mates are in no circumstances to receive less than the appropriate rate for a labourer in the civil engineering industry.  
† A revised sliding-scale related to the index of retail prices has been adopted, whereby every rise of 5 points in the index figure (calculated on the average of the preceding 12 weeks) will result in an increase of ½d. an hour. A fall of 5 points will result in a reduction of ½d. an hour, but will not affect the established basic rates quoted above, which are based upon an index figure of 100.  
‡ The bonus quoted above corresponds to an official index figure of retail prices of 106-111.  
§ Including Hinckley, Leicester, Loughborough, Nottingham, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Mansfield and district.  
¶ The bonus quoted above corresponds to an official index figure of retail prices of 105-108.  
\*\* 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 192 of this GAZETTE.  
†† Under cost-of-living bonus sliding-scale agreement. The bonus of 42½ per cent. corresponds to a figure of 106 in the index of retail prices. Similar increases of 2½ per cent. took effect on the second pay day in January (for index figure of 102) and in February (for index figure of 104).

## PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING APRIL—continued.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Aerated Waters Manufacture.	Northern Ireland	2 April	Men, youths, boys, women and girls.	Increases of 2d. an hour in general minimum time rates for men 21 years or over, of ½d., 1d. or 1½d., according to age, for youths and boys, of 1½d. for women 19 years or over, and of ½d. or 1d., according to age, for girls. General minimum time rates after change: males—foremen or syrup makers 2s. 0½d. an hour, other workers 21 years or over 1s. 9½d., youths and boys 8d. at 16, rising to 1s. 5½d. at 20; females—19 years or over 1s. 2½d., girls 8d. at 16, rising to 1s. 1d. at 18.*
Tobacco, Cigarette, etc., Manufacture.	Great Britain	16 April	Press operatives and shaping press fillers.	New general minimum time rates fixed for press operatives and shaping press fillers as follows: men 21 years or over 83s. a week, women 52s. 10d., youths, and boys 33s. 4d. at 14 years, rising to 70s. 4d. at 20, girls 29s. 4d. to 50s. 4d., plus 4s. for those employed as press operatives and 3s. for shaping press fillers.†
Fencing Manufacture.	Great Britain	Pay day in week commencing 9 Feb.	Sawyers, carpenters, machinists and juveniles.‡	Minimum hourly rates adopted for a 44-hour week as follows: Provincial area (outside a 20-mile radius from Charing Cross)—sawyers, carpenters and machinists 2s. 8½d. an hour; all areas—male workers under 21 years, 1s. 2d. an hour at 15, rising to 2s. at 20, female workers under 18, 1s. 2d. at 15, rising to 1s. 6d. at 17.‡
Millsawing	Bo'ness, Grange-mouth and South Alloa.	Beginning of first full pay period following 9 April.	Workpeople employed in pit-wood yards.	Increases of 1½d. an hour for men 19 years and over and of proportional amounts for women and younger workers, following reduction of the normal working week from 48 to 46 hours. Rates after change at 19 years and over include: men—single bench sawyers 2s. 5½d. an hour, double bench sawyers 2s. 3½d., mill loaders, tallymen and men selecting from stacks 2s. 3d., labourers 2s. 2½d.§
	Belfast	Beginning of next full pay period following 20 April.	Labourers and boys employed in sawmills.	Increase of 1d. an hour (1s. 11½d. to 2s. 0½d.) in minimum rate for adult labourers, with proportional increases for boys.
Paper Box Manufacture.	Northern Ireland	15 April	Male and female time workers	Increases of 6s. a week in general minimum time rates for male and female workers other than learners, of 6s. for male learners 21 years and over, and of 2s. for other male and female learners. General minimum time rates after change include: male workers (with 2 years' experience in the trade after serving a period of learnership)—employed on carton forme making or in charge of an automatic carton glueing machine, or a carton cutting and creasing machine fitted with fully automatic feeder 10s. a week; employed as die makers, forme setters, shear cutters, guillotine cutters, workers on (a) rotary cutting, (b) scoring when combined with rotary cutting, (c) slitting and rewinding, machine minders, head stock keepers 98s. 6d.; female workers other than learners 57s.‡
			Female pieceworkers	Increase of 1½d. an hour (1s. 2½d. to 1s. 3½d.) in piecework basis time rates; addition to piece rates raised from 90 to 100 per cent.‡
Road Roller Hire Service.	Great Britain	1 April	Drivers, other than drivers whose wages are regulated by other agreements.	Increase of 2d. an hour in standard minimum rate. Rate after change, 2s. 2d. an hour or 104s. for a 48-hour week, plus 4s. travelling allowance.
Road Haulage (Goods).	Bradford and District.	Pay day in week ending 3 April.	Drivers, attendants and mates on mechanically propelled vehicles operating under "C" licence, and horse drivers.	Increase of 5s. 6d. a week for horse drivers, and of varying amounts for drivers of mechanically propelled vehicles, following a reclassification of the carrying capacity of vehicles as a basis of remuneration; minimum rates of wages adopted for statutory attendants and mates. Rates after change include: drivers—one-horse 92s. 6d. a week, two-horse 97s. 6d.; drivers at under 19 years, rising to 92s. 6d. at 21 years and over; drivers of vehicles with carrying capacity of up to and including 2 tons 94s., over 2 tons and up to and including 6 tons 101s., over 6 tons 104s.; statutory attendants and mates (full time) 63s. at under 19 years, rising to 91s. at 21 years and over.
	Belfast	Beginning of next full pay period following 12 April.	Workpeople employed by cartage contractors.	Increase of 4s. a week. Rates after change include: horse carters—heavy team men 102s. a week, light team men 99s., one-horse 94s.; drivers of monkey wagons (one man) 103s., stablemen 94s.; lorry drivers—vehicles with carrying capacity of 2 tons and over 103s., under 2 tons 95s., assistants on lorries 94s.; steam wagon drivers 105s., assistants 94s.
Gas Undertakings.	United Kingdom	As from 6 a.m. on Sunday, 4 April.	Day workers, shift workers and pieceworkers, except those whose wages are determined by special arrangements, or by movements in other industries, (e.g., craftsmen and building trade operatives).	Total war advances for male workers 18 years of age and over increased by 1½d. an hour (37s. 0½d. to 42s. 6½d. a week of 44 hours) in the case of day workers, and by 1s. a shift (37s. 9d. to 43s. 9d. a week of 6 shifts, with additional 8d. a shift to men engaged on gas production) in the case of shift workers, with a corresponding advance for workpeople on piece rates.¶
Waterworks Undertakings.	England and Wales	From and including first full pay week in April.	Workpeople employed on day or shift work, except those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries.	War wage additions consolidated with basic rates, new consolidated rates increased by 2d. an hour, and a compensatory bonus of 1s. 10d. a week granted to shift-workers, following a reduction of the normal working week to 44 hours.**
Local Authority Service.	Glamorganshire and Monmouthshire (various authorities).††	1 April	Manual workers employed in non-trading services, except those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries.	Increases of 2d. an hour on schedule rates, and cost-of-living bonus increased by 1s. (16s. to 17s.) a week. Rates after change for labourers 1s. 11½d. an hour, plus 17s. a week cost-of-living bonus.
Retail Grocery	Londonderry	Beginning of next full pay period following 15 April.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls.	Minimum weekly rates of remuneration fixed as follows:—branch shop managers 90s. 6d. a week where the trade is under £40 weekly to 116s. where the trade is £200, manageresses 74s. to 99s., plus in each case 1s. for every £10 of weekly trade over £200 up to £350; shop assistants, van salesmen, cashiers, clerks and central warehouse staff—male workers 21s. 6d. at 16 years rising, according to age, to 85s. at 25, female workers 19s. 6d. at 16, rising to 51s. 6d. at 22; other male workers (except craftsmen, production staff, transport workers and first hands) 20s. 6d. at 16, rising to 78s. 6d. at 24.

\* These increases took effect under an Order issued under the Wages Councils Act (Northern Ireland). See page 156 of the April, 1948, issue of this GAZETTE.  
† This change took effect under an Order issued under the Wages Councils Act. See page 155 of the April, 1948, issue of this GAZETTE.  
‡ For other classes of workpeople, see entry and footnotes on page 105 of the March, 1948, issue of this GAZETTE.  
§ See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour."  
¶ This increase took effect under an Order issued under the Wages Councils Act (Northern Ireland). See page 192 of this GAZETTE.  
\*\* Shiftworkers receive an additional 9d. a shift as a compensatory bonus for the continuation of their 48-hour week after the introduction of a shorter working week for dayworkers. The current increases apply to workers whose rates of pay and conditions of service are governed by decisions of the National Joint Industrial Council for the Gas Industry, but they are subject to the terms of any Regional agreement in the case of workers between the ages of 18 and 21. Workpeople employed in London were granted additional increases on basic rates, with effect from 1st February, 1948, of 1½d. an hour for certain dayworkers, of 2d. for those labourers previously in receipt of 2s. 2d. an hour, of 1s. a shift for workers employed on shift work, and of corresponding amounts for piece workers.  
\*\*\* These increases took effect as a result of an agreement made by the National Joint Industrial Council for the Waterworks Undertakings Industry and apply to those undertakings affiliated to the constituent District Joint Councils, excluding the Metropolitan District (No. 5) where the consolidated weekly rates remain unchanged. In the North-Western District (No. 9) it was agreed, for the purpose of consolidating basic rates and war bonus, that the increase of 1½d. an hour granted in accordance with the Arbitration Panel award of 7th December, 1945, be deemed to have been 1½d. an hour. The districts represented on the National Council and the new consolidated rates for general labourers (or equivalent classes of workpeople) in these districts are as follows (where more than one rate is quoted the rates are applicable to sub-divisions of the districts): Northern 2s. 2d. an hour; Yorkshire 2s. 2d.; North-Western 2s. 2d.; Midland 2s. 2d. and 2s. 1d.; South-Midland 2s. 2d. and 2s. 1d.; South-Eastern 2s. 2d. and 2s. 1d.; South Wales and Monmouthshire 2s. 2d. (Zone 2 and Zone 3 rates have been eliminated and Zone 1 rates are payable to all workers); London (Metropolitan Water Board) 98s. a week, plus 5s. suspense payment. See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour."  
†† The authorities affected are those affiliated to the Joint Wages Boards for Local Authorities in Monmouthshire and Glamorganshire.

## PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING APRIL—continued.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Milk Distribution.	Scotland ..	Beginning of first full pay period following 20 April.	Foremen, forewomen, and female chargehands. Drivers of mechanically driven vehicles.	Increases of 5s. a week in minimum rates for foremen and forewomen (102s. to 107s.), and of 10s. 6d. for female chargehands (63s. to 73s. 6d.).* To receive the appropriate rates laid down in current Orders of the Road Haulage Central Wages Board.†
			Male clerks and male and female workers employed in collection or delivery work by horse or mechanically driven vehicles, in garaging, in horse or motor keeping, in cleaning vehicles or in stable work.	Increases of 8s. 6d. a week in minimum rates for workers 21 years or over, and of varying amounts for younger workers. Minimum rates after change: 33s. at under 16 (previously the lowest rate was for workers under 15) rising, according to age, to 95s. 6d. at 21 or over, and to 98s. 6d. for male clerks 22 or over.*
			All other male workers and roundswomen (not working with horse or mechanically driven vehicles).	Increases of 5s. a week in minimum rates for workers 21 years or over, and of varying amounts for younger workers. Minimum rates after change: 33s. at under 16 (previously the lowest rate was for workers under 15) rising, according to age, to 90s. 6d. at 21 or over.*
			Female clerks ..	Increases of 3s. 6d. a week in minimum rates for women 21 years or over, and of varying amounts for younger workers. Minimum rates after change: 32s. 6d. at under 16 (previously the lowest rate was for workers under 15) rising, according to age, to 67s. at 21 or over.*
Retail Confectionery.	Scotland ..	Beginning of first full pay period following 5 April.	Females ..	Increases of 12s. to 16s. a week, according to age, in minimum rates for first assistants, and of 3s. 6d. to 16s., according to age, for assistants. Minimum rates after change for a 48-hour week: first assistants in shops with four or more employees—up to and including 20 years of age 37s. a week, 21 and under 22 64s., 22 and under 23 68s., 23 and under 24 72s., 24 and over 76s.; first assistants in shops with less than four employees—52s., 59s., 63s., 67s., and 71s.; assistants 25s. at 15 years rising, according to age, to 66s. at 24.
Sports and Games Equipment Manufacture.	Great Britain ..	Beginning of first pay period after 22 April.	Men, youths, boys, women and girls.	Increases of 3d. an hour in the minimum basic rates for men employed as skilled leather workers and cricket ball makers, of 1d. for men in other occupations, and of proportionate amounts for other workers; minimum basic rate of 2s. 10d. an hour adopted for tennis makers and finishers. Rates after change include: wood and kindred workers—men, general bench woodworkers, woodworking machinists and hand wood turners 2s. 7d. an hour, golf (head makers, grinders, blacksmiths), hockey makers and cricket makers 2s. 6d., golf shafters and tennis gluers 2s. 4d., golf (grippers, wood head papers, iron and wood head finishers), tennis grippers and knotters 2s. 2d., unskilled labour 2s.; leather—skilled 2s. 6d., semi-skilled 2s. 2d., unskilled 2s.; skilled cricket ball makers 2s. 6d., semi-skilled 2s. 2d., unskilled 2s. Piecework rates to be fixed so that the average worker is able to earn at least 25 per cent. above the appropriate minimum time rate.

## PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED DURING APRIL.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Linen and Cotton Handkerchief and Household Goods and Linen Piece Goods Manufacture.	Northern Ireland	19 April	Men, youths, boys, women and girls.	Normal weekly working hours beyond which overtime rates become payable reduced from 47 to 45.†
Millsawing	Bo'ness, Grange-mouth and South Alloa.	Beginning of first full pay period following 9 April.	Workpeople employed in pit-wood yards.	Normal working week reduced from 48 to 46 hours.†
Waterworks Undertakings.	England and Wales	From and including first full pay week in April.	Workpeople employed on day or shift work, except those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries.	Normal working week reduced from 47 to 44 hours for dayworkers (spread over 5½ days), and from 48 to an average of 44 hours (calculated over the normal shift cycle) for shift workers. †

\* These increases are the result of an award of the National Arbitration Tribunal and apply to workers in the employment of firms represented by the Scottish Milk Trade Federation.  
† 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	103
1948				
January .. .. .	104	104	106	104
February .. .. .	104	105	106	104
March .. .. .	104	106	107	105
April .. .. .	105	107	107	105

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN APRIL.

**Number and Magnitude.**—The number of stoppages of work\* arising from industrial disputes in the United Kingdom, reported to the Department as beginning in April, was 184. In addition, 18 stoppages which began before April were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The approximate number of workers thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes, is estimated at 86,000. The aggregate number of working days lost at the establishments concerned, during April, was about 619,000.

Of the stoppages of work through industrial disputes known to have been in progress at some time in April, the coal mining industry accounted for 129, involving 44,500 workers, and resulting in an aggregate loss of 120,000 working days.

The following Table gives an analysis, by groups of industries, of stoppages of work in April due to industrial disputes:—

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 .. .. .	4	125	129	44,500	120,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding .. .. .	5	28	33	28,300	462,000
Clothing .. .. .	1	5	6	2,100	13,000
Transport .. .. .	2	9	11	6,800	9,000
Distribution, Commerce, etc. .. .. .	1	1	2	2,100	7,000
Other Industries and Services .. .. .	5	16	21	2,200	8,000
Total, April, 1948 ..	18	184	202	86,000	619,000
Total, March, 1948 ..	16	197	213	62,000	227,000
Total, April, 1947 ..	18	234	252	70,700	244,000

In the 184 stoppages which began during April, over 54,000 workers were directly involved, and nearly 25,000 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 April, and were still in progress at the beginning of that month, the total number of workers involved during April, either directly or indirectly, was nearly 7,000.

**Duration.**—Of 188 stoppages of work, owing to disputes, which ended during April, 88, directly involving 7,100 workers, lasted not more than one day; 44, directly involving 11,200 workers, lasted two days; 19, directly involving 4,000 workers, lasted three

days; 22, directly involving 8,400 workers, lasted four to six days; and 15, directly involving 30,000 workers, lasted over six days.

**Causes.**—Of the 184 disputes leading to stoppages of work which began in April, 10, directly involving 26,200 workers, arose out of demands for advances in wages, and 57, directly involving 10,900 workers, on other wage questions; 6, directly involving 500 workers, on questions as to working hours; 32, directly involving 4,500 workers, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; 72, directly involving 10,500 workers, on other questions respecting working arrangements; and 7, directly involving 1,900 workers, on questions of trade union principle.

## TOTALS FOR THE FIRST FOUR 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 four months of 1948 and in the corresponding months of 1947:—

Industry Group.	January to April, 1948.			January to April, 1947.		
	Number of Stoppages beginning in period.	Number of Workers involved in all Stoppages in progress.	Aggregate 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.	Aggregate Number of Working Days lost in all Stoppages in progress.
Coal Mining .. .. .	440	109,900†	289,000	456	70,900†	132,000
Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc. .. .. .	8	1,200	6,000	7	700	2,000
Engineering .. .. .	44	12,000	32,000	32	3,400	11,000
Shipbuilding .. .. .	24	12,600	193,000	52	55,400	272,000
Iron and Steel and Other Metal .. .. .	45	28,200	466,000	37	6,200	12,000
Textile .. .. .	24	11,900	48,000	7	800	4,000
Clothing .. .. .	15	5,500	22,000	5	600	6,000
Food, Drink and Tobacco .. .. .	12	2,500	9,000	9	800	3,000
Woodworking, Furniture, etc. .. .. .	9	400	3,000	9	700	2,000
Building .. .. .	15	1,000	4,000	20	2,600	9,000
Transport .. .. .	54	29,300	108,000	41	68,500	348,000
Public Administration Services .. .. .	8	2,400	12,000	5	3,000	44,000
Distribution, Commerce, etc. .. .. .	7	3,000	10,000	11	10,000	49,000
All Other Industries .. .. .	27	4,600	14,000	27	8,200	33,000
Total .. .. .	732	224,500†	1,216,000	718	231,800†	927,000

## PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING APRIL.

Occupations‡ and Locality.	Approximate Number of Workers involved.		Date when Stoppage		Cause or Object.	Result.
	Directly.	Indirectly.†	Began.	Ended.		
<b>COAL MINING:—</b> Shotfirers, deputies, overmen and other colliery workers—Yorkshire, Staffordshire and Derbyshire (various collieries). Colliery workers—Castleford, Yorkshire (one colliery).	940	17,920	12 April	30 April	Protest against alleged slowness of negotiations for increased wages for shotfirers.	Work resumed pending negotiations.
<b>BRICK MANUFACTURE:—</b> Workers employed on brick production—Calvert, Buckinghamshire (one firm).	530	..	19 April	20 April	Objection to the continued employment of two non-unionists.	One worker left firm's employment; understanding reached to permit the other to remain on old conditions of service.
<b>VEHICLE BUILDING, ETC.:—</b> Coach and bodybuilders, trimmers, woodcutting machinists, fitters, blacksmiths, etc., employed by private firms and municipal undertakings engaged in vehicle building and maintenance—Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	23,000	..	2 April	27 April	In support of a demand for an increase of 3d. an hour for adult male workers with proportionate increases for women and boys.	Work resumed unconditionally on advice of trade union executives.
<b>CLOTHING:—</b> Workers employed in laundering, dyeing and cleaning—Cambuslang, Glasgow (one firm).	650	..	31 Mar.	8 April	Demand for a "closed shop" and subsequent demand for the reinstatement of a dismissed union official.	Dismissed official re-instated and firm agreed to exhibit a notice recommending workers to become members of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers.
<b>TRANSPORT:—</b> Stevedores and dockers—Port of London.	5,630	..	5 April	6 April	Objection by members of the National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers to the transfer of two of their members from piecework to subordinate positions on daywork.	Workers re-instated in their piece-work jobs on their old status.
<b>DISTRIBUTION:—</b> Shop assistants employed by certain Co-operative Societies—Manchester Area.	2,020	..	13 Mar.‡	27 April§	Demand that the Societies' shops should be closed on Saturday afternoons.	Demand granted.

\* 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 90,000 and in the corresponding period in 1947 was approximately 60,000. For all industries combined the corresponding net total for each year was approximately 200,000.

‡ 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.

§ A series of Saturday afternoon stoppages from 13th March to 24th April (inclusive) was followed by whole-day stoppages on 26th and 27th April.



INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES.

FIGURES FOR 13th APRIL, 1948 (PRICES AT 17th JUNE, 1947, TAKEN AS =100).

All Items 108 : Food 109.

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 following Table shows the indices at 13th April for each of the main groups of items and for the groups combined, together with the relative weights which are used in combining the group indices into a single "all items" index :-

Table with 3 columns: GROUP, INDEX FIGURE FOR 13th APRIL, 1948, and WEIGHT. Rows include I. Food, II. Rent and rates, III. Clothing, IV. Fuel and light, V. Household durable goods, VI. Miscellaneous goods, VII. Services, VIII. Drink and tobacco, and All items.

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.†

On the above basis, and taking the level of prices at 17th June, 1947, as 100, the "all items" index at 13th April was 108, compared with 106 at 16th March. The rise in the index during the month under review was mainly accounted for by increased prices for alcoholic drink and tobacco resulting from the increases in the customs and excise duties from 7th April.

In the food group there were increases in the prices of potatoes, cabbage, tomatoes, and some kinds of miscellaneous manufactured foods, including cocoa. To a small extent these increases were offset by reductions in the prices of onions and cauliflower. The remaining articles of food covered by the index showed relatively little movement in price between 16th March and 13th April.

Rent and rates.—There were reductions in the amount of local rates in many areas in April, but these reductions were partly offset by increases in rates in other areas and, in a few areas, by some upward movement in the net rents of dwellings owned by local authorities. For the group as a whole there was a fall of about 1 per cent. in the average level of inclusive rents during the month, and the index for 13th April was 99, compared with 100 at 16th March.

In the clothing group there were increases in the prices of footwear (other than rubber footwear), overalls, clothing materials and many articles of clothing, including substantial increases in the prices of women's fully fashioned Utility stockings as a result of the imposition of purchase tax. To a small extent these increases were offset by reductions in the prices for men's and women's hats (following a reduction in the rate of purchase tax on non-Utility headgear) and small decreases in the prices for children's rubber footwear. As a result of these various changes, the average level of clothing prices rose by nearly 1 per cent. during the month and, expressed to the nearest whole number, the index at 13th April was 106, compared with 105 at 16th March.

In the fuel and light group such changes as occurred were of relatively little importance and the index figure for the group as a whole, expressed to the nearest whole number, was 110 at 13th April, the same figure as at 16th March.

In the group covering household durable goods there were numerous changes in prices during the month. Reductions in the prices of vacuum cleaners, sewing machines, mangles, carpets and rugs, electric bulbs and tennis rackets followed the reduction in the rate of purchase tax, but these were partly offset by increases in the prices of metal kitchen cabinets, radio sets, alarm clocks, grammo-

phone records, electric fires and gas fires resulting from an increase in the rate of purchase tax on these articles. In addition prices for children's cots rose, on the average, by about 10 per cent. and there were small increases in the prices of most of the articles of drapery and soft furnishings included in the index. For the group as a whole there was a fall of rather less than one-half of 1 per cent. in the average level of prices between 16th March and 13th April and, expressed to the nearest whole number, the index at 13th April was 107, compared with 108 at 16th March.

In the group covering miscellaneous goods there was an average reduction of nearly 12 per cent. in the prices of toilet soaps and substantial reductions in the prices for tooth paste, cosmetics, razor blades and writing paper, following the reduction in the rate of purchase tax on these articles. For the group as a whole there was a fall of rather more than 2 per cent. in the average level of prices during the month and, expressed to the nearest whole number, the index at 13th April was 109, compared with 111 at 16th March.

In the services group there was little change in the average level of prices during the month, and for the group as a whole the index at 13th April, to the nearest whole number, was 105, the same figure as at 16th March.

In the drink and tobacco group there were general increases in the prices of beer, whisky, cigarettes and pipe tobacco as a result of the increases in the customs and excise duties which came into operation from 7th April, and at 13th April the index figure, expressed to the nearest whole number, was 111, compared with 104 at 16th March.

The price comparisons used in compiling 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 :-

Table with 3 columns: Date, Food Index, All Items Index. Rows show data from 17th June 1947 to 13th April 1948.

A full description of the method of construction and calculation of the index, "Industrial Relations Handbook, Supplement No. 2. Index of Retail Prices," is obtainable, price 6d. net (7d., post free), from H.M. Stationery Office, at the addresses shown on the front cover of this GAZETTE.

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.

Table with 7 columns: 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, Rise of Index Figure since August, 1939, Index Points, Per Cent. Rows include European countries like Czechoslovakia, Finland, and other countries like Australia, Canada, Peru, etc.

\* 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 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; Iceland, 1st September, 1939; Italy, average of 1938; Australia, June, 1939; Canada, beginning of September, 1939; Peru, average of 1934-36. ‡ Figure supplied by Labour Attaché.

SHIPBUILDING : 1st QUARTER, 1948.

According to Lloyd's Register Shipbuilding Returns for the quarter ended 31st March, 1948, the number of merchant steamers and motorships under construction in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at the end of March was 462, with a gross tonnage of 2,138,035 tons, compared with 454 vessels of 2,162,982 tons gross at the end of December, 1947, and 432 vessels of 2,023,143 tons gross at the end of March, 1947. The gross tonnage of vessels under construction at the end of the quarter showed, for the first time since December, 1944, a decrease (of 24,947 tons) compared with the figure for the previous quarter, but was greater by 114,892 tons than the tonnage being built at the end of March, 1947, and, with the exception of the fourth quarter of 1947, had not been exceeded since March, 1922, when the total tonnage of steamers and motorships under construction was 2,233,498 tons. It was pointed out, however, that the tonnage under construction was necessarily influenced by the delays which present circumstances were imposing upon the completion of ships and the consequent prolongation of the time required for building them.

The numbers of propelled vessels commenced in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during the first quarter of 1948 were 46 steamers of 75,697 tons and 43 motorships of 137,754 tons, making a total of 89 vessels of 213,451 tons gross. The numbers launched during the same period were 25 steamers of 62,176 tons and 40 motorships of 118,992 tons, making a total of 65 vessels of 181,168 tons gross. The numbers completed during the period were 24 steamers of 79,032 tons and 57 motorships of 154,607 tons, a total of 81 vessels of 233,639 tons gross.

The figures quoted above exclude vessels of less than 100 tons gross. They also exclude non-propelled vessels (sail and barges). The number of non-propelled vessels under construction in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 38, of 11,509 tons, at the end of March, 1948, compared with 34, of 10,379 tons, at the end of December, 1947, and 24, of 8,572 tons, at the end of March, 1947.

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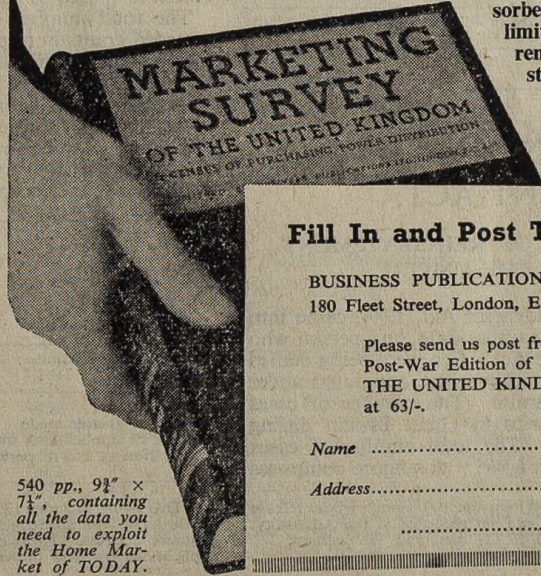
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RELEASES AND DISCHARGES FROM THE FORCES.

STATISTICS FOR MARCH, 1948.

During March, 1948, the number of men and women reported as released and discharged from the Forces and Auxiliary and Nursing Services was 85,220.

Particulars are given below showing in detail the numbers of releases and discharges (a) reported during March, and (b) effected during the period from 18th June, 1945, to 31st March, 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.

Table with columns for Service, Class A, Class B, Other Releases and Discharges, Total. Rows for March 1948 (Men, Women) and 18th June 1945 to 31st March 1948 (Men, Women, Total).

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

Table with columns for Service, Men (Pro-gramme, Releases, Excess/Deficit), Women (Pro-gramme, Releases, Excess/Deficit), Total.

REINSTATEMENT IN CIVIL EMPLOYMENT ACT.

ANALYSIS OF DECISIONS OF REINSTATEMENT COMMITTEES AND THE UMPIRE.

The Reinstatement in Civil Employment Act, 1944, came into operation on 1st August, 1944. Since that date, any person who claimed that he had rights under the Act which were being denied him could apply to a Reinstatement Committee...

\* These figures include an estimate of 1,400 men and 100 women whose release had been effected at 31st March, 1948, but not yet recorded at the Admiralty.

406 cases decided during the period 1st January to 31st March, 1948, 1,777 cases decided during 1947, 4,277 cases decided during 1946, and 505 cases decided during the period 1st August, 1944, to 31st December, 1945.

The figures for the first quarter of 1948 show a considerable increase as compared with the last two quarters of 1947. This increase follows an increase of approximately 45 per cent. in the number of releases from H.M. Forces in the months of January and February, 1948, as compared with the monthly average for 1947.

Where a Committee are satisfied that default has been made by the former employer in the discharge of his obligations under the Act, the Committee may make an order for reinstatement or for compensation, or for both, having regard to all the circumstances of the case and the nature and extent of the default.

The Table below analyses the decisions given by Reinstatement Committees (a) during the March quarter of 1948 and (b) in the whole period up to 31st March, 1948.

Table with columns for Orders requiring employment to be made available to applicant, Orders requiring payment of compensation for loss by reason of default, Orders for both reinstatement and compensation, Cases where no order was made against the employer concerned, Total of cases decided.

The Act makes provision for appeal from decisions of Reinstatement Committees to the Umpire under the Act. Up to 31st March, 1948, the Umpire gave his decision in respect of 867 appeals.

The Act has effect also in Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man. The total number of cases determined by Reinstatement Committees in Northern Ireland up to 31st March, 1948, was 36, of which 22 were determined in favour of the applicant.

GRANTS FOR TRAINING IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.

The figures given below relate to the scheme of financial grants from the Government to students taking the courses of training in business administration set up under the auspices of local education authorities.

The total number of students who, at 24th April, had been awarded grants in respect of three-term courses was 764 (of whom 123 had been eligible for grants under the Business Training Scheme but had failed to obtain training places in the last of the General Business Courses).

The following Table gives various figures in relation to the scheme (a) during the twelve weeks ended 24th April, and (b) during the period from the inception of the scheme to 24th April :-

Table with columns for 12 Weeks ended 24th April, 1948, Cumulative Totals to 24th April, 1948, Three-term Courses, Three Months Courses.

\* This figure includes 123 awards made to applicants eligible for grants under the Business Training Scheme who failed to obtain places in the last of the General Business Courses.

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 previous issues of this GAZETTE (see last month's issue, page 153).

The total number of applicants admitted to training during the period under review was 959, and in all 8,069 persons were in training at the end of the period. The latter figure includes 6,730 males and 1,339 females, and of the total 3,363 were disabled persons.

Vocational and Disabled Training Schemes--Statistics for four weeks ended 5th April, 1948.

Table with columns for Males, Females, Total. Rows for Applicants admitted to training during period, Number of persons in training at end of period, Trainees placed in employment during period.

During the period from the inception of the Vocational Training Scheme on 2nd July, 1945, up to 5th April, 1948, the total number of trainees placed in employment was 68,154, of whom 62,910 were males and 5,244 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 April, 1948; they are in continuation of those published in previous issues of this GAZETTE.

Up to the end of April, 160,895 applications for financial assistance had been received under the Scheme; of this total, 147,161 applications were from men and 13,734 from women.

The Table below gives particulars of the progress made under the Scheme (a) during April, 1948, and (b) during the period since the inception of the Scheme up to 30th April, 1948.

Table with columns for Men, Women, Total. Rows for Number of applications for assistance made, Number of awards made by, Number of applications rejected, Number of applications for assistance made, Number of awards made by.

\* This figure includes over 3,500 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 April was 145, compared with 145 (revised) in March, 1948, and 131 in April, 1947.

The number of workpeople (other than seamen) in the United Kingdom, 70 fatal accidents were reported in April, 1948, compared with 12 in March, 1948, and 23 in April, 1947.\*

Table with columns for MINES AND QUARRIES, FACTORIES-continued, RAILWAY SERVICE, SEAMEN. Rows for Under-Coal Mines Acts, Electrical Stations, Other Industries, Works and Places Under ss. 105, 107, 108, FACTORIES Act, 1937, etc.

INDUSTRIAL DISEASES.

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

Table with columns for I. Cases, I. Cases-continued, II. Deaths. Rows for LEAD POISONING, ANTHRAX, Epitheliomatous Ulceration (SKIN CANCER), OTHER POISONING.

\* These figures exclude fatal accidents to seamen directly attributable to causes arising from the war; no such accidents were reported in April, 1948, March, 1948, or April, 1947.



*Sack and Bag Wages Council (Great Britain).*—Proposal S.B. (26), dated 27th April, 1948; relating to the fixing of revised general minimum time rates, piece work basis time rates and overtime rates.

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 April, 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 Shirtmaking Wages Council (Great Britain) Wages Regulation Order, 1948:* S.I. 1948, No. 687 (S. (33)), dated 5th April, and effective from 19th April, 1948.—This Order makes special provision for trainees under the Government Vocational Training Scheme.

*The Dressmaking and Women's Light Clothing Wages Council (Scotland) Wages Regulation Order, 1948:* S.I. 1948, No. 764 (S/54) (W.D.S. (44)), dated 14th April, and effective from 30th April, 1948.—This Order prescribes the general minimum time rates for female workers in the retail branch of the trade.—See page 182.

*The Jute Wages Council (Great Britain) Wages Regulation Order, 1948:* S.I. 1948, No. 838 (J. (78)), dated 23rd April, and effective from 14th May, 1948.—This Order prescribes the general minimum time rates, guaranteed time rates, piece work basis time rates and additional time rates, general minimum piece rates and overtime rates.

### WAGES COUNCILS ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND), 1945.

#### NOTICE OF PROPOSAL.

During April, 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:—

*Shirtmaking Wages Council (Northern Ireland).*—Proposal N.I.S. (N.37), dated 9th April, 1948; relating to the fixing of revised general minimum time rates, piece work basis time rates and overtime rates for male and female workers and general minimum piece rates for female out-workers.

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 April, 1948, the Ministry of Labour and National Insurance made the following Wages Regulation Orders\* giving

\* Copies of official publications (including Orders, Regulations, etc.) referred to in the GAZETTE may be purchased from H.M. Stationery Office at any of the addresses shown on the front cover.

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 Order, 1948 (N.I.H.G. (N.96)),* dated 14th April, and effective from 19th April, 1948.—This Order prescribes increases in general minimum time rates, piece work basis time rates and overtime rates for male and female workers and general minimum piece rates for female workers. The Order also provides for the reduction in the normal weekly hours of work from 47 to 45.—See page 182.

*The Paper Box Wages Council (Northern Ireland) Wages Regulation (Amendment) Order, 1948 (N.I.B. (40)),* dated 9th April, and effective from 15th April, 1948.—This Order prescribes increases in general minimum time rates for male and female workers, and increases in piece work basis time rates and general minimum piece rates for female workers.—See page 183.

*The Paper Box Wages Council (Northern Ireland) Wages Regulation (Holidays) Order, 1948 (N.I.B. (41)),* dated 19th April, and effective from 23rd April, 1948, prescribes the customary and annual holidays to be allowed to workers and fixes payment for all such holidays.

### NOTICE

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS AND SALES.

All communications concerning subscriptions and sales of this GAZETTE should be addressed to H.M. Stationery Office at one of the addresses shown on the front cover.

Communications with regard to the contents of the GAZETTE should be addressed to the Director of Statistics, Ministry of Labour and National Service, Orphanage Road, Watford, Herts. (Telephone: Colindale 7000).

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