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# THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE

## Principal Contents

*Employment, Wages, Hours of Labour, Cost of Living, and Trade Disputes :*

*Annual Review for 1939.*

*Statistics for December, 1939.*

*Changes in the Numbers of Insured Persons in Employment, 1923-1939: Analysis by Industries and Areas.*

*Co-operative Societies in 1938.*

*Wages of Road Haulage Workers.*

*International Labour Organisation: Activities since the outbreak of War.*

*War-Time Labour Legislation in Germany.*

*Index to Volume XLVII (Jan.-Dec., 1939).*

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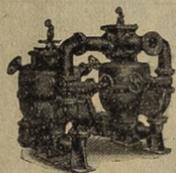
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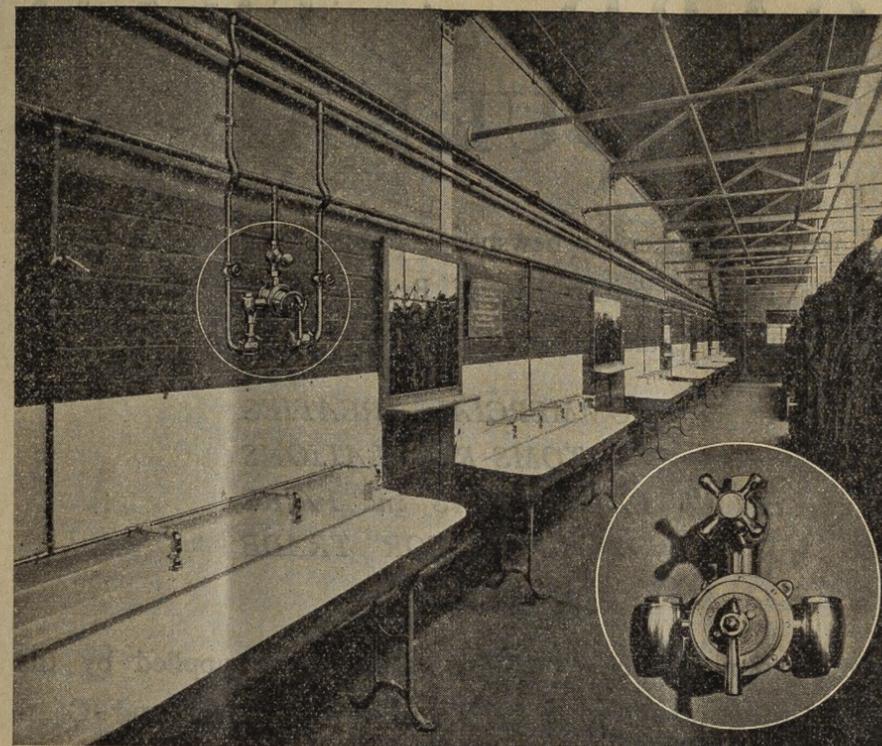
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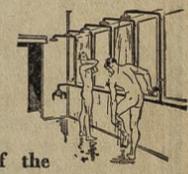
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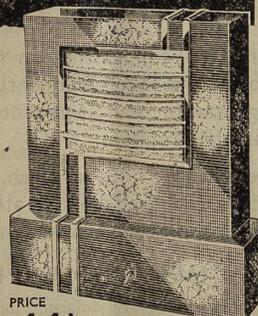
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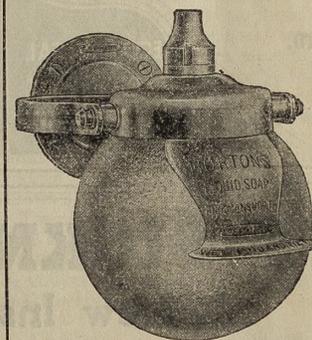
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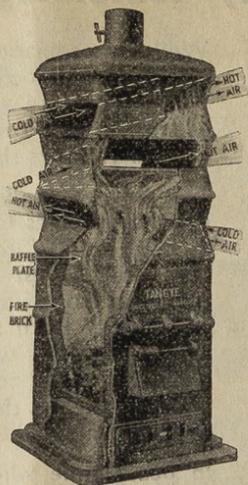
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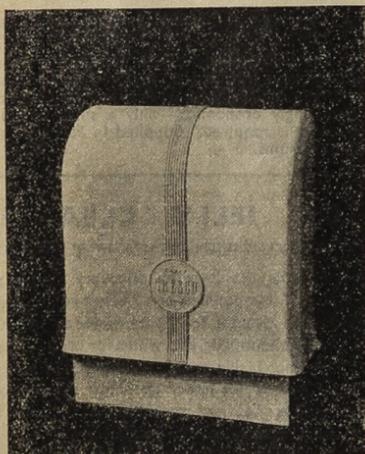
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# THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR GAZETTE

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

VOL. XLVIII.—No. 1.]

JANUARY, 1940.

[PRICE SIXPENCE NET.]

## EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, COST OF LIVING, AND TRADE DISPUTES IN DECEMBER.

### EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

EMPLOYMENT at 11th December showed an improvement as compared with 13th November.

*Numbers Wholly Unemployed (excluding Persons normally in Casual Employment).—*At 11th December, 1939, there were 1,170,798 persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain who were out of a situation. This was 42,547 less than at 13th November, 1939, and 303,221 less than at 12th December, 1938.

*Numbers Temporarily Stopped.—*At 11th December, 1939, there were registered as unemployed in Great Britain 143,065 persons who were on short time or otherwise temporarily suspended from work. This was 7,832 more than at 13th November, 1939, but 151,643 less than at 12th December, 1938.

*Numbers unemployed normally in Casual Employment.—*At 11th December, 1939, there were on the registers in Great Britain, 47,662 unemployed persons who normally seek a livelihood by means of jobs of short duration. This was 6,348 less than at 13th November, 1939, and 14,983 less than at 12th December, 1938.

*Applicants for Benefit or Allowances.—*The total of 1,361,525 persons on the registers at 11th December, 1939, included 1,187,910 applicants for benefit or allowances and 173,615 non-claimants. As compared with 13th November, 1939 there were reductions of 16,589 in the number of applicants for benefit or allowances and of 24,474 in the number of non-claimants.

*Percentages Unemployed.—*Among insured persons, aged 16-64, the percentage unemployed in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 11th December, 1939, was 9.1 as compared with 9.2 at 13th November, 1939, and 12.7 at 12th December, 1938. For persons insured under the general scheme the corresponding percentages were 9.1 at 11th December, 1939, 9.5 at 13th November, 1939, and 12.9 at 12th December, 1938. For persons within the agricultural scheme the percentages were 7.4, 5.1 and 8.9 respectively.

*Industries in which the Principal Variations occurred.—*There were reductions, between 13th November and 11th December, in the numbers unemployed in the distributive trades, hotel and boarding house service, dock, harbour, etc., service, the cotton industry, printing and bookbinding, the entertainment, sport, etc., industries, motor vehicle, cycle and aircraft manufacture, engineering, ship building and repairing, and the road transport and shipping services. On the other hand, unemployment increased for seasonal reasons in agriculture, horticulture, etc., and the building industry; there was also some increase, due to temporary causes, in the numbers suspended from work in the coal mining industry.

### WAGES.

In the industries for which statistics are regularly compiled by the Department, the changes in rates of wages reported to have come into operation in December are estimated to have resulted in an increase of about £250,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 2,155,000 workpeople, and in a decrease of £350 in those of 46,000 workpeople.

The principal groups of workpeople whose wages were increased included coal miners in Northumberland, Yorkshire, North Derbyshire, Cannock Chase, North Staffordshire, Leicestershire, and Warwickshire; iron puddlers and millmen in the Midlands; women and girls employed in federated engineering establishments; tinsplate makers in South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire; workers engaged in heating and domestic engineering; workers employed in cement manufacture; drug and fine chemical workers; paint, colour, and varnish workers; brickmakers; linen workers in Northern Ireland; workers employed in the ready-made and wholesale bespoke tailoring trades; shirtmakers; boot and shoe makers; building trade operatives; civil engineering construction workers; and employees of municipal tramway, trolleybus and omnibus undertakings in Great Britain. The decrease affected coal miners in Nottinghamshire.

The changes reported to have come into operation in 1939 are estimated to have resulted in a net increase of about £900,000 a week in the full-time wages of nearly 5½ million workpeople, and in a net decrease of £10,000 in those of 68,000 workpeople.

### COST OF LIVING.

At 1st January, the average level of retail prices of the commodities taken into account in the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Labour (including food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and miscellaneous items) was approximately 74 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, as compared with 73 per cent. at 1st December, 1939.

The rise of one point in the index figure at 1st January, as compared with 1st December, was due mainly to increases in the prices of clothing and of gas. The index figure for food was the same at 1st January as at 1st December, viz., 57 per cent. above the level of July, 1914.

Further particulars are given on page 28.

### TRADE DISPUTES.

The number of trade disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in December, was 40. In addition, 12 disputes which began before December were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The approximate number of workpeople involved in these 52 disputes, including workpeople thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, was 16,000, and the aggregate duration of the disputes in December was about 36,000 working days.

The aggregate duration of all disputes in progress during 1939 was about 1,344,000 working days, and the total number of workpeople involved in these disputes was about 337,000.

## EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, HOURS OF LABOUR, COST OF LIVING, AND TRADE DISPUTES IN 1939.

## EMPLOYMENT.

Employment in 1939 showed a marked improvement, on the whole, as compared with the previous year. After the usual seasonal increase in unemployment in January, there were substantial reductions in the numbers unemployed, month by month from February to August, and during the later months of that period the numbers in employment were the highest ever recorded. At 14th August, the number of persons registered as unemployed in Great Britain showed a reduction of over 527,000, and the number of insured persons in employment showed an increase of about 650,000, as compared with 15th August, 1938. The outbreak of the war, however, while creating new demands for labour, caused some dislocation affecting the employment of workpeople in many directions, and resulted in a sharp increase in the numbers registered as unemployed in September and October. The increase occurred mainly among women and girls, and was partly due to the registration of evacuated women and others who were offering their services for work in connection with the war, a large proportion of whom had not previously been in insured employment. In November and December there was some reduction in unemployment, and at 11th December the total number registered as unemployed, though higher by about 130,000 than at 14th August, was 470,000 lower than at 12th December, 1938.

The Table below shows the estimated numbers of insured persons, aged 16-64, in employment in Great Britain at one date in each month from December, 1938, to August, 1939. The figures headed "Old Series" exclude, while those headed "New Series" include, workpeople insured under the agricultural scheme, and persons in the classes of domestic employments which were brought within the scope of the unemployment insurance scheme in April, 1938. Since the outbreak of the war, some of the information required for the compilation of monthly estimates of the numbers of insured persons in employment has not been available, and corresponding figures cannot, therefore, be given for dates subsequent to August, 1939.

	Old Series	New Series
1938		
12th December ...	11,466,000	12,273,000
1939		
16th January ...	11,299,000	12,088,000
13th February ...	11,435,000	12,231,000
13th March ...	11,606,000	12,414,000
17th April ...	11,712,000	12,529,000
15th May ...	11,870,000	12,690,000
12th June ...	12,005,000	12,838,000
10th July ...	12,112,000	12,948,000
14th August ...	12,110,000*	12,944,000*

In each month, from February onwards, the numbers in employment showed large increases as compared with those for the corresponding date in 1938, ranging from 97,000 in February to 699,000 in July, and the figures for May to August were the highest ever recorded.

The average numbers of insured persons, aged 16-64, in employment in Great Britain in each year since 1924 were as shown below. The figures given are those of the "Old Series," exclusive of persons within the agricultural scheme and persons in the domestic employments which first became insurable in April, 1938; corresponding figures for the "New Series," i.e. including these classes, are not available for any date prior to July, 1938.

1924 ...	9,526,000	1932 ...	9,348,000
1925 ...	9,611,000	1933 ...	9,681,000
1926 ...	9,062,000	1934 ...	10,139,000
1927 ...	10,015,000	1935 ...	10,377,000
1928 ...	10,019,000	1936 ...	10,912,000
1929 ...	10,220,000	1937 ...	11,497,000†
1930 ...	9,797,000	1938 ...	11,410,000
1931 ...	9,421,000	1939 (Jan.-Aug.)	11,769,000

The average for the first eight months of 1939 was considerably higher than that for the corresponding period of either 1938 or 1937, and was much higher than the average for any previous year.

The average percentage unemployed among insured persons, aged 16-64, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland in 1939 (including persons within the general and agricultural schemes and the special schemes for the banking and insurance industries) was 10.3, as compared with 12.6 in 1938. For the general scheme (including the special schemes) the percentages were 10.5 in 1939 and 12.9 in 1938; for the agricultural scheme the figure was 6.1 in both years.

As the agricultural scheme of unemployment insurance did not come into operation until May, 1936, the percentages of unemployment among workpeople covered by that scheme are not available for any year prior to 1937. The following Table, however, gives for

\* Approximate figure, exclusive of about 50,000 militiamen and reservists who had been called up for military training.

† Comparability of the figures for 1937 and subsequent years with those for earlier years is affected by the introduction, in September, 1937, of a revised procedure for counting the unemployed (see the October, 1937, issue of this GAZETTE, page 379). The figure of 11,497,000 given in the Table is the average of figures (a) for January to August, 1937, compiled on the basis of the old procedure for counting the unemployed, and (b) for September to December on the new basis. It is estimated that if the old procedure had been in force throughout the year the average for 1937 would have been about 11,480,000. If the new procedure had been in operation throughout that year, the average would have been about 11,530,000 and this figure is comparable with the average of 11,410,000 for 1938.

each of the years 1921 to 1938 the average percentages unemployed among insured persons, aged 16-64, exclusive of agricultural workers, (a) in Great Britain and (b) in Great Britain and Northern Ireland:

Year.	Percentage unemployed.		Year.	Percentage unemployed.	
	Great Britain.	Great Britain and Northern Ireland.		Great Britain.	Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
1921 ...	16.6	17.0	1931 ...	21.1	21.3
1922 ...	14.1	14.3	1932 ...	21.9	22.1
1923 ...	11.6	11.7	1933 ...	19.8	19.9
1924 ...	10.2	10.3	1934 ...	16.6	16.7
1925 ...	11.0	11.3	1935 ...	15.3	15.5
1926 ...	12.3	12.5	1936 ...	12.9	13.1
1927 ...	9.6	9.7	1937 ...	10.6*	10.8*
1928 ...	10.7	10.8	1938 ...	12.5*	12.9*
1929 ...	10.3	10.4	1939 ...	10.3*	10.5*
1930 ...	15.8	16.1			

The percentages unemployed at one date in each month of 1939, and the numbers of unemployed persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges at the same dates, are given in Tables on page 18. At 14th August, 1939, the percentage unemployed among all insured persons, aged 16-64, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 8.5, as compared with 12.2 at 15th August, 1938; and at 11th December, 1939, it was 9.1, as compared with 12.7 at 12th December, 1938. The percentage unemployed at 14th August was the lowest recorded since the summer of 1927.

The total number of unemployed persons (insured and uninsured) on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 12th December, 1938, was approximately 1,919,000, of whom 1,619,000 were wholly unemployed (including persons normally in casual employment) and 300,000 were temporarily stopped. After a seasonal increase to 1,748,000 in January, the numbers wholly unemployed (including casuals) decreased to 1,078,000 in August. This was the lowest figure recorded for any date since November, 1929. After the outbreak of the war the total rose to 1,350,000 in October but declined to 1,295,000 in December, 1939, showing a decrease of 324,000 as compared with December, 1938.

The numbers temporarily stopped increased to 386,000 in January but thereafter declined to 197,000 in July. There were increases in August and September, followed by marked reductions in October and November; and although there was a further increase at 11th December, the total of 146,000 at the latter date was less than half of that for 12th December, 1938.

The number of unemployed men and boys on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 11th December, 1939, was approximately 992,000, showing a decrease of over 500,000 compared with 12th December, 1938. The total number of women and girls registered at 11th December, 1939, was 449,000, showing an increase of 23,000 as compared with a year earlier. This increase was due to a rise of over 39,000, between the same dates, in the number of women and girls who were not claiming unemployment benefit or allowances. The great majority of these had not previously been in insured employment, and a considerable proportion were offering their services for work in connection with the war.

The Table below shows for the years 1938 and 1939 the average percentage rates of unemployment\* in each of the Administrative Divisions as constituted prior to the provincial reorganisation of the Ministry of Labour and National Service on 25th August, 1939.† The special schemes for the banking and insurance industries, for which divisional figures are not available, are shown separately.

Administrative Division.	Average percentage rates of unemployment* among insured persons, aged 16-64.			
	General Scheme.		Agricultural Scheme.	
	1938.	1939.	1938.	1939.
London ...	8.0	8.1	5.4	5.7
South-Eastern ...	8.0	7.7	4.4	4.4
South-Western ...	8.1	6.5	3.0	2.6
Midlands ...	10.2	7.4	4.9	4.5
North-Eastern ...	13.5	10.1	7.1	6.7
North-Western ...	17.8	13.6	8.0	7.7
Northern ...	18.3	15.7	8.5	8.3
Scotland ...	16.3	13.5	6.9	6.9
Wales ...	24.7	18.5	10.6	10.3
Special Schemes ...	1.7	1.7	—	—
Great Britain ...	12.5	10.3	5.5	5.4
Northern Ireland ...	28.3	23.0	19.2	22.3
Gt. Britain and N. Ireland	12.9	10.5	6.1	6.1

\* Comparison of the figures for 1937 and subsequent years with each other and with those for earlier years is affected by the introduction, in September, 1937, of the revised procedure for counting the unemployed, and by the inclusion from July, 1938, of persons in certain classes of domestic employments first brought into insurance in April, 1938. The effect of these changes on the figures at the time of their introduction was, however, relatively slight (see diagram on page 19).

† See page 335 of the September, 1939, issue of this GAZETTE.

## EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

The improvement in employment from February to August extended to nearly all the principal industries and services, but was most marked in those which were affected by the defence programme. The decline later in the year occurred mainly in certain industries which normally experience a seasonal recession in the autumn and winter, including agriculture and horticulture, building, brickmaking, hotel and boarding house service, laundries and dry cleaning, the distributive trades, and road transport; but it extended also to a number of other industries, including the printing trades, entertainments and sport, most of the woodworking industries, some of the clothing trades, and stone and slate quarrying, which were adversely affected by the war.

A summary of the course of employment in some of the principal industries is given below:—

**Mining.**—In the coal mining industry employment showed little change in the first seven months of the year; but a considerable improvement began in August. There was some increase in unemployment in December owing to temporary causes. After the first quarter employment was consistently better than in the corresponding period of 1938, and at 11th December, 1939, the percentage rate of unemployment was 8.5, as compared with 14.4 a year earlier. The average rate of unemployment was 11.1 per cent. in 1939 compared with 15.5 per cent. in 1938.

In the iron mining industry employment was slack at the beginning of 1939, but showed marked improvement in the course of the year; the percentage unemployed at 11th December, 1939, was 5.4, compared with 21.1 a year earlier. At slate quarries employment was worse in 1939 than in 1938, but there was some improvement in most of the other mining and quarrying industries.

**Metal Trades.**—In pig iron manufacture employment declined in January, 1939, but improved almost continuously throughout the rest of the year; it was much better on the whole than in 1938. The average percentage unemployed among insured workpeople was 11.8 in 1939, compared with 16.2 in 1938.

Employment in iron and steel manufacture showed almost continuous improvement until September; during the last three months of 1939 there was little change, and employment was very good. The average percentage unemployed was 10.6 in 1939, compared with 21.2 in 1938.

Employment in the tinplate industry was very bad at the beginning of the year 1939, but improved rapidly until August; there was a decline in the next three months, but a slight improvement in December. Employment was very much better than in 1938. The average percentage rate of unemployment decreased from 39.7 in 1938 to 16.9 in 1939.

In most branches of the engineering industry employment showed a considerable improvement in 1939, especially during the later months of the year. The average percentage rate of unemployment in the engineering industry (excluding the motor vehicle, etc. industry) was 5.4 in 1939, compared with 7.3 in 1938. The corresponding percentages for the various sections of the industry were respectively: general engineering, 5.4 and 7.4; electrical, 3.7 and 5.1; marine 6.7 and 8.3; constructional 8.8 and 11.0. In the motor vehicle, cycle and aircraft industry the corresponding figures were 4.3 in 1939 and 6.8 in 1938.

Employment in the shipbuilding and ship-repairing industry improved slowly, but steadily, during the first eight months of 1939. A marked improvement began in September, and employment continued at a relatively high level. The average percentage unemployed was 17.2 in 1939, compared with 21.1 in 1938.

Apart from a recession in January, employment in most of the other metal trades improved steadily throughout 1939 and was better on the whole than in 1938.

**Textile Industries.**—In the cotton industry, the improvement in employment which began in the last quarter of 1938 continued almost without interruption during 1939; both in the spinning and in the weaving sections employment was much better in 1939 than in the previous year; shortages of skilled workers, especially weavers, were reported during the latter part of the year. The average percentage rate of unemployment in the cotton industry as a whole fell from 26.3 in 1938 to 13.9 in 1939.

After a decline in January employment in the woollen and worsted industry showed considerable improvement in 1939, especially during the later months of the year; all sections of the industry shared in the improvement, and employment at the end of the year was very good. The average percentage rate of unemployment declined from 19.6 in 1938 to 8.9 in 1939.

In the carpet industry employment, after being fairly good on the whole during the first eight months of 1939, showed a marked decline in September, but thereafter improved and was good in December. In the hosiery industry employment improved considerably in 1939. In the lace and silk and artificial silk industries improvement during the first half of the year was followed by a sharp decline in the late summer; employment recovered, however, towards the end of the year. There was an almost continuous improvement in the jute industry; while in the linen trade employment, though slack, showed a tendency to improve. In the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc., trades employment improved considerably and short-time working was much reduced.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment in the tailoring and dressmaking trades followed the usual seasonal trend during the first eight months of 1939. On the outbreak of war there was a sharp decline, followed, however, by a recovery later. The average percentage unemployed in tailoring was 10.1 in 1939, compared with 13.3 in 1938; the corresponding figures for dressmaking were 11.3 and 7.3 respectively. An improvement in the shirt and collar trade between January and June was followed by a decline in July, but employment improved again during the last quarter of the year. In the glove and corset

trades employment showed improvement in 1939. Apart from a marked decline in September, employment in the hat and cap industry experienced the usual seasonal fluctuations, but was slightly better on the whole than a year before.

Employment in the boot and shoe industry showed little change on the whole during the first eight months of 1939, but there was a marked improvement later. The average percentage unemployed was 8.6 in 1939, compared with 12.4 in 1938.

**Leather Trades.**—In the leather tanning, currying and dressing trade and the fur-dressing trade, and also in leather goods manufacture, employment declined in January, but subsequently improved; it was better on the whole in 1939 than in the previous year.

**Building, Woodworking, etc.**—After a setback in January employment in the building industry improved almost continuously until September, but there was a decline, partly seasonal, during the last quarter of the year. Employment was better, on the whole, than in 1938; the average percentage unemployed among insured workpeople in the industry as a whole was 14.4 in 1939, compared with 15.1 in 1938.

There was a considerable reduction in the numbers of persons recorded as unemployed in public works contracting during 1939; the average percentage rate of unemployment was 29.9 as compared with 36.7 in 1938. After a decline in January, employment in brick, tile and pipe manufacture improved until August, but a recession occurred in the latter part of the year; the average rate of unemployment was 10.0 per cent. in 1939, compared with 9.6 per cent. in 1938.

After a recession in January employment in the furnishing trades improved until August, but declined sharply in September; there was, however, some recovery in the last quarter of the year. With millwrights and coachbuilders employment declined in January; thereafter it improved on the whole until the late summer, but declined again towards the end of the year.

**Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.**—In paper manufacture the improvement in employment which began in the second half of 1938 continued throughout 1939, although there was a slight decline in October. After a setback in January, employment in printing and bookbinding improved until August; it declined in September and October, but improved in the next two months.

**Pottery and Glass.**—Employment in the pottery industry followed the usual seasonal trend; it remained slack on the whole; the average percentage unemployed was 20.5 in 1939, compared with 19.5 in 1938. In the glass trades there was a marked decline in January, but thereafter employment showed a continuous improvement.

**Transport Services.**—Employment among seamen improved during 1939, but with dock workers it was still slack. The average percentage unemployed in shipping service as a whole was 21.4 in 1939, compared with 24.2 in 1938; the corresponding figures for dock, harbour, etc., service were 24.7 and 26.6 respectively. Employment was again very good in tramway and omnibus service; in other road transport services it improved for the greater part of 1939, but declined to some extent in the last quarter of the year.

**Agriculture.**—The average percentage rate of unemployment among workpeople, aged 16-64, insured under the agricultural scheme, showed little change in 1939 as compared with 1938. In farming, forestry, etc. the percentage for 1939 was 6.4 compared with 6.5 in 1938; in market gardening, horticulture, etc. the corresponding figures were 7.8 and 7.9.

**Other Industries and Services.**—Employment in the distributive trades, although showing some decline in the autumn, was slightly better on the whole in 1939 than in 1938; the average percentages unemployed for the two years were 8.8 and 9.4, respectively. In the food and drink industries also employment was slightly better in 1939 than in the previous year. In hotel, boarding house, etc. service and in entertainment, sport, etc. improvement during the first eight months of 1939 was followed in September by a sharp decline, and the level of unemployment continued very high during the last quarter of the year.

## RATES OF WAGES.

During the first eight months of 1939 there was little change in the general level of wage rates. After the outbreak of the war, however, and particularly during November and December, increases in wages were granted in many industries, mainly on account of the rise in the cost of living.

In the industries for which statistics of changes in rates of wages are regularly compiled by the Department\*, the changes reported during the year are estimated to have resulted in an aggregate net increase of about £900,000 in the weekly full-time rates of wages of nearly 5½ million workpeople, and in an aggregate net decrease of about £10,000 in those of about 68,000 workpeople. By the end of August over 1,300,000 workers had received net increases estimated to amount to £114,000 a week, and nearly 400,000 had sustained net decreases amounting to £40,000 a week. From the beginning of September to the end of the year, nearly 4½ million workpeople in these industries, some of whom had already received increases earlier in the year, had their rates of wages raised by an aggregate of nearly £830,000 a week. These figures are exclusive of changes in rates of wages in agriculture and certain other employments, in which there were also some increases in wage-rates during 1939. In all the industries (including agriculture) for which information is available, the average level of weekly full-time rates of wages at the end of 1939

\* These statistics are exclusive of changes affecting agricultural labourers, Government employees, domestic servants, shop assistants and clerks (see however, paragraph in the second column on page 4 as to agricultural labourers, etc.). They relate to rates of wages for a full week, assuming full employment, and do not take account of variations in actual earnings resulting from changes in the state of employment. The changes reported are mainly those collectively arranged by organisations of employers and workpeople; in many cases changes arranged by individual employers, and affecting unorganised workers, are not reported to the Department.

is estimated to have been between 4 and 4½ per cent. higher than at the end of 1938. This is the largest increase in rates of wages recorded in any year since 1920.

The following Table shows the approximate numbers of workpeople affected by the changes in rates of wages reported to the Department in 1939, and the net amount of the change in their weekly rates of wages, in each of the principal groups of industries for which detailed statistics are available.\* Corresponding figures are also given for 1938.

Industry Group.	Approximate Number of separate individuals reported as affected by Net Increases or Net Decreases in weekly Rates of Wages.				Estimated Net Weekly Increase in Rates of Wages of all Workpeople affected.	
	1939.†		1938.		1939.†	1938.
	Net In-creases.	Net De-creases.	Net In-creases.	Net De-creases.		
Coal Mining ...	783,000	1,800	287,900	186,800	£ 174,030	£ 6,440
Other Mining and Quarrying ...	35,700	6,500	50,400	—	4,620	10,700
Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc. ...	279,200	—	91,250	100	41,880	9,690
Iron and Steel ...	121,150	26,650	111,450	16,300	11,580	17,090
Engineering† ...	735,250	—	22,200	—	71,600	1,950
Shipbuilding ...	180,700	—	107,500	—	17,950	10,700
Other Metal ...	199,450	29,800	64,400	28,800	23,300	4,700
Textile ...	787,350	100	55,100	79,650	119,950	890
Clothing... ..	403,900	—	96,250	—	76,130	8,300
Food, Drink and Tobacco ...	54,200	—	37,350	2,300	9,160	3,490
Woodworking, Furniture, etc. ...	177,000	—	16,900	100	25,230	2,040
Paper, Printing, etc. ...	30,500	—	1,350	—	7,230	150
Building, Public Works Contracting, etc. ...	938,800	—	898,750	600	97,150	94,150
Gas, Water and Electricity Supply ...	79,450	850	12,000	300	11,910	1,130
Transport‡ ...	479,050	2,500	294,150	500	149,600	40,920
Public Administration Services ...	69,100	—	102,500	200	11,650	10,980
Other ...	128,100	—	131,950	6,550	46,230	19,980
Total ...	5,481,900	68,200	2,381,500	322,200	899,200	243,300

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN 1939.

It will be seen from the above Table that of the workpeople whose rates of wages were changed in 1939, all but a very small proportion obtained a net increase during the year. In the following paragraphs particulars are given of the principal changes in rates of wages in individual industries.

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

In the chemical industries workers engaged in the manufacture of heavy chemicals received increases early in October of ½d. to ¾d. an hour for adult male time workers, and drug and fine chemical workers received increases, in December, of 4s. a week for men and 2s. 6d. a week for women. In the pottery industry flat-rate increases were granted, in November, of 8d. a day for men, 6d. a day for women, and 4d. for workers under 21 years of age.

In the heavy iron and steel industry, in which wages fluctuate in accordance with movements in selling prices, the changes during the first eight months of the year, for workers engaged in steel melting and rolling, resulted in a small net reduction in most districts. In November, however, a decrease due under the sliding-scale was waived, and future increases were anticipated to the extent of 10 per cent., with the result that there was a net increase during the year of about 5 per cent. In the case of blastfurnace workers in most districts, iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England and Scotland, and the higher-paid workers in steel sheet and tinplate manufacture, there were net decreases during the first eight months of the year, and at the end of 1939 the level of wage rates was slightly lower than at the beginning of the year. In the engineering industry there was a general increase, in June, of 2s. a week for men, with proportionate amounts for apprentices, boys and youths; and alterations and adjustments in the standard scales of pay for women and girls resulted in increases of various amounts in October and December. In the shipbuilding and repairing industry a general increase of 2s. a week for men on time work and of approximately 4 per cent. for those on piece work was granted in September in settlement of a claim made in July.

In the textile industries, workpeople in the preparing and spinning section of the cotton industry received an increase in October of 2½ per cent. on standard piece price lists (equivalent, in most cases to an increase of 12-64 per cent. on current wages), with additional

\* See footnote \* in second column on page 3.  
† The figures given for 1939 are preliminary and subject to revision.  
‡ Changes affecting workpeople employed in railway engineering workshops are included under "Engineering" and not under "Transport."

increases to certain classes of workers, including ring spinners, ring doublers and piecers; while workpeople in the manufacturing section received an increase of 5 per cent. on current wages in November, with a further increase of 7½ per cent. to operate on 1st January, 1940. Woollen and worsted operatives in Yorkshire received an increase, in November, amounting generally to 11-84 per cent. for timeworkers and 10-87 per cent. for pieceworkers. In the hosiery manufacturing industry in the Midlands the cost-of-living bonus was increased in November from 6d. to 7d. on each shilling earned. In the textile bleaching, dyeing and finishing trades, in which wages fluctuate under the operation of cost-of-living sliding-scales, there were small net increases in the first eight months of the year, followed by a larger increase in November, with the result that at the end of the year wages had advanced by about 6 per cent. in Yorkshire, and by 3s. 1d. or 3s. 3d. a week for men and 1s. 11d. a week for women in other districts, as compared with December, 1938.

In boot and shoe manufacture, increases were granted, in December, of 3s. and 2s. a week on time rates for men and women respectively, and of 4½ per cent. on piece rates. In the ready-made and wholesale bespoke tailoring trades, rates of wages were increased, also in December, by 1½d. an hour for men and ¾d. an hour for women.

Building trade operatives received a general increase on 1st December of ½d. an hour, for both craftsmen and labourers, except in the Liverpool and Birkenhead district where wage rates were increased in January, 1939. In addition there had been increases in certain districts in February, ranging from ½d. to 1½d. an hour, as a result of upgradings under the grading scheme of the National Joint Council. In the civil engineering construction industry, rates of wages were increased by ½d. an hour in December, and in Scotland there was an additional increase of ½d. or 1d. an hour as from 1st January, 1939.

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

Other classes of workers whose rates of wages were increased during the first eight months of 1939 included flour millers, outside steelwork erectors, and tool makers at Sheffield. Since the beginning of September increases have also been granted to shale miners and oil workers in Scotland; brick makers; glass bottle workers in Yorkshire; cement workers; cast stone and cast concrete product workers; paint, colour and varnish makers; soap and candle makers; match makers; tinplate makers (lower-paid workers); lock, latch and key makers; file makers at Sheffield; heating, ventilating and domestic engineers; workers in the precious metal trades at Sheffield and Birmingham; jute and flax and hemp workers; silk workers at Leek and Macclesfield; linen workers in Northern Ireland; workers in the wholesale mantle and costume trade; workpeople employed in the manufacture of beet sugar; workpeople employed in seed crushing; furniture trade operatives in many districts; coopers; electricity supply workers; employees of tramway and omnibus undertakings; leather tanners and curriers and workers employed in various branches of the made-up leather trade; and workers in the non-trading departments of local authorities in London and certain other districts. In electrical cable making, and in the paper-making industry, there were increases in both periods. In chain making, and in brush and broom manufacture, there were increases and decreases of equal amounts prior to September and increases after that date. There were also some increases in the baking trade in England and Wales in September, and in the rubber manufacturing trade in Great Britain in November, as a result of the application of the Trade Boards Acts to these trades and the adoption of general minimum rates of wages.

**Agricultural Labourers and Government Industrial Employees.**—The statistics given in the foregoing Table are exclusive of changes in the rates of agricultural labourers, Government employees, shop assistants, clerks and domestic servants. As regards agricultural labourers, in 6 of the 47 Agricultural Wages Committee Areas in England and Wales there were increases, during the first eight months of 1939, of 6d. or 1s. a week in the minimum rates fixed under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act, 1924, for adult male labourers. From the beginning of September to the end of the year, increases ranging from 1s. to 3s. 6d. a week were granted in 30 areas. At the end of 1939, the average of the minimum rates for ordinary labourers was 35s. 6d. a week, compared with 34s. 7d. at the end of 1938 and 34s. 9d. at the end of August, 1939. In Scotland the minimum rates of wages fixed under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) (Scotland) Act, 1937, remained generally unchanged during the year 1939. As regards Government industrial employees, a number of classes of workpeople employed in H.M. Dockyards and other Government industrial establishments received increases in June, usually of 2s. a week.

INDUSTRIES IN WHICH THERE WAS NO GENERAL CHANGE IN 1939.

Among the more important groups of workpeople whose rates of wages remained generally unchanged during 1939 were quarry workers in many districts; railway shopmen; brass workers in Birmingham and district; vehicle builders; lace makers; carpet makers; printers and bookbinders; road motor goods transport workers; manual workers employed in the non-trading departments of local authorities in many areas; waterworks employees in various areas; and gas workers. The statutory minimum rates fixed by many of the Trade Boards (e.g. those for cutlery, hollow-ware, tin box, laundering, retail bespoke tailoring, dressmaking, boot and shoe repairing, stamped or pressed metals, and milk distribution) also remained unchanged. In some of these cases, however, increases have been arranged to take effect in January, 1940.

CHANGES IN WAGES IN THE YEARS 1925-1939.

The following Table shows the approximate numbers of workpeople, in the industries and services for which detailed statistics are available,\* whose rates of wages were increased or reduced (so far as reported) in each of the years 1925-1939, and the net amount of increase or decrease in their weekly rates of wages:—

Year.	Approximate Number of separate Individuals† reported as affected by		Estimated Net Weekly Amount of Change in Rates of Wages.		Estimated Net Weekly Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Rates of Wages of all Workpeople affected.
	Net Increases.	Net Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.	
1925 ...	873,000	851,000	80,900	159,000	- £ 78,100
1926 ...	420,000	740,000	133,000	83,700	+ 49,300
1927 ...	282,000	1,855,000	30,700	388,500	- 357,800
1928 ...	217,000	1,615,000	21,800	163,800	- 142,000
1929 ...	142,000	917,000	12,900	91,700	- 78,800
1930 ...	768,000	1,100,000	59,500	116,100	- 56,600
1931 ...	47,000	3,010,000	5,150	406,300	- 401,150
1932 ...	33,500	1,949,000	2,600	251,800	- 249,200
1933 ...	179,500	894,000	17,250	82,500	- 65,250
1934 ...	1,344,000	85,500	95,500	4,000	+ 91,500
1935 ...	2,366,500	49,600	198,900	6,800	+ 192,100
1936 ...	4,062,400	800	493,075	175	+ 492,900
1937 ...	5,161,200	4,400	788,250	1,350	+ 786,900
1938 ...	2,381,500	322,200	262,100	18,800	+ 243,300
1939... ..	5,481,900	68,200	910,000	10,800	+ 899,200

In view of the limitations to which attention has been drawn above,\* and especially of the fact that certain large groups of workpeople (notably agricultural labourers) are not covered by the statistics, the figures given in this Table should not be regarded as affording more than a general indication of the movement of wages in any year in comparison with that in other years, and special significance should not be attached to small differences in the amount of change as between one year and another. It will be seen, however, that the numbers of workpeople affected by increases in rates of wages in the industries covered by the statistics, and the net amount of increase in weekly rates of wages, were greater in 1939 than in any previous year in the period covered by the Table.

HOURS OF LABOUR.

The total number of workpeople whose normal weekly hours of labour were reported as having been changed during 1939† in the industries and services for which statistics are regularly collected‡ was about 380,000. The normal working time of these workpeople was reduced by a little over ½ hours a week, on average. The largest group affected were juvenile workers under 16 years of age in the great majority of manufacturing industries, whose weekly hours were reduced to a maximum of 44 as from 1st July, 1939, under one of the provisions of the Factories Act, 1937. Other workpeople whose normal weekly hours were reduced included surface workers, not handling coal, employed at coal mines in Cumberland, and certain classes of surface workers employed at shale mines in Scotland.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople, in the industries covered by the statistics,§ whose hours of labour were reported as changed in each of the years 1925 to 1939, and the aggregate net amount of the change:—

Year.	Approximate Number of Workpeople whose Hours of Labour were		Aggregate Net Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Weekly Hours.
	Increased.	Reduced.	
1925 ...	1,300	3,925	- 11,750
1926 ...	934,200	340	+ 3,984,650
1927 ...	18,700	1,700	+ 59,000
1928 ...	1,400	2,000	+ 200
1929 ...	4,050	1,050	+ 8,750
1930 ...	13,175	349,225	- 873,500
1931 ...	294,000	111,000	+ 142,000
1932 ...	6,000	3,750	+ 7,000
1933 ...	2,500	12,500	- 36,000
1934 ...	520	5,000	- 11,500
1935 ...	2,450	43,700	- 153,850
1936 ...	600	150,600	- 804,500
1937 ...	1,500	390,650	- 960,000
1938 ...	1,950	166,650	- 371,100
1939... ..	—	380,000	- 1,388,000

The comparatively large numbers affected in the years 1926, 1930 and 1931 were mainly coal miners. In 1937 they were mainly printers, coal miners and flour millers, and in 1938 mainly boot and shoe operatives.

COST OF LIVING.

During the first eight months of 1939, there was relatively little change in the general level of the cost of living, the movements of the official index-number ranging within the narrow limits of 53 to 56 per cent. above the level of July, 1914. At 1st September, as at the beginning of the year, the figure was 55 per cent.

After the outbreak of the war there was a marked increase, the index-figure rising to 65 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, at

\* See footnote \* in the second column on page 3.  
† In addition to the workpeople for whom figures are given in this Table there were considerable numbers in most years whose wages during the year were increased and reduced by equal amounts.  
‡ The figures given for 1939 are preliminary and subject to revision.  
§ The statistics are exclusive of changes affecting agricultural labourers, Government employees, domestic servants, shop assistants and clerks.

30th September, 69 per cent. at 1st November, 73 per cent. at 1st December and 74 per cent. at 1st January, 1940. The total rise of 19 points from 1st September, 1939, to 1st January, 1940, is equivalent to about 12 per cent. on the level of prices at the outbreak of the war.

The following Table shows, month by month during the period under review, the index figures for each of the five groups of items (food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and miscellaneous other items) included within the scope of the statistics:—

Average Percentage Increase in Retail Prices, Rents, etc., over the level of July, 1914.

Date.	Food.	Rent (including Rates).	Clothing.	Fuel and Light.	Other Items included.	All Items included.
1938.						
31st December ...	38	61	105-110	80-85	75	55
1939.						
1st February ...	38	61	105-110	85	70-75	55
1st March ...	35	61	105-110	85	70-75	53
1st April ...	35	61	105-110	85	70-75	53
1st May ...	34	62	105-110	80-85	75-80	53
1st June ...	34	62	105-110	75-80	75-80	53
1st July ...	39	62	105-110	80	80	56
1st August ...	37	62	105-110	80	80	55
1st September ...	38	62	105-110	80-85	80	55
30th September	50	62	120-125	80-85	85	65
1st November ...	54	62	135	85-90	85-90	69
1st December ...	57	62	145	95	89	73
1940.						
1st January ...	57	62	150	100	90	74

The index-figure for 1st January, 1940 (74 per cent. above the level of July, 1914) is the highest recorded for any date since January, 1927.

**Food.**—At the beginning of 1939 the index-figure relating to the average level of retail prices of food was 38 per cent. above the level of July, 1914. At 1st September, 1939, it was the same as at the beginning of the year, after having declined early in the year and risen in July, mainly owing to seasonal movements in the prices of eggs and potatoes. In the first month of the war there was a marked increase, the index-figure of food prices indicating a rise of about 9 per cent. during the month. In the following months the increase was smaller, and between 1st September, 1939, and 1st January, 1940, the total increase was nearly 14 per cent., raising the index-figure from 38 per cent. to 57 per cent. over the level of July, 1914.

The following Table compares the average retail prices at 1st January, 1940, with those immediately before the outbreak of war (i.e., those on 1st September, 1939) and those a year ago.

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated—to the nearest ½d.).			Average Percentage Increase at 1st January, 1940, as compared with	
	31st Dec., 1938.	1st Sept., 1939.	1st Jan., 1940.	31st Dec., 1938.	1st Sept., 1939.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Beef, British—					
Ribs ...	1 2½	1 2½	1 3½	8	8
Thin Flank ...	0 7½	0 7½	0 8½	14	14
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—					
Ribs ...	0 9½	0 9½	0 10½	9	10
Thin Flank ...	0 5	0 4½	0 5½	14	17
Mutton, British—					
Legs ...	1 3½	1 3½	1 4½	10	8
Breast ...	0 7½	0 7½	0 8½	14	14
Mutton, Frozen—					
Legs ...	0 10½	0 10½	0 11½	8	8
Breast ...	0 4	0 4	0 4½	14	19
Bacon (streaky)* ...	1 3	1 3	1 7½	31	31
Fish ...					
Flour ...	per 7 lb.	1 2	1 11	—	—
Bread ...	per 4 lb.	0 8½	0 8½	—	—
Tea ...		2 4½	2 4	5	6
Sugar (granulated) ...		0 2½	0 3	0 4	7
Milk ...	per quart	0 7	0 6½	0 7	49
Butter—					
Fresh ...		1 4½	1 4½	1 7	14
Salt ...		1 3½	1 3½	1 6½	23
Cheese (Canadian or New Zealand)* ...		0 10½	0 10	1 0½	16
Margarine ...		0 6½	0 6½	0 6½	3
Eggs (fresh) ...	each	0 2	0 2	0 2½	20
Potatoes ...	per 7 lb.	0 5½	0 6½	0 6½	17

As regards the individual articles included in the above Table, there were no noteworthy changes in food prices in the first eight months of the year, apart from the increase in prices of sugar, partly due to the increased duty of ½d. per lb. in April. During the war period there were marked increases in the prices of sugar, bacon, eggs, fish, cheese and butter. There was also an advance in the prices of beef and mutton. The prices of flour, bread, tea, milk, margarine and potatoes showed only small increases, on the average. Of the increase of 1½d. per lb. in the prices of sugar since the outbreak of war, 1d. was due to the increased duty; the increases in the prices of eggs were largely seasonal.

**Rents**

remaining, as nearly as can be estimated, between 105 and 110 per cent. above the level of July, 1914. During the four months September to December, however, prices rose, on average, about 20 per cent. For men's suits and overcoats the average increase during the four months was about 11 per cent., for woollen materials, underclothing and hosiery 25 per cent., for cotton materials and hosiery 26 per cent., and for boots and shoes 22 per cent. Owing to the wide range of quotations, to changes in qualities, and to variations in the extent to which different articles have been affected by price-changes, it is impracticable to make an exact comparison of the retail prices of clothing and clothing materials over a long period of years, but on the basis of the available information it is estimated that at the end of 1939 the average rise over the level of July, 1914, was about 150 per cent.

**Fuel and Light.**—Retail prices of coal, which early in 1939 were about 100 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, were reduced to between 85 and 90 per cent. above that level in the summer. By 1st September there had been a slight advance, and between 1st September and 1st January there was a rise of about 7 per cent., on average, to about 108 per cent. above the level of July, 1914.

In the pre-war period of 1939 the average price of gas rose slightly, from about 50 per cent. above the 1914 level to about 55 per cent. above it. In November and December there were substantial increases, and at the end of the year the price of gas averaged about 15 per cent. higher than at 1st September and about 78 per cent. higher than in 1914.

The prices of oil, candles and matches remained practically unchanged up to the outbreak of the war; between then and the end of the year the prices of oil rose by 19 per cent., of candles (cheap wax) by 59 per cent., and of matches by 7 per cent., on the average.

**Miscellaneous Other Items included.**—In this group of items the most important changes in 1939 were in the prices of tobacco and cigarettes, following increases in duty imposed in April and September; over the whole year, the average increase in the prices of tobacco and cigarettes was about 24 per cent. Prices of domestic ironmongery, brushware and pottery remained practically unchanged during the first eight months of 1939 and subsequently rose by about 14 per cent. Changes during the year in the prices of other items included in this group, viz. soap, soda, newspapers and fares were relatively unimportant.

**Comparison with previous years.**—The following Table compares the averages of the percentage increases recorded for the beginning of each of the twelve months of 1939 with the corresponding averages for the years 1924 to 1938:—

Average Percentage Increase over the level of July, 1914.

Year.	Food.	Rent (including Rates).	Clothing.	Fuel and Light.	Other Items included.	All Items included.
1924	70	47	125	86	80	75
1925	71	47	129	86	80	76
1926	64	49	121	105	82	72
1927	67	51	114	83	80	67½
1928	57	51	119	69	80	66
1929	54	51	118	71	80	64
1930	45	53	111	72½	77½	58
1931	31	54	96	74	75	47½
1932	26	54	89	72	73	44
1933	20	56	84	70	72½	40
1934	22	56	86	70	72½	41
1935	25	57	87	70	70	43
1936	30	59	89	74	70	47
1937	39	59	102	78	74	54
1938	40½	60	109	81	75	56
1939	41	62	114	84	79	58

The foregoing figures are designed to indicate the average percentage increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the standard of living prevailing among working-class households prior to August, 1914, no allowance being made for the effect of any alterations in the standard since that date.

TRADE DISPUTES.\*

The number of disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as having begun in 1939 in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 930, as compared with 875 in the previous year. The great majority of the stoppages affected only individual establishments.

The number of workpeople directly involved (i.e., on strike or locked out) in the disputes beginning in 1939 was about 245,000, while about 91,000 were indirectly involved (i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves parties to the disputes). In addition about 1,000 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 8 disputes which began in 1938 and extended into 1939. The total number of workpeople involved, either directly or indirectly, in all disputes which were in progress in 1939 was thus about 337,000†; the corresponding total for 1938 was 275,000.†

At the establishments where disputes were reported the aggregate time lost in 1939 on account of disputes in progress during the year

\* Disputes involving less than ten workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, are omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration (i.e., number of workpeople multiplied by number of working days, allowing for workpeople replaced by others, etc.) exceeded 100 days. The figures given for 1939 are preliminary and subject to revision.  
† Workpeople are counted in the totals for each year as many times as they were involved in a dispute during the year. The resulting duplication during each of the above years was generally slight, except in the coal mining industry, in which the net number of workpeople involved was approximately 124,000 in 1939 and 115,000 in 1938. The net number of workpeople involved in all industries was approximately 247,000 in 1939, and 209,000 in 1938.

is estimated at about 1,344,000 working days, as compared with 1,334,000 in 1938. The disputes of 1939 were approximately evenly proportioned as between the eight pre-war months and the four wartime months.

The following Table shows by industries the number of disputes reported as beginning in 1939 and in 1938, together with the approximate number of workpeople involved in, and the estimated aggregate duration of, all disputes in progress in each year:—

Industry Group.	1939.			1938.		
	No. of Disputes beginning in 1939.	Number of Work-people involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.	No. of Disputes beginning in 1938.	Number of Work-people involved in all Disputes in progress.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.
Fishing and Agriculture	8	1,000	41,000	...	...	...
Coal Mining	398	205,600*	554,000	363	173,600*	697,000
Other Mining and Quarrying	13	1,600	47,000	11	700	4,000
Brick, Pottery, Glass, Chemical, etc.	9	1,000	9,000	21	3,000	24,000
Engineering	59	30,100	167,000	47	27,800	124,000
Shipbuilding	39	4,300	37,000	29	3,300	31,000
Iron and Steel and other Metal	81	21,500	128,000	62	13,100	88,000
Textile	73	8,700	100,000	42	7,200	84,000
Clothing	25	5,800	13,000	36	6,700	33,000
Food, Drink and Tobacco	14	1,600	11,000	20	4,100	12,000
Woodworking, Furniture, etc.	18	2,700	22,000	34	1,900	32,000
Paper, Printing, etc.	5	500	2,000	4	100	1,000
Building, Public Works, Contracting, etc.	122	35,400	131,000	110	13,900	115,000
Transport	34	11,700	57,000	49	14,500	40,000
Commerce, Distribution and Finance	9	1,100	2,000	19	2,100	10,000
All other Industries	23	4,000	23,000	28	3,300	39,000
Total	930	336,600*	1,344,000	875	275,300*	1,334,000

Of the total numbers of workpeople shown above as involved in all disputes which were in progress in the two years, approximately 91,500 in 1939 and 63,400 in 1938 were only indirectly involved (i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments affected, but not themselves parties to the disputes).

As will be seen from the above Table, disputes in the coal mining industry accounted for more than two-fifths of all the disputes recorded for each of the years 1939 and 1938, and for over three-fifths of all the workpeople involved in the disputes; nearly all of these stoppages, however, affected only individual collieries.

**Principal Disputes in 1939.**—There were no disputes of major importance during 1939, and in only four instances were 5,000 or more workpeople involved. A stoppage of tinplate workers at a number of establishments in South Wales and Monmouthshire affected about 7,000 employees, and about 40,000 working days were lost. Nearly 6,000 workpeople at collieries owned by one firm in Glamorganshire were involved in a dispute which lasted three days. About 25,000 working days were lost by about 5,400 building trade operatives during a dispute in Dorsetshire. Five thousand colliery workers employed by several firms in North Wales were involved in a short stoppage in which 12,500 days were lost. One protracted dispute affecting nearly 5,000 employees of a London firm of electrical engineers and cable makers resulted in the loss of about 60,000 working days.

**Summary for 1924-39.**—The following table gives comparative figures for each of the years 1924 to 1939:—

Year.	Number of Disputes beginning in Year.	Number of Workpeople involved in Disputes beginning in Year.†			Approximate Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress during Year (to nearest 10,000).
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.	
1924	710	558,000	55,000	613,000	8,420,000
1925	603	401,000	40,000	441,000	7,950,000
1926	323	2,724,000	10,000	2,734,000	162,230,000
1927	308	90,000	18,000	108,000	1,170,000
1928	302	80,000	44,000	124,000	1,390,000
1929	431	493,000	40,000	533,000	8,290,000
1930	422	286,000	21,000	307,000	4,400,000
1931	420	424,000	66,000	490,000	6,980,000
1932	389	337,000	42,000	379,000	6,490,000
1933	357	114,000	22,000	136,000	1,070,000
1934	471	109,000	25,000	134,000	960,000
1935	553	230,000	41,000	271,000	1,980,000
1936	818	241,000	75,000	316,000	1,830,000
1937	1,129	388,000	209,000	597,000	3,410,000
1938	875	211,000	63,000	274,000	1,330,000
1939	930	245,000	91,000	336,000	1,340,000

The magnitude of the figures for 1926 was due to the prolonged general dispute in the coal mining industry and the "general strike".

\* For the purpose of these totals workpeople are counted in the total for each year as many times as they were involved in a dispute during that year. The resulting duplication is mainly confined to the coal mining industry, with the addition in 1926 of other industries involved in the "general strike". Since 1926 the more considerable duplications in the totals for all industries have been as follows:—1931, 87,000; 1932, 70,000; 1935, 59,000; 1936, 66,000; 1937, 181,000; 1938, 66,000; 1939, 90,000.

CHANGES IN THE NUMBERS OF INSURED PERSONS IN EMPLOYMENT, 1923-1939. ANALYSIS BY INDUSTRIES AND AREAS.

In the issues of this GAZETTE for November and December, 1939, statistics were given showing the changes during the period from 1923 to 1939 in the estimated numbers of persons insured against unemployment, and in their industrial and geographical distribution. The figures related to the total numbers insured at the beginning of July, including the unemployed as well as those in employment, as estimated on the basis of the information obtained at the annual exchange of unemployment books.

These statistics furnish a valuable indication of the expansion or decline of industry, both generally and in particular areas, over a term of years, but as a more precise measure of variations during shorter periods there is an advantage in using figures representing the number of insured persons in employment.

The numbers of insured persons recorded as unemployed are regularly ascertained in respect of a date about the middle of each month, and an approximate indication of the changes, from year to year, in the numbers of insured persons in employment can accordingly be obtained by deducting the numbers unemployed in June of each year from the estimated numbers insured at the beginning of July. The figures given below, and in the detailed Table on pages 26 and 27, have been compiled on this basis, by the simple deduction of the numbers unemployed from the numbers insured, no allowance having been made for persons absent from work through sickness and other forms of unrecorded non-employment, or for those involved in trade disputes. As comparable figures for the agricultural scheme are not available over an extended period, persons insured under that scheme have been excluded throughout.

CHANGES BETWEEN JUNE, 1938, AND JUNE, 1939.

Between June, 1938, and June, 1939, the numbers of insured persons aged 14 to 64 (exclusive of agricultural workers) in employment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, computed on the basis indicated above, increased by 630,000, or 4.8 per cent. The following Table gives figures for the various age groups for which they are available:—

	Approximate numbers in employment.		Increase (+) or decrease (-).	
	June, 1939.	June, 1938.	Number.	Per cent.
	Thousands.	Thousands.	Thousands.	
Males:—				
Aged 21-64...	7,758	7,400	+ 358	+ 4.8
" 18-20 ...	864	784	+ 100	+ 13.1
" 16 & 17 ...	601	639	- 38	- 5.9
" 14 & 15 ...	450	469	- 19	- 4.1
Total ...	9,673	9,272	+ 401	+ 4.3
Females:—				
Aged 21-64...	2,469	2,332	+ 137	+ 5.9
" 18-20 ...	736	622	+ 114	+ 18.3
" 16 & 17 ...	525	533	- 8	- 1.5
" 14 & 15 ...	371	385	- 14	- 3.6
Total ...	4,101	3,872	+ 229	+ 5.9
GRAND TOTAL ...	13,774	13,144	+ 630	+ 4.8

Between June, 1938, and June, 1939, the numbers of insured males in employment increased by 401,000, or over 4 per cent., and the numbers of females by 229,000, or nearly 6 per cent. The large increases in the 18-20 age-group were due mainly to the increase in the total population of those ages, as a result of the rise in the birth-rate in the period immediately after the last war, while in the age-groups 14-15 and 16-17 there were considerable decreases in the total numbers insured, due to the fall in the birth-rate after the abnormal post-war increase.

The increase of 630,000, between June, 1938, and June, 1939, in the total number in employment, resulted mainly from a reduction of 465,000 in the numbers of insured persons unemployed, the balance being accounted for by the absorption into employment of a net increase of 165,000, during the twelve months, in the total number of persons insured against unemployment. The following Table gives corresponding figures for males and females, respectively:—

	Increase in Insured Persons aged 14-64 in Employment.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Increase between 1938 and 1939 in total numbers insured	81,000	84,000	165,000
Decrease between June, 1938, and June, 1939, in numbers unemployed	320,000	145,000	465,000
Total increase between June, 1938, and June, 1939, in numbers in employment	401,000	229,000	630,000

Of the increase in the numbers of males in employment, approximately four-fifths was represented by a reduction in unemployment. Among females, over three-fifths of the total increase was represented by a reduction in the numbers unemployed. The balance in each case was accounted for by the absorption into employment of the net increase during the year in the total numbers insured.

CHANGES IN INDIVIDUAL INDUSTRIES, 1938-1939.

The Table below shows the increases between June, 1938, and June, 1939, in the estimated numbers of insured persons, aged 14-64, in employment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the industries in which the greatest numerical changes occurred:—

Industry.	Estimated numbers of insured persons aged 14-64 in employment at June, 1939.	Increase as compared with June, 1938.	
		Number.	Per cent.
Motor vehicles, cycles and aircraft	468,090	85,210	22.3
Cotton	341,830	70,270	25.9
Public works contracting	269,970	45,980	20.5
General engineering, etc.	661,360	34,020	5.4
Steel melting and iron puddling, iron and steel rolling, etc.	174,520	32,840	23.2
National Government service	205,150	30,870	17.7
Local Government service	422,760	29,230	7.4
Woolen and worsted	297,930	29,130	16.3
Coal mining	755,280	24,000	3.3
Tailoring	237,860	22,860	10.6
Metal industries not separately specified	283,550	21,990	8.4
Electric cable, apparatus, lamps, etc.	188,430	12,060	6.8
Textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc.	82,740	11,680	16.4
Tinplate	24,870	11,640	88.0
Hosiery	126,700	11,300	9.8
Boots, shoes, slippers and clogs	135,010	11,140	9.0
Linen	63,650	10,800	20.4

The industry showing the greatest increase, between June, 1938, and June, 1939, in the numbers in employment, was motor vehicle, cycle and aircraft manufacture, in which employment has been expanding rapidly for several years. There were also marked increases in the numbers in employment in some other industries and services affected by the defence programme, in some of the principal textile industries, and in coal mining.

Corresponding figures are given below for each of the nine groups into which the various industries and services are classified in the detailed Table on pages 26 and 27:—

Industry Group.	Estimated numbers of insured persons aged 14-64, in employment at June, 1939.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) at June, 1939, as compared with June, 1938.	
		Number.	Per cent.
Fishing*	26,270	+ 170	+ 0.6
Mining and quarrying	80,770	+ 23,680	+ 2.9
Manufacturing	6,599,170	+ 471,740	+ 7.7
Building and public works contracting	1,218,230	+ 47,580	+ 4.1
Transport and distribution†	2,948,930	+ 13,280	+ 0.5
Gas, water and electricity supply†	210,470	+ 12,590	+ 0.8
Miscellaneous services‡	1,021,750	+ 12,530	+ 1.2
Commerce, banking, insurance and finance	270,490	+ 660	+ 0.2
National and Local Government services	627,900	+ 60,100	+ 10.6
All industries and services	13,773,980	+ 629,670	+ 4.8

The largest increase occurred in the manufacturing group of industries (471,740, or 7.7 per cent.); this group accounted for three-quarters of the total increase between June, 1938, and June, 1939. There were also substantial increases in the National and Local Government services (60,100, or 10.6 per cent.), in the building and contracting industries (47,580, or 4.1 per cent.), and in the mining and quarrying group (23,680, or 2.9 per cent.). The changes in the other main groups were relatively small.

DIVISIONAL CHANGES, 1938-39.

The next Table shows the changes between June, 1938, and June, 1939, in the estimated numbers of insured persons in employment in each of the main administrative areas. For persons insured under the special schemes for the banking and insurance industries an analysis on this basis is not available, and the numbers of these persons are accordingly shown separately in the Table.

There was an increase between June, 1938, and June, 1939, in the number of insured persons in employment in each Administrative Division, and in every case the increase was greater—in most cases much greater—than the corresponding increase in the total numbers insured. The numerical increase was greatest in the North-Western Division, where it amounted to 140,000 (7.5 per cent.), but the greatest relative increases occurred in Wales (11.3 per cent.) and Northern Ireland (10.9 per cent.). The London and South-Eastern Divisions had the smallest relative increases, viz., 1.8 per cent. and 2.7 per cent. respectively. In the other Divisions the increases varied between 4 and 6 per cent.

\* The figures for the fishing industry do not include share fishermen, who are outside the scope of the unemployment insurance scheme.  
† The figures are exclusive of considerable numbers of persons excepted from unemployment insurance under certificates of exemption.  
‡ This group includes professional services; entertainment, sport, etc.; hotel, public house, restaurant, boarding house, etc.; service; laundries; and dyeing and dry cleaning.

## Divisional Changes.

Administrative Division.*	Estimated numbers of insured persons, aged 14-64, in employment.		Increase.	
	June, 1939.	June, 1938.	Number.	Per cent.
London ...	2,962,000	2,911,000	51,000	1.8
South-Eastern ...	1,131,000	1,101,000	30,000	2.7
South-Western ...	1,034,000	976,000	58,000	5.9
Midlands ...	2,132,000	2,019,000	113,000	5.6
North-Eastern ...	1,423,000	1,354,000	69,000	5.1
North-Western ...	2,012,000	1,872,000	140,000	7.5
Northern ...	743,000	714,000	29,000	4.1
Scotland ...	1,370,000	1,312,000	58,000	4.4
Wales ...	553,000	497,000	56,000	11.3
Special Schemes...†	160,000	159,000	1,000	0.6
Great Britain ...	13,520,000	12,915,000	605,000	4.7
Northern Ireland ...	254,000	229,000	25,000	10.9
Great Britain and Northern Ireland ...	13,774,000	13,144,000	630,000	4.8

## CHANGES IN THE PERIOD 1923-39.

As boys and girls under 16 years of age were not insurable against unemployment until September, 1934, comparable figures for earlier dates are available only in respect of insured persons aged 16 years and over. In the following Tables, and in the detailed Table on pages 26 and 27, figures are given indicating the changes between 1923 and 1939 in the estimated numbers of such persons in employment, as shown by the figures for June of each year.

The changes are measured from June, 1923, because that is the earliest date for which comparable figures for individual industries are available. The proportions of insured workers unemployed at any particular date vary considerably in different industries, and while employment in the great majority of industries at June, 1923, was not so greatly affected by abnormal circumstances as to render that date unsuitable as a basis for comparison, it should be borne in mind that the relative levels of the index numbers for the different industries in subsequent years, as given in the Table on pages 26 and 27 may be affected by differences in the state of employment in those industries in June, 1923.

In the Table below, index numbers are given showing the changes in the estimated total numbers of insured persons, aged 16-64 years, (exclusive of agricultural workers) in employment in June of each year since 1923 (except 1926, when employment was affected by the general stoppage of work in the coal mining industry) :-

Year.	Index Numbers (1923 = 100).		Year.	Index Numbers (1923 = 100).	
	Great Britain	Great Britain and Northern Ireland.		Great Britain	Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
1923 ...	100.0	100.0	1932 ...	100.8	100.7
1924 ...	103.3	103.8	1933 ...	105.2	105.0
1925 ...	102.1	102.9	1934 ...	109.6	109.5
1926 ...	108.6	108.6	1935 ...	111.9	111.7
1927 ...	107.3	107.2	1936 ...	117.7	117.6
1928 ...	110.4	110.5	1937†	124.8	124.6
1929 ...	106.2	106.1	1938†	121.8	121.5
1931 ...	101.8	101.7	1939†	128.2	128.1

During the period covered by this Table, certain changes have taken place in the scope of the unemployment insurance scheme. In particular, in January, 1928, persons aged 65 and over, who had previously been included, ceased to be insurable against unemployment; and in April, 1938, certain classes of domestic employments, which had not hitherto been insurable, were brought within the scheme. Data were available, however, as to the approximate numbers of persons affected by these changes, and in compiling the index numbers given in the above Table the necessary adjustments have been made, so as to provide a comparable series of figures unaffected by the changes in the scope of unemployment insurance.

Comparison of the estimated numbers of insured persons in employment in June, 1937, and June, 1938, obtained by subtracting, from the numbers insured, the numbers recorded as unemployed at those dates, is also affected by the introduction in September, 1937, of a revised procedure for counting the unemployed, under which persons on the registers subsequently found to have been in employment on the day of the count are excluded from the figures (see page 379 of the October, 1937, issue of this GAZETTE). In September, 1937, however, the numbers unemployed were obtained on both the old and the new basis, and these figures have been utilised to enable the index numbers for 1938 and 1939 to be linked with those for earlier years on an approximately comparable basis.

The total numbers insured, aged 16-64, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland (particulars of which were given on pages 382-3 of the November, 1939, issue of this GAZETTE), increased continuously throughout the period 1923-39, and were over 26 per cent. higher in 1939 than in 1923. It will be seen from the foregoing Table that the numbers in employment increased by over 10 per cent. between

\* The figures relate to the areas as at June, 1939 (i.e. prior to the alteration in Divisional Areas which was made on 24th August, 1939).  
† See first two paragraphs of text below the Table.

June, 1923, and June, 1929, but subsequently declined, and at June, 1932, were little higher than in 1923. Between 1932 and 1937 there was a marked recovery, with the result that at June, 1937, the number of insured persons in employment was about 24½ per cent. above the figure for June, 1923. Between June, 1937, and June, 1938, there was a decline in employment, but a further increase during the following year brought the figures for June, 1939, to over 28 per cent. above the level of June, 1923.

## ANALYSIS BY INDUSTRIES, 1923-1939.

In the detailed Table on pages 26 and 27 figures are given showing, industry by industry, the percentage changes, on a comparable basis, in the estimated numbers of insured persons aged 16-64 (exclusive of agricultural workers) in employment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at the end of June in each of the years 1929 to 1939, the numbers in employment at June, 1923, being taken as = 100. In the Table below, index numbers are given showing the percentage changes during this period in the estimated numbers of such persons in employment in each of the nine industry groups in which the figures on pages 26 and 27 are classified :-

Industry Group.	Index numbers (June, 1923 = 100).			
	June, 1929.	June, 1932.	June, 1938.	June, 1939.
Fishing*	117.4	112.0	116.7	116.3
Mining and Quarrying ...	76.5	54.9	62.7	64.7
Manufacturing ...	110.4	93.5	114.9	124.8
Building and Public Works Contracting ...	128.0	117.8	163.2	170.2
Transport and Distribution†	125.9	135.0	147.6	148.7
Gas, Water and Electricity Supply‡	100.3	101.8	134.2	135.6
Miscellaneous Services§	130.2	138.8	177.3	180.6
Commerce, Banking, Insurance and Finance ...	103.4	107.4	121.9	121.7
National and Local Government Services ...	100.3	107.2	126.2	139.7
All Industries and Services ...	110.5	100.7	121.5	128.1

The Table shows that between 1923 and 1939 there were substantial increases in the estimated numbers of insured persons, aged 16-64, in employment in each of the main groups except mining and quarrying, in which the numbers fell by over one-third. The greatest proportionate increases occurred in the "miscellaneous services," in building and contracting, and in transport and distribution. In the ten-year period from 1929 to 1939, there were marked increases in "miscellaneous services," National and Local Government, gas, water, and electricity supply, and building and contracting, but a reduction in mining and quarrying.

The effect of these changes on the industrial distribution of the total number of insured persons in employment is revealed in the following Table, which shows the percentage proportions of the total numbers of insured persons, aged 16-64, employed in the different industry groups, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, at the end of June in each of the years specified :-

Industry Group.	Percentages of the total number of insured persons, aged 16-64, in employment in different industry groups at the end of June.					
	1923.		1929.		1938§	
	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)
Fishing*	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Mining and Quarrying ...	12.8	8.9	7.0	6.6	6.5	6.3
Manufacturing ...	49.3	49.4	45.9	46.7	46.1	47.5
Building and Contracting ...	7.2	8.2	8.2	9.4	9.3	9.2
Transport and Distribution†	18.2	20.9	24.2	22.3	21.9	20.9
Gas, Water and Electricity Supply‡	1.6	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.6
Miscellaneous Services§	4.8	5.7	6.7	7.1	7.7	7.5
Commerce, Banking, Insurance and Finance ...	2.1	2.0	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.0
National and Local Government Services ...	3.8	3.0	3.9	3.8	4.5	4.8
All Industries and Services ...	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Comparison of the figures for 1938 and 1939 with those for earlier years is slightly affected by the extension of the unemployment insurance scheme, in 1938, to cover certain classes of domestic workers which had not hitherto been insurable against unemployment. These workpeople were almost wholly in the "miscellaneous services" and National and Local Government groups, and the effect of their inclusion will be seen from a comparison of the two columns of figures given for 1938. The Table shows, however, that in June, 1939, nearly one-half of all insured workpeople in employment were engaged in manufacturing industries, about one-fifth in transport and distribution, and nearly one-tenth in building and contracting; these three groups accounted for over three-fourths of the total number of insured persons, aged 16-64, in employment. Of the total number of insured persons in employment, the proportion engaged in the mining and quarrying industries had fallen from nearly 13 per cent. in 1923 to little more than 6 per cent. in 1939. On the other hand, the proportions engaged in building and contracting, transport and distribution, and in the "miscellaneous services" group, had increased during that period.

\* † ‡ See footnotes in second column on page 7.  
§ Of the two series of figures given for 1938, those marked (a) exclude the classes of domestic workers who were brought into insurance in April of that year, and are comparable with the figures given for previous years, while those marked (b) include the newly insured classes of domestic workers and are directly comparable with the figures given for 1939.

Particulars of the percentage changes between June, 1923, and June, 1939, in the estimated numbers of insured persons in employment in individual industries are given in detail in the Table on pages 26 and 27. The industries in which the greatest relative increases or decreases have occurred during that period are shown below :-

Industry.	Percentage increase (+) or decrease (-) at June, 1939, as compared with June, 1923.
<b>Industries showing the greatest increases :-</b>	
Heating and ventilating apparatus ...	+ 308
Electrical wiring and contracting ...	+ 304
Artificial stone and concrete ...	+ 227
Electric cable, apparatus, lamps, etc. ...	+ 173
Public works contracting ...	+ 168
Entertainments, sport, etc. ...	+ 160
Scientific and photographic instruments and apparatus ...	+ 160
Motor vehicles, cycles and aircraft ...	+ 157
Constructional engineering ...	+ 127
Stationery and typewriting requisites (not paper) ...	+ 125
Explosives ...	+ 121
Electrical engineering ...	+ 112
Tramway and omnibus service ...	+ 101
Silk and artificial silk ...	+ 99
Paint, varnish, red lead, etc. ...	+ 91
Miscellaneous metal goods manufacture ...	+ 81
Laundries, dyeing and dry cleaning ...	+ 74
Hotel, boarding house, club, etc. service ...	+ 73
Brick, tile, pipe, etc. manufacture ...	+ 71
<b>Industries showing the greatest decreases :-</b>	
Woolen and worsted ...	- 20
Textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc. ...	- 21
Lead, tin and copper mining ...	- 24
Lace ...	- 24
Cotton ...	- 27
Jute ...	- 33
Iron ore and ironstone mining ...	- 34
Pig iron ...	- 38
Coal mining ...	- 38
Gariages, carts, etc. ...	- 52
Miscellaneous mining and quarrying industries ...	- 59

## ANALYSIS BY SEX, 1923-1939.

The following Table shows, for insured males and females separately, the estimated numbers, aged 16-64, in employment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at June in each of the years 1923, 1929, and 1939 :-

Date. (June)	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Number.	Per cent. of total.	Number.	Per cent. of total.	Number.	Per cent.
1923 ...	7,190,080	72.6	2,706,600	27.4	9,896,680	100.0
1929 ...	7,812,790	71.5	3,117,560	28.5	10,930,350	100.0
1932 ...	6,945,740	69.7	3,021,260	30.3	9,967,000	100.0
1933 ...	7,228,700	69.6	3,158,250	30.4	10,386,950	100.0
1934 ...	7,645,510	70.6	3,190,040	29.4	10,835,550	100.0
1935 ...	7,852,750	71.0	3,201,250	29.0	11,054,000	100.0
1936 ...	8,306,550	71.4	3,324,530	28.6	11,631,080	100.0
1937 ...	8,821,500	71.6	3,505,290	28.4	12,326,790	100.0
1938* (a)	8,710,480	72.1	3,364,790	27.9	12,075,270	100.0
1938* (b)	8,802,870	71.6	3,486,930	28.4	12,289,800	100.0
1939 ...	9,223,260	71.2	3,729,510	28.8	12,952,770	100.0

The increase between 1923 and 1933 in the proportion represented by females was largely due to the fact that the depression of 1929 to 1932 was much more acute in the industries in which men are largely employed than in those which include large numbers of women. From 1933 to 1938 the percentages represented by males increased year by year while those for females declined; between 1938 and 1939, however, there was a reversal of this trend, and the extension of unemployment insurance, in 1938, to cover certain classes of domestic employment also had the effect of slightly raising the proportion of females, and reducing the proportion of males, represented in the total numbers insured.

In the following Table the numbers of insured males and females, aged 16-64, in employment in June of each of the years 1929 and 1932 to 1939 are expressed as percentages of the numbers in 1923, on a comparable basis throughout, adjustments having been made in order to allow for the effects of the extension of unemployment insurance to certain classes of domestic employments in 1938.†

	June, 1929.	June, 1932.	June, 1933.	June, 1934.	June, 1935.	June, 1936.	June, 1937.	June, 1938.	June, 1939.
Males ...	108.7	96.6	100.5	106.3	109.2	115.5	122.7	120.6	126.4
Females ...	115.2	111.6	116.7	117.9	118.3	122.8	129.5	124.0	132.6
Total ...	110.5	100.7	105.0	109.5	111.7	117.6	124.6	121.5	128.1

Over the whole period from 1923 to 1939, the estimated numbers of males, aged 16-64, in employment rose by over 26 per cent., while the numbers of females rose by nearly 33 per cent. Up to 1929, the increase in the numbers of males in employment was relatively less than in the case of females, and the decline between 1929 and 1932 was proportionately greater among males. This was mainly due to the heavy fall, between 1923 and 1929, in the numbers employed in the coal mining industry and to the fact that the industries most severely affected by the decline in employment between 1929 and

\* See footnote § in the second column on page 8. Comparison of the figures for 1938 and 1939 with those for earlier years is also affected, to a small extent, by the introduction in September, 1937, of a revised method of counting the unemployed. (See footnote † on page 27).  
† See first two paragraphs of text below the second Table in the first column on page 8.

1932 were the heavier industries, the personnel of which is predominantly male. Since 1932, the increase has been considerably greater among males than among females, and in June, 1939, the proportions of males and females included in the total numbers of insured persons in employment were much the same as in June, 1929.

The following Table shows the percentage changes between 1923 and 1939 in the estimated numbers of insured males and females, aged 16-64, in employment in each of twelve industry groups. The percentages given are exclusive of changes in the numbers of insured persons resulting from alterations in the scope of the unemployment insurance scheme.\*

Industry Group.	Approximate percentage increase (+) or decrease (-) between June, 1923, and June, 1939, in estimated numbers in employment.		Estimated numbers aged 16-64 in employment at June, 1939.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Fishing†	+ 17.4	+ 27.1	25,370	640
Mining and Quarrying ...	- 35.4	- 43.3	814,570	5,450
Manufacturing ...	+ 28.4	+ 18.4	4,071,780	2,080,720
Building and Contracting ...	+ 70.4	+ 64.1	1,175,630	14,930
Transport and Communication‡	+ 18.5	+ 41.3	748,240	40,150
Distributive Trades ...	+ 67.6	+ 62.4	1,142,170	781,680
Gas, Water and Electricity††	+ 33.8	+ 77.2	195,810	11,420
Hotels, Boarding Houses, etc. ...	+ 82.6	+ 67.2	166,870	277,820
Other Miscellaneous Services§	+ 83.2	+ 92.3	215,450	305,050
Commerce, Banking, Insurance and Finance ...	+ 21.6	+ 22.1	167,870	94,860
National Government Service ...	+ 22.6	+ 34.0	168,790	29,990
Local Government Service ...	+ 62.2	+ 56.3	330,710	86,800
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>+ 26.4</b>	<b>+ 32.6</b>	<b>9,223,260</b>	<b>3,729,510</b>

It will be seen that in every group distinguished in the Table, except National Government Service, the movement of employment between 1923 and 1939 was in the same direction for females as for males, and in most cases the relative increases or decreases were not widely different in magnitude. In manufacturing industries, the distributive trades and hotel, boarding-house, etc. service (which together account for more than four-fifths of the total number of females employed) the proportionate increase among males was greater than among females, while in "other miscellaneous services" (the only other group with more than 100,000 females employed) the increase was greater among females. Exclusive of the mining and quarrying group, where there has been a large reduction among males and where the number of females employed is very small, the increase among males in all industries and services combined was substantially in excess of that for females, the percentage increase for males being 39.5, as compared with 33.0 for females.

## CHANGES IN GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION, 1923-1939.

The Table below shows the estimated numbers of insured persons, aged 16-64 (other than agricultural workers), in employment in each administrative area at June in each of the years 1923, 1929, 1932, 1938 and 1939. These figures are exclusive of workers insured under the Special Schemes for the banking and insurance industries, for whom a geographical analysis is not available. For the year 1923, when persons over 65 years of age were insured, approximate estimates have been made of the numbers aged 16-64 years.

Administrative Division.	Estimated number of insured persons, aged 16-64, in employment, excluding agricultural workers and persons insured under special schemes.				
	June, 1923.	June, 1929.	June, 1932.	June, 1938.	June, 1939.
London ...	1,856	2,235	2,193	2,735	2,798
South-Eastern ...	628	797	798	1,032	1,064
South-Western ...	633	738	719	915	976
Midlands ...	1,453	1,608	1,467	1,880	1,997
North-Eastern ...	1,101	1,158	1,014	1,264	1,336
North-Western ...	1,653	1,797	1,579	1,744	1,891
Northern ...	644	635	498	663	694
Scotland ...	1,078	1,130	981	1,218	1,278
Wales ...	564	477	387	468	524
Northern Ireland ...	207	222	192	213	237
Great Britain and Northern Ireland ...	9,817	10,797	9,827	12,132	12,795

The figures for 1938 and 1939, given in the above Table, are not strictly comparable with those for earlier years, owing partly to the change in the method of counting the unemployed introduced in

over 9 per cent. The increases were greatest in the South-Eastern, South-Western, London and Midland Divisions. These Divisions, comprising the Southern section of the country, now include about 53.4 per cent. of all insured persons, aged 16-64, in employment (exclusive of agriculture), as compared with 46.6 per cent. in 1923. Between June, 1938, and June, 1939, however, the increase was considerably greater in the Northern section than in the Southern section. In the North of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, taken together, the increase during the past year amounted to 7.0 per cent. as compared with 4.2 per cent. in the Southern section of the country.

Administrative Division.	Index Numbers (June 1923 = 100).				
	June, 1923.	June, 1929.	June, 1932.	June, 1938.	June, 1939.
London ... ..	100.0	120.4	118.1	143.7	147.0
South-Eastern ... ..	100.0	126.8	127.1	159.6	164.5
South-Western ... ..	100.0	118.8	113.6	140.3	149.7
Midlands ... ..	100.0	110.7	101.0	127.9	135.9
North-Eastern ... ..	100.0	105.2	92.1	111.8	118.2
North-Western ... ..	100.0	108.7	95.5	103.5	112.2
Northern ... ..	100.0	98.6	77.3	101.2	105.9
Scotland ... ..	100.0	104.8	91.0	110.6	116.0
Wales ... ..	100.0	84.5	68.6	80.9	90.6
Northern Ireland ... ..	100.0	107.2	92.8	101.5	112.9
Great Britain and Northern Ireland ... ..	100.0	110.0	100.1	120.9	127.5

### NATIONAL JOINT ADVISORY COUNCIL.

The third meeting of the National Joint Advisory Council, composed of representatives of the British Employers' Confederation and the Trades Union Congress General Council, which was set up to advise the Government on matters in which employers and workers have a common interest, was held at the Ministry of Labour and National Service on 3rd January. The Minister of Labour and National Service was in the chair. The Minister was accompanied by the Parliamentary Secretary and senior officers of the Department, and there were also present representatives of the Treasury, the Board of Trade, the Mines Department and the Ministry of Food.

General discussion was resumed of the statement made to the Council at its meeting in December by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the problems involved in the financing of the war, and this subject will be further considered at the next meeting of the Council to be held on 31st January. During the discussion the Trade Union representatives laid stress on the objections to the control of wages otherwise than by the voluntary negotiating machinery now in existence, and indicated that they were submitting the whole problem to detailed examination.

The Council received and considered a statement relating to the construction of the Ministry of Labour cost of living index number.

The Council also considered the advice to be tendered by it to the Government as to the date for the re-introduction of official "summer-time" this year.

### UNIVERSITY JOINT RECRUITING BOARDS.

In an article in the September issue of this GAZETTE (page 334) reference was made to the Joint Recruiting Boards and the Technical Committees which have been set up at Universities and University Colleges to assess the suitability for training as officers of undergraduates and resident University graduates under the age of 25 who volunteer for service in His Majesty's Forces.

The scope of the arrangements thus made has now been extended to include students in certain subjects of a technical or scientific nature at an earlier stage in their course than was previously the case and also students in certain additional subjects. The classes of men who may now be dealt with are the following:

(1) Men with University degrees in Engineering (including naval architecture) Metallurgy, Chemistry, Physics, Geology, the Biological Sciences (including Agriculture) and Mathematics (including Statistics).

(2) Men with Higher National Diplomas or Higher National Certificates in Mechanical or Electrical Engineering, or with the Associateship of the Institute of Chemistry.

(3) (i) Men who have completed to the satisfaction of the University at least one year's work of a course for a specialised honours degree in Engineering (including Naval Architecture) Metallurgy, Chemistry, Physics, applied Mathematics, Geology, and the Biological Sciences (including Agriculture).

(ii) Men who have started or are about to start their final year's study for a pass degree in Engineering or Metallurgy.

(4) Men who have started or are about to start their final year's study for the Higher National Diploma or Higher National Certificate in Mechanical or Electrical Engineering or for the Associateship of the Institute of Chemistry.

Men under the age of 25 falling within any of the above classes may apply to a Local Office of the Ministry of Labour and National Service for forms of application and the address of the nearest Joint Recruiting Board.

### SERVICE IN THE ARMED FORCES.

On 1st January, 1940, a Proclamation was made by His Majesty the King, under the National Service (Armed Forces) Act, directing that (with certain exceptions) all male British subjects within Great Britain or entering Great Britain after that date who were not already registered under the Act or under the Military Training Act and who, on 1st January, 1940, had reached the age of 19 but had not reached the age of 28, are liable to be called up for service in the Armed Forces of the Crown.

This is the third Royal Proclamation to be made under the National Service (Armed Forces) Act and its effect is to extend the liability for military service to—

- (i) men of 19 years of age (but these men will not be called up until they reach the age of 20 (see below);
- (ii) men who have reached the age of 20 since the 1st December, 1939 (the date of the last Proclamation made under the Act); and
- (iii) men whose ages on 1st January, 1940, were 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27.

It is estimated that the number of men made liable for service by the Proclamation is approaching two millions.

The first two Proclamations under the Act were signed by His Majesty the King on 1st October and 1st December, 1939, and the numbers of men registered under these Proclamations were 229,794 and 252,806 respectively. In addition, there were registered under the Military Training Act, last June, 240,757 men whose liability for training was superseded by a liability for service under the provisions of the National Service (Armed Forces) Act. The total number of men who since the introduction of compulsory military service have been registered, or have a liability to be called up for service, now reaches a total, therefore, of between 2½ and 2¾ millions. This is, of course, in addition to men who were members of the Regular, Reserve or Auxiliary Forces before the outbreak of war and those who have entered as volunteers since the war.

The registration of the men covered by the Proclamation of 1st January will not take place immediately, nor will all the men be required to register at the same time. The registration and calling up will follow a carefully worked-out plan and the speed at which it will take place will be regulated in the light of the man-power requirements of the three fighting forces. It is contemplated that the men will be registered at intervals, and all those affected will be informed by public announcements and by widespread publicity when a registration day for their particular age group is to take place.

No change is contemplated in the present procedure of registering successive age-groups in an ascending scale. The first age-group to be registered in 1940 will, therefore, be those aged 23 on 1st January, 1940. Men who have reached the age of 20 since 1st December, 1939, or who reach the age of 20 during 1940 will also be registered at intervals throughout the year, but no person will be required to register (and consequently will not be called up for service) until he has at least reached the age of 20.

The procedure for registration, medical examination and calling up will be substantially the same as on previous occasions.

### HOURS OF EMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG PERSONS.

UNDER the provisions of the Young Persons (Employment) Act, 1938, the maximum working hours of young persons under the age of 16, engaged in certain occupations, were reduced from 48 to 44 after 31st December, 1939. The persons affected are:—

(1) those employed about the business of a shop or in connection with retail trade elsewhere, who are subject to the Shops Act, 1934, and

(2) those wholly or mainly employed in such occupations as van boys, outside messengers, page boys at residential hotels and clubs, messengers in newspaper offices, attendants at theatres, cinemas and other places of public entertainment, assistants to cinema operators, lift boys (except those in private houses) and young persons employed in receiving offices for laundries or dyers and cleaners, who are subject to Part I of the Young Persons (Employment) Act, 1938.

The only exception from the statutory 44 hour week for these young persons is that the hours of those subject to the Shops Act, 1934, may be averaged over two weeks at Christmas, provided that they do not work more than 48 hours in either of those weeks nor more than 88 hours in the fortnight. There is no exception in the case of those subject to Part I of the Young Persons (Employment) Act, 1938.

Full particulars of the provisions regulating the hours and conditions of work of young persons in the various employments referred to are contained in a Memorandum on the Shops Act, 1934 (as amended by Part II of the Young Persons (Employment) Act, 1938), which will be published shortly, and in a Memorandum on Part I of the Young Persons (Employment) Act, 1938, which is already on sale. A special edition of each memorandum is published for Scotland. Copies of these Memoranda (price 2d. net each) may be purchased directly from H.M. Stationery Office or through any bookseller.

The new provisions come into operation by virtue of Section 1 (1) (b) and Section II of the Young Persons (Employment) Act, 1938, and apply throughout England, Wales and Scotland.

### WAGES OF ROAD HAULAGE WORKERS.

THE Minister of Labour and National Service has made an Order under Section 3 of the Road Haulage Wages Act, 1938, giving statutory effect to the proposals submitted to him by the Road Haulage Central Wages Board for fixing remuneration and for allowing holidays with pay to road haulage workers employed in connection with vehicles specified in an "A" licence or a "B" licence granted under the Road and Rail Traffic Act, 1933 (see page 361 of the issue of this GAZETTE for October, 1939). The provisions of the Order become effective on 29th January.

The Road Haulage Central Board was set up in February last, the Area Boards for Scotland and for each of the other Traffic Areas formed under the Road and Rail Traffic Act, 1933 having been formed a few weeks earlier. The Central Board has the duty, after consultation with the Area Boards, of submitting to the Minister of Labour and National Service proposals for fixing remuneration and for giving holidays with pay to road haulage workers, and such proposals, subject to confirmation by the Minister, have statutory force.

As it was found impossible to secure general observance of conditions of employment in this industry by means of voluntary machinery the National Joint Conciliation Board, representing employers and Trade Unions, approached the Minister of Labour and National Service with a request that the voluntary machinery should be strengthened by a statutory scheme. Subsequently, a Departmental Committee under the chairmanship of Sir James Baillie was appointed to enquire into the position, and their recommendations were embodied in a Bill which became law in July, 1938.

The proposals which are now given statutory force have been framed after consultation with the Area Boards, and have been under active discussion with the haulage industry since March of last year. The proposals now to be put into effect thus represents the findings of the industry itself after long and exhaustive consideration and full examination of objections.

The broad effect of the Order will be to give statutory effect for an initial period up to 5th May, 1940, to the rates agreed between the organisations of employers and workers represented upon the former voluntary National Joint Conciliation Board for the Road Transport Industry (Goods) subject to some adjustments in the grading of certain Areas. Whereas, however, the rates previously agreed were on a voluntary basis the payment of those prescribed by the Order will be compulsory. Provision is also made, under the Holidays with Pay Act, for holidays with pay.

Provisions applying to Scotland in the interim period are set out in a separate part of the Order. The wages payable for this period correspond roughly with grade 2 rates for England and Wales and apply to the whole country without distinction of grading. After the 5th May, 1940, however, Scotland will be included in the general scheme, with the grading as provided in the general body of the Order.

After the initial period, which will end on 5th May, 1940, whilst no change is provided in general wage levels, changes are made as regards overtime and certain other of the surrounding conditions, e.g. subsistence allowances and payment for night work.

In conformity with the provisions of the Act the Minister has made an Order bringing Part II of the Act into operation on 29th January. This part of the Act contains provisions with respect to the remuneration of road haulage workers employed in connection with "C" licensed vehicles. As from the above date, if such a worker's remuneration is considered to be unfair, application for the matter to be referred for settlement under the Act may be made to the Minister of Labour and National Service by the worker concerned, or by his trade union or by any trade union which represents a substantial number of road haulage workers. The Minister has made regulations prescribing the manner in which application shall be made.

### PRICES OF GOODS ORDER.

THE Prices of Goods (Price-regulated Goods) (No. 1) Order,\* made by the Board of Trade on 18th December under the provisions of Section 2 of the Prices of Goods Act, 1939,† contains a list of goods to which that Act will apply in the first instance. The Order came into effect on 1st January, 1940.

The goods specified in the Order include a large number of articles of clothing, certain classes of piece goods, household textiles, domestic ironmongery, domestic turnery, etc., table cutlery, domestic glassware, domestic pottery, knitting yarn, electric torches and accessories, sandbags, and the textile and leather materials used in the manufacture of the clothing, piece goods and household textiles specified (except materials the prices of which are controlled by Orders made under the Emergency Powers (Defence) Regulations, 1939).

The Board of Trade state that the intention in drawing up the list of articles which is scheduled to the Order has been to include articles which are widely and necessarily used by large sections of the population. It follows that the list does not, and is not meant to, include anything of a luxury nature. Indeed, the list is not exhaustive even so far as articles which everybody uses are concerned. It was thought essential to apply the Act, in the first instance, to those goods which were most necessary, and to give consideration in due course to modifying and extending the list as and when it appears desirable to do so. It is probable, therefore, that further Orders will be made from time to time.

The provisions of the Act apply to the goods specified in the schedule to the Order, whether they are sold retail or wholesale.

\* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1939, No. 1813. H.M. Stationery Office. Price 2d. net.

† See the December issue of this GAZETTE, page 410.

### FOOD CONTROL.

#### MAXIMUM RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD.

In the issue of this GAZETTE for October and November, 1939, particulars were given of a number of Orders made by the Ministry of Food prescribing maximum retail prices.

Since then, prices of fresh meat (but not chilled and frozen meat) of margarine and "cooking fats," and of eggs produced in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, have been de-controlled, and Orders have been made relating to canned salmon, butter, sugar, bacon and meat.

The Canned Salmon (Provisional Maximum Prices) (No. 2) Order, 1939, which was dated 22nd December and came into force on 27th December, amended the maximum prices of certain descriptions of salmon, prices of other descriptions remaining unaltered.

The Butter (Maximum Prices) Order, 1940, which was dated 1st January and came into force on 8th January, made no change in the maximum retail price of butter, viz., 1s. 7d. per lb., but made the provision that in calculating the price, any fraction of a farthing is to be regarded as one farthing.

The Sugar (Maximum Prices) (No. 4) Order, 1939, has been amended by an Order, dated 6th January, providing that in calculating the retail price of sugar, any fraction of a farthing is to be regarded as one farthing.

The Bacon (Prices) Order, 1940, which was dated 6th January and came into force on 8th January, prescribes maximum retail prices, which for boneless bacon and ham, uncooked, range from 1s. 2d. to 2s. 2d. per lb., according to cut, etc. Maximum prices also operate for "picnics" and cooked bacon and ham. The Order includes a provision that in calculating the retail price, any fraction of a farthing is to be regarded as one farthing.

The Meat (Maximum Retail Prices) Order, 1940, and the Meat (Maximum Retail Prices) (Northern Ireland) Order, 1940, which were dated 13th January and came into force on 15th January, prescribe maximum retail prices for the various joints, cuts, etc., of beef, mutton, lamb, veal and pork, distinguishing home-killed and imported meat and, for home-killed beef and mutton, first and second quality meat.

From the large number of prices scheduled, the following maximum retail prices in England and Wales have been extracted:—

	Beef (per lb.).			
	Sirloin.	Fore Ribs.	Brisket.	Thin Flank.
Home-killed, 1st Quality ...	s. d. 1 5	s. d. 1 4	d. 10	d. 10
Home-killed, 2nd Quality ...	1 2	1 1	7	6
Imported ... ..	1 2	1 1	7	6
Mutton and Lamb (per lb.).				
	Leg.	Shoulder.	Neck.	Breast.
Home-killed Mutton and Lamb, 1st Quality ...	s. d. 1 6	s. d. 1 4	s. d. 1 0	d. 8
Home-killed Mutton, 2nd Quality ... ..	1 0	9	6	4
Imported Mutton ... ..	1 0	9	6	4
Imported Lamb ... ..	1 4	1 2	6	4

The prices for Scotland, on account of differences in the cuts, differ slightly from the above, but the general price level is the same there.

Maximum retail prices are also scheduled for home-killed and for imported offal, i.e., heart, liver, kidney, tongue, sweetbreads, tripe, etc. Sausages and sausage meat are included in the schedules for beef and pork.

#### FOOD RATIONING.

Under the Rationing Order, 1939, dated 27th December, and subsequent Orders, the rationing of sugar, butter, bacon and ham began on 8th January. The amount of the domestic ration per person per week is:—

Sugar ... ..	12 oz.
Butter ... ..	4 oz.
Bacon or ham, uncooked ... ..	4 oz.
" " cooked ... ..	3½ oz.

The quantities stated for bacon or ham are obtainable free of bone. Canned bacon and canned ham are included in the ration, but chops and chaws, fore-leg knuckles, hind-leg knuckles and parts of shoulders known as "picnics" are free of ration.

### TRADE BOARDS ACT: PROPOSED APPLICATION TO FURNITURE MANUFACTURING TRADE.

THE Minister of Labour and National Service has given Notice of a draft Special Order applying the Trade Boards Acts, 1909 and 1918, to the Furniture Manufacturing Trade.

A copy of the Notice and of the draft Special Order is reproduced on page 40 of this GAZETTE.

In the event of objections being made to the draft Special Order on or before 31st January, 1940, which are not met or withdrawn it will be necessary before the Order is made for a Public Enquiry to be held. In this event public notice will be given.

## CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN 1938.

The following particulars have been compiled by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies from statutory returns furnished to his Department. The figures are exclusive of agricultural societies (the transactions of which will be summarised in an article in a subsequent issue of this GAZETTE) and relate only to societies which are co-operative in character, so that, in effect, the article deals with the transactions of societies operating within the co-operative movement.

The societies are divided into two classes, viz., those which deal directly with the consumer and those which do not. The two categories are described for convenience as "Retail" and "Wholesale and Productive" respectively.

## (A) DISTRIBUTION.

## (1) GENERAL.

At the end of 1938 there were 1,244 registered industrial co-operative societies in Great Britain mainly engaged in the supply of commodities. Of these 1,124 were retail societies and 120 were wholesale and productive societies.

The sales made by such societies in each of the last five years are shown in the following Table:—

Year.	Sales of Retail Societies.	Sales of Wholesale and Productive Societies.			
		C.W.S.*	S.C.W.S.*	E. & S. J. C.W.S.*	Other Societies.
1934 ...	£1,000's	£1,000's	£1,000's	£1,000's	£1,000's
1934 ...	205,583	91,293	17,674	7,590	6,496
1935 ...	218,991	98,284	18,645	5,864	6,969
1936 ...	232,317	107,692	20,592	7,538	7,491
1937 ...	248,273	119,852	22,447	8,297	8,021
1938 ...	261,500	125,016†	27,354‡	8,762	7,980

In considering the above Table, it should be borne in mind that the sales of the wholesale societies in the main are made to the retail societies for resale to their members and that, in consequence, any aggregation of the figures would be misleading. Further, the sales of the English and Scottish Joint Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd. (which is the separately registered joint tea, etc., department of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd., and the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd.) include goods invoiced to the two principal wholesale societies for resale. In 1938 the value of the goods so invoiced was £7,614,000.

The number of persons employed in distribution by the retail and wholesale and productive societies was 208,000 (127,000 males aged 18 years and over, 38,000 females aged 18 years and over and 43,000 persons under 18 years of age), and the amount paid in salaries and wages was £28,388,000.

## (2) RETAIL SOCIETIES.

Of the 1,124 retail societies engaged in distribution, 1,068 were general supply stores.

The sales of the general supply stores (including revenue from service departments) totalled £261,101,000 and represented an increase of £13,213,000 over 1937. These societies had 8,316,000 shareholding members at the end of the year, with share capital amounting to £153,747,000. They returned an aggregate surplus on the year's working of £30,829,000, of which £5,139,000 was distributed as interest on share capital and £23,545,000 as dividends on sales. Their investments totalled £141,506,000, of which £100,197,000 was invested in other co-operative societies, mainly in the Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd.

The number of persons employed in distribution by the general supply stores was 192,000 (116,000 males aged 18 years and over, 35,000 females aged 18 years and over and 41,000 persons under 18 years of age), their salaries and wages totalled £25,583,000, and the dividends distributed on sales averaged 1s. 9½d. in the £, compared with 1s. 10½d. in 1937.

The remaining 56 retail co-operative societies were various in character and their sales in 1938 amounted to only £399,000.

## (3) WHOLESALE AND PRODUCTIVE SOCIETIES.

There were 120 wholesale and productive societies at the end of 1938. The bulk of the business of the group, however, was conducted by the Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd., the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd., and the English and Scottish Joint Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd.

The sales of the three wholesale societies in 1938 (excluding goods invoiced by the Joint society to the two parent societies) amounted to £153,518,000. They had a total shareholding membership of 1,791, of which 1,251 were retail societies and 540 were employees of the Scottish wholesale society, an aggregate share capital of £16,681,000 (excluding £499,000 share capital provided by the English and Scottish wholesale societies for the Joint society), loan capital of £81,754,000 and a balance of reserves and undivided profit amounting to £12,092,000. Most of the capital was not required for trading; their investments totalled £10,824,000 and in addition, the English wholesale society had £77,603,000 deposited with its banking department. The aggregate surplus (before deducting £658,000 share interest) amounted to £5,295,000.

\* Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd., Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd., and English and Scottish Joint Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd., respectively.

† The figure for this year covers 62 weeks.

‡ The figure for this year covers 53 weeks.

§ The figure for this year covers 40 weeks.

¶ The figure for this year covers 53 weeks.

The number of persons employed in distribution by the three wholesale societies (including those engaged in the buying departments) was 14,500 (9,700 males aged 18 years and over, 3,300 females aged 18 years and over and 1,500 persons under 18 years of age), and their salaries and wages amounted to £2,584,000.

A dividend of 4d. in the £ on sales was distributed by the English wholesale society for 1938 together with an additional dividend of 3d. in the £ on sales of its own products. Dividends at the same rates were distributed for 1937. The Scottish Wholesale Society distributed a dividend of 4d. in the £ for 1938, as compared with a dividend of 5d. for the first half and 4d. for the second half of the year 1937. The dividends of these two societies aggregated £2,911,000.

## (B) PRODUCTION.

Among the registered industrial co-operative societies which were mainly engaged in the supply of commodities there were 960 societies whose activities in 1938 included the production of commodities. The number of persons employed in production was 111,000 (65,000 males aged 18 years and over, 29,000 females aged 18 years and over and 17,000 persons under 18 years of age); the amount paid as salaries and wages was £15,575,000 and the value of productions (including materials) was £104,004,000.

In the following Table the productive work undertaken in 1938 is analysed by industry, the value of productions being given gross, i.e., including the cost of materials used. Totals also are given for each of the five years 1934-8.

Industry.	Num-ber of Em-ployees.	Salaries and Wages.	Gross Value of Productions.				
			Retail Societies.	Wholesale and Productive Societies.		All Societies.	
				C.W.S.*	S.C.W.S.*		Other Societies.
Food and Tobacco ...	32,162	4,826	33,877	27,603	2,895	64,375	
Farming and Dairying ...	4,071	531	3,477	3,989	822	8,288	
Clothing ...	30,417	3,397	2,431	4,477	2,260	9,168	
Soap, Candles and Starch	2,174	313	—	2,759	—	2,759	
Textiles ...	4,855	532	—	2,104	221	2,325	
Mining and Quarrying ...	828	126	—	252	—	252	
Building and Woodworking	17,263	2,977	3,131	4,376	26	7,533	
Papermaking, Printing, etc.	6,060	955	—	1,762	976	2,738	
Metal and Engineering ...	5,346	806	458	2,524	173	3,155	
Drugs and Chemicals ...	1,826	193	—	1,682	—	1,682	
Miscellaneous (including Transport for Productive Depts.) ...	6,475	919	148	1,566	15	1,729	
Totals for 1938 ...	111,477	15,575	43,522	53,094	7,388	104,004	
Corresponding Totals for	1937	107,812	14,499	43,060	49,143	7,310	99,513
	1936	103,638	13,776	40,323	43,531	6,513	90,367
	1935	98,787	12,912	37,718	38,909	6,269	82,896
	1934	93,777	12,166	35,472	35,484	5,944	76,900

The following is an analysis of the net value of productions, i.e., the value after the cost of materials used has been deducted:—

Industry.	Retail Societies.	Net Value of Productions.				All Societies.	
		Wholesale and Productive Societies.					
		C.W.S.*	S.C.W.S.*†	E. & S. J. C.W.S.*	Other Societies.		
Food and Tobacco ...	£1,000's	£1,000's	£1,000's	£1,000's	£1,000's	£1,000's	
Food and Tobacco ...	7,856	4,356	833	121	984	14,150	
Farming and Dairying ...	571	560	26	—	247	1,404	
Clothing ...	1,351	1,703	314	—	1,045	4,413	
Soap, Candles and Starch	—	1,045	142	—	—	1,187	
Textiles ...	—	544	142	—	94	780	
Mining and Quarrying ...	—	235	—	—	—	235	
Building and Woodworking	1,598	1,643	347	—	14	3,602	
Papermaking, Printing, etc.	—	662	231	—	587	1,480	
Metal and Engineering ...	215	636	267	—	99	1,217	
Drugs and Chemicals ...	—	395	89	—	—	484	
Miscellaneous ...	55	490	100	—	8	653	
Totals for 1938 ...	11,646	12,269	2,491	121	3,078	29,605	
Corresponding Totals for	1937	11,496	10,070	2,160	119	3,023	26,868
	1936	12,427	10,132	2,060	123	2,859	27,601
	1935	11,865	9,818	1,826	79	2,715	26,303
	1934	11,122	9,327	1,797	107	2,610	24,963

Owing to the difficulty of obtaining accurate figures relating to the cost of materials used, particulars relating to the estates in India and Ceylon belonging to the English and Scottish Joint Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd., have been omitted. In 1938 the gross value of goods produced on these plantations was £375,000. European employees numbered 59 and their salaries and wages totalled £38,000. Native overseers numbered 264 and their wages totalled £15,000. Similar particulars of native labour employed in cultivation are not available.

The productions of the retail and wholesale societies differ in character and those of the wholesale societies cover a wider field of

\* See footnote \* in previous column.

† The figures for 1938 cover 62 weeks.

‡ The figures for this year cover 40 weeks.

§ The figures for this year covers 53 weeks.

¶ The figures for this year covers 53 weeks.

## INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION.

## ACTIVITIES SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF WAR.

For some time prior to the outbreak of war, the International Labour Organisation had had under consideration what its policy should be "in the event of acute international crisis". In February, 1939, it appointed an Emergency Committee which was to have a dual function. First, it was to consider immediately the problems that would face the Organisation in time of war and report to the Governing Body; secondly, if war broke out, the powers of the Governing Body were to be delegated to the Committee, if the Governing Body could not itself meet. The Committee comprised four representatives of Governments (those of France, Great Britain, Norway and the United States of America) together with two representatives each from the Employers' and the Workers' Groups on the Governing Body.

Immediately after its establishment, the Committee began its examination of the problems which would arise in the event of war. It presented two reports to the Governing Body which the latter adopted on 22nd April and 13th June respectively. Following the adoption of the second report the Governing Body decided to communicate certain of the decisions reached to the International Labour Conference which was then in session. The following is an extract from the communication made to the Conference:

"The Emergency Committee took cognisance of the replies from a certain number of Governments to the communication addressed to them by the Office forwarding the report which the Governing Body had adopted on some of the problems which would arise as regards the International Labour Organisation at a time of grave international crisis. It noted with particular satisfaction that a number of these replies, including those from Great Britain, Rumania and Sweden, reaffirmed the principle that the International Labour Organisation should endeavour to function as completely as possible if an international crisis should intervene, and even if such a crisis should unfortunately develop into war. The Committee also received with great satisfaction similar declarations made on behalf of their Governments by the representatives of France and the United States of America."

In compliance with the "principle" referred to in this extract the International Labour Organisation has continued to function since the outbreak of war although necessarily a considerable number of its activities have had to be curtailed or in some cases abandoned. Two meetings of the Emergency Committee (invested with the powers of the Governing Body) have been held and, in addition, the plans previously made for the convening in Havana in November, 1939, of the Second Regional Conference of the American States Members of the Organisation have been carried through successfully. There are set out below a summary of the proceedings at the two meetings of the Emergency Committee, some notes regarding the Havana Conference, statements made on 23rd November, 1939, by the Foreign Secretary and the Minister of Labour and National Service in reply to questions asked in the House of Lords and House of Commons respectively, and, finally, a brief note regarding the proceedings, in so far as they relate to the International Labour Organisation, at the Session of the Assembly of the League of Nations held in December, 1939.

## The Third and Fourth Sessions of the Emergency Committee of the Governing Body, September and October, 1939.

The 89th Session of the Governing Body, which was to have taken place in Oslo in the early days of October, 1939, was cancelled, but in its place two sessions of the Emergency Committee were held in Geneva, the first on 20th-21st September, and the second from 10th to 12th October. Both were well attended, representatives of many Governments other than the four with seats on the Committee being present, as well as many members of the Employers' and Workers' Groups. His Majesty's Government was represented at both meetings by Mr. G. Myrdin Evans, an Assistant Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and National Service. The following are the more important of the decisions reached at the two sessions:—

Mr. Carter Goodrich, representative of the Government of the United States of America, was unanimously elected Chairman of the Governing Body in place of Mr. Berg (Norway) whose year of office had expired.

The Committee took note of the fact that the Governments of 31 States Members of the Organisation had informed the Office in writing of their support of the principle that the International Labour Organisation should continue to function as completely as possible during the war. In addition to these written statements, it may be added that the representative of the United States Government took the opportunity to say that the question of the future of the International Labour Office during the war had been considered by the highest authorities of his country and he read a written instruction which he had received in Washington from Miss Frances Perkins, the Secretary of Labour. This urged the vigorous continuation of the Organisation's work, practically adapted to the conditions of the present period, and concluded: "The continued existence of the International Labour Organisation as an instrument of co-operation between Governments, Employers and Workers will be of the highest value both during the war itself and during the difficult period that is likely to follow immediately upon the termination of hostilities."

The Committee approved the proposal of the Director of the Office to proceed without alteration with the plans for the holding of the Second Regional Conference of the American States Members of the Organisation at Havana in November. It was also decided

operations than those of the retail societies. In the retail societies, the dominating productive operation is baking, which in 1938 accounted for about one-half of the aggregate net value created. In the wholesale societies the outstanding productive department is that of milling, which accounted for over one-seventh of the aggregate net value. Some of the productive operations of the wholesale societies which are either not undertaken by the retail societies at all or only to a negligible extent are tea and coffee; oil and cake; soap, candles and starch, chemicals; margarine and lard, and textiles.

Between 1934 and 1938, the total number of employees engaged in production rose by nearly 18,000 (or about 19 per cent.), and the amount of salaries and wages paid in the year rose by over £3,400,000 (or about 28 per cent.). The net value of production in 1938 was higher than in 1934 by about £4,640,000 (or nearly 19 per cent.). Of the increase in the net value of production during this period, about nine-tenths was accounted for by the wholesale and productive societies, and about one-tenth by the retail societies.

When allowance is made for the surplus earned and expenses chargeable to distribution, it is estimated that in 1938 nearly one-sixth of the wholesale value of the goods sold by the retail societies was created within the co-operative movement.

Farming.—Farming is carried on by a number of retail societies. During 1938 there were 87 societies undertaking farming operations, apart from those which maintained land for accommodation and grazing purposes only. In only 37 cases did these operations result in a surplus. The total acreage of the farms was 31,000 (as compared with 30,000 for 1937) and the total capital invested in farm land and buildings, implements, stocks, etc., was about £1,262,000. The sales or transfers of farm produce, etc., totalled £554,000, as in 1937.

The farms owned by the two principal wholesale societies covered 18,000 acres, which was 300 acres more than in 1937. Capital invested in their farms by these societies totalled £925,000, and the sale or transfer value of farm produce increased by £21,000 to £359,000.

Share of Employees in Membership, Capital and Management of Societies.—In the retail societies generally, employees have no prescribed right as employees to share in the capital and management, although they may become shareholding members in the ordinary way. In the wholesale and productive societies (other than the three principal wholesale societies), however, the registered rules frequently provide for the employees, as such, not only to share in the capital but also to become members of the committee of management. In 1938 there were 51 societies in which employees shared both in capital and in management. The societies had a shareholding membership totalling 15,048 of whom 5,833 were employees; share capital amounting to £518,000 of which 29 per cent. was held by employees; and loan capital amounting to £454,000 of which 26 per cent. was due to employees. Of 509 committeemen 251 were employees.

## (C) SERVICES.

The services provided by the co-operative movement are varied in character, but the principal are banking, insurance and laundering.

Banking.—The Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd., has a banking department which provides all banking services and conducts the banking business of almost all the societies in the co-operative movement in England and Wales. Receipts on deposit and current account in 1938 totalled £409,854,000 and the aggregate balances of deposit and current accounts at the end of the year amounted to £86,051,000 and £21,729,000 respectively. There were 73,382 separate accounts of which 877 were in the names of co-operative societies, 10,329 trade unions, 1,044 clubs, 11,308 other mutual organisations and 49,824 individuals. Of the total amounts held on deposit and on current account, £65,000,000 and £12,603,000 respectively represented the balance of the society's own trade department. The assets of the bank totalled £113,589,000, of which £104,855,000 was invested in Government, municipal and other securities.

Insurance.—The Co-operative Insurance Society, Ltd., is owned by the Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd., and the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd. The society does extensive business in all the main branches of insurance with the exception of marine risks. The total premium income for all departments in 1938 amounted to £9,059,000, an increase of £643,000 over 1937. More than one-half of the premium income was in respect of industrial assurance. Collective life assurance, which is undertaken largely in conjunction with the retail societies, accounted for £557,000 of the premium income. The total of the insurance funds at the end of the year was £28,982,000. Profit on the year's working amounted to £402,000 of which £1,000 was allocated as interest on shares to the two constituent societies and £51,000 as dividends on premiums. Salaries and wages payable in 1938 totalled £552,000 and commission £1,657,000.

Laundry.—Many retail societies themselves undertake laundering but others have combined to form separately registered federal laundry societies to perform this service in the areas covered by the retail societies concerned. At the end of 1938 there were 16 such societies during the year. Charges for work done amounted to £1,489,000 and resulted in an aggregate net surplus on the year of £146,000. Share, loan and reserve capital totalled £1,901,000. Salaries and wages amounted to £730,000.

that the opportunity of this Conference should be taken to convene a meeting of the American Members of the Permanent Agricultural Committee, the meeting of the latter, which had been fixed for the end of 1939, having been unavoidably postponed. The meetings of various other committees which had been arranged were postponed. These included the meeting of the Committee of Experts on Safety in Coal Mines and also the Preparatory Technical Conference on Safety in Coal Mines.

Apart from consideration of the revised budget of the Organisation for 1940, to which reference is made below, the principal subject considered by the Committee related to the activities of the Organisation during the war. A long discussion took place on this matter, in the course of which the representatives of many Governments, as well as spokesmen of the Employers' and Workers' Groups, indicated from different aspects, and with varying degrees of emphasis, their opinion that the normal activities of the Organisation, supplemented and adapted as might be necessary as a consequence of the war, could and should be pursued. While no final decisions were taken as to a programme of work, general approval was given to a note submitted by the Office indicating various questions which could usefully be studied in the existing circumstances. Amongst these matters may be mentioned the following:—Methods of supervising the engagement and re-engagement of workers; vocational retraining of the unemployed and vocational retraining of disabled men; influence of special war time conditions of employment on the frequency of accidents in industry; methods of collaboration between Governments, Workers' Organisations and Employers' Organisations in war time; influence on output of the extension of normal working hours and the extensive utilisation of overtime. In the course of the discussion the question of the holding of the International Labour Conference in 1940 was raised. Various speakers indicated their view that the Conference should be held, although perhaps not in June and probably with a modified agenda.

In view of the special circumstances resulting from the outbreak of war, the Emergency Committee, at the request of the Supervisory Commission of the League of Nations, considered the financial problems involved. A revised budget for 1940 was adopted to replace that which the Governing Body had approved in May and which had subsequently been approved by the Supervisory Commission also for presentation to the Assembly. The estimates (less supplementary receipts) included in the former budget had been for 9,090,000 Swiss francs. In the new budget as revised by the Emergency Committee they were for 7,858,000 Swiss francs, representing an economy of 1,232,000 Swiss francs. As the former figure of 9,090,000 Swiss francs had already constituted a saving compared with the budget for 1939 of 1,088,000 Swiss francs, the total saving as compared with 1939 represented by the revised budget is 2,320,000 Swiss francs, or 22·8 per cent. As the reduction of the budget even to this extent would not necessarily provide a final solution of the financial problem, since receipts sometimes fall short of the sums budgeted for, the Emergency Committee also gave consideration to means whereby expenditure should not exceed the amount of contributions actually received.

Another matter considered by the Committee was the Report prepared for presentation to the Assembly of the League of Nations by the special Committee set up by the Council of the League in May, 1939, to consider "the development of international co-operation in economic and social affairs." Concern was expressed by certain members of the Workers' Group—notably M. Jouhaux (France) and M. Mertens (Belgium)—lest the proposals made by the Special Committee for the establishment within the framework of the League of a new "Central Committee for Economic and Social Questions" would involve encroachment in any way on the work of the International Labour Organisation. The Emergency Committee agreed that the best solution would be for the Assembly in any resolution on the subject it might adopt to make it clear that the autonomy and competence of the International Labour Organisation were not affected. On this understanding, it was left to the Director of the Office to deal with the matter.

Finally, the Committee agreed that if possible a Session of the Governing Body should be held in January, 1940. (It is the present intention to hold such a Session at the beginning of February.)

*The Second Regional Conference of American States Members of the International Labour Organisation, Havana, November-December, 1939.*

This Conference was opened by Mr. Goodrich, Chairman of the Governing Body, on 21st November, and it concluded its work on 2nd December. It was attended by delegations from all the sixteen American States Members of the Organisation, eight of the delegations being "full" ones, i.e., comprising representatives of the Government, of employers and of workers. Three other American States were represented by Observers, as also was the British Empire in the person of Mr. F. A. Norman, O.B.E., an Assistant Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and National Service, at present seconded as Labour Adviser to the Government of Jamaica. The Secretary-General of the Conference was Mr. J. G. Winant, the Director of the International Labour Office.

There were three items on the agenda, viz.:

1. Discussion of the Director's Report;
2. Examination of the effect given to the resolutions adopted by the First Regional Conference held at Santiago, Chile, in January, 1936 (particularly as regards the work of women and children and social insurance);
3. Organisation of official institutions dealing with immigration and settlement.

A meeting of the American Members of the Permanent Agricultural Committee was also held during the Conference.

While the discussion of the Director's Report was undertaken at plenary sessions of the Conference, three Committees were appointed to consider the detailed items on the agenda, namely, Social Insurance, the Work of Women and Children, and Immigration. Reports, containing several Resolutions, were presented by each of these Committees, and the Conference adopted all of them. There was also a special Resolutions Committee of the Conference, which presented twenty-seven Resolutions to the Conference on a diversity of topics, all of which were adopted. One of these, given the title of the Declaration of Havana, contained a "pledge of unwavering support" from the Governments and peoples of the American Continent "for the continuance with unimpaired vigour of the efforts of the International Labour Organisation to accomplish its high purpose of achieving social justice." Another referred to the danger that it might be "impossible to hold the next general session of the International Labour Conference in Geneva in normal and satisfactory conditions," and suggested that, if so, the "possibility that the said general meeting of the Conference be held in the capital of some American country" should be considered by the Governing Body.

Early in the proceedings, the President of the Conference read a letter which he had received from the President of the United States as follows:—

The White House,  
Washington,  
November 15, 1939.

"My dear Mr. Chairman,

It is extremely fitting that the sister States of the Western Hemisphere who are members of the International Labour Organisation should assemble at this time to consider those fundamental problems of human living that concern every citizen of every nation. This Conference is another significant example of the effectiveness of an agency, like the International Labour Organisation, which even in times like these can serve the people of various nations without regard to boundary lines or battlefield.

The twenty years of the I.L.O.'s existence has proven the usefulness of such an organisation in time of peace. I am confident that it can and will be of service to its members, indeed to society as a whole, in time of war. Its many activities make it the focal point from which should come the constant reminder, in these tragic times, that a humane civilization can flourish only under conditions of just human relationships.

May I express the sincere hope of the Government of the United States of America that there will be no lessening of the activities of the International Labour Organisation during the existing world emergency. We pledge ourselves to continue our full part in its constructive, non-political, international effort for the betterment of living standards.

Very sincerely yours,  
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT."

Also early in the proceedings, Mr. Norman communicated to the Conference a message from the British Government, as follows:—

"It is a matter of great satisfaction to His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom that in the difficult circumstances in which the world is at present situated, this Conference of American States is taking place in Havana as part of the normal functioning of the International Labour Organisation. His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, closely associated with its foundation, has always given the warmest support to the Organisation and it does not propose to diminish this support owing to the misfortune that it is now involved in war. The vital labour problems which are the concern of the Organisation are in no way diminished in the present circumstances and indeed in some respects they are intensified. The Organisation doubtless has at present many special difficulties to face, but given goodwill—and of the existence of this not only among Governments, but also among Employers' and Workers' Organisations there is abundant evidence throughout the world—equally doubtless they will be overcome. To those who desire this end, nothing could give greater satisfaction than the signal proof of the strength of the ties which the Organisation has forged with the free nations in the Americas now afforded by the holding of this important Conference. The first Regional Conference held at Santiago in Chile in 1936 was a great success. It is the hope of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom that this second Conference in Havana will repeat that success and they are confident that the hope will be fulfilled."

*Statements made on 23rd November, 1939, by the Foreign Secretary and the Minister of Labour and National Service.*

In reply to a Question in the House of Lords on 23rd November, 1939, Lord Halifax made the following statement:—

"I am glad to be able to assure the noble Lord that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom maintain their full interest in all the activities which the League of Nations can carry on in present circumstances. In particular His Majesty's Government have shown their full approval of the decision of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to attempt to continue its work as completely as conditions will allow. The two meetings of the Emergency Committee of the Governing Body have both been attended by a representative of His Majesty's Government, and an official observer has been sent to the Regional Conference of the American States Members of the International Labour Organisation now in session at Havana.

These are examples of the sympathetic interest which His Majesty's Government continue to take in the work of the International Labour Office, and they trust that other Governments will demonstrate the same interest, particularly in regard to the provision of funds to enable

the organisation to maintain its efficiency. This question of the finances of the International Labour Organisation, as indeed of the League as a whole, will, by an agreement just reached between the members of the Assembly, be discussed by the Fourth Committee on December 4, and His Majesty's Government's representative on that Committee will naturally bear in mind the importance which His Majesty's Government attach to seeing the work of the International Labour Organisation carried on as effectively as possible in present conditions."

In reply to a Question in the House of Commons on 23rd November, 1939, the following statement was made by Mr. Ernest Brown, Minister of Labour and National Service:—

"As has been stated by representatives of His Majesty's Government at meetings of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office on more than one occasion in the past year, the Government fully approve the decision reached by the Governing Body at its meeting in February, 1939, that in the event of war, it should attempt to function as completely and efficiently as possible. Since the outbreak of war, there have been two meetings of the Emergency Committee of the Governing Body and a representative of the Government has travelled to Geneva to attend each of them. He has had the opportunity of reaffirming at those meetings the Government's intention of co-operating to the fullest extent possible in present circumstances with the Organisation. There is being held at present in Havana the Second Regional Conference of the American States Members of the Organisation and the Government's support of the Organisation has been further demonstrated by the attendance of an observer at this Conference. It follows, from what I have said, that, in the view of His Majesty's Government, it is important that funds should be available to enable the work of the Organisation to continue on as effective a basis as possible, and it is their hope that all States Members, as they themselves, will be prepared to do their part in this respect. The representative of His Majesty's Government on the Fourth Committee, which is meeting early in December to discuss the League budget as a whole, including that of the International Labour Office, will be instructed to bear in mind the importance of such considerations, with a view to overcoming such difficulties as may arise in the course of the coming year."

*The 20th Session of the Assembly of the League of Nations, Geneva, December, 1939.*

The Assembly, as proposed in the Report of its Fourth Committee, approved the "revised and reduced" Budget of the International Labour Organisation as adopted by the Emergency Committee of the Governing Body in October (*see above*). The Report of the Fourth Committee, which was adopted as a whole by the Assembly, also referred to the special financial difficulties of the time, which required the Organisations of the League of Nations (including the International Labour Organisation) to curtail their expenditure substantially below even the level of the authorised credits in their budgets. In order to meet certain special difficulties which this might involve for the International Labour Organisation, the Assembly approved a proposal by the Secretary-General of the League to make an advance to the International Labour Office out of the Secretariat's share of the Working Capital Fund. It was also noted that steps were to be taken to study the relations between the two organisations with a view to promoting economies.

The Report of the Special Committee on the Development of International Co-operation in Economic and Social Affairs (*see above*) was approved by the Assembly in a Resolution which, *inter alia*, "requested the Bureau to take the most appropriate steps for setting up the Central Committee proposed in the Report to unify the economic and social work of the League . . . , co-ordinating its work where necessary with that of the International Labour Office, which retains its present autonomy and competence."

## INCREASED FAMILY ALLOWANCES IN ITALY.

On 1st December, 1939, the Italian Minister of Corporations announced that, in view of the needs of the workers in the present economic situation and the favourable position of the Family Allowances Fund, increased rates of family allowances would become operative on 1st December for non-manual workers, and on 4th December for manual workers, in industry and commerce, without any increase in the rate of contribution. The compulsory payment of family allowances in industry, commerce and other branches of activity is regulated by the Royal Decree-Law dated 17th June, 1937 (*see this GAZETTE for November, 1937*).

The increased rates of family allowances are compared with the old rates in the following Table:—

No. of dependent children.	Manual workers.		Non-manual workers.	
	New rate.	Old rate.	New rate.	Old rate.
	lire.	lire.	lire.	lire.
	(Rate per child per week.)			
Industry:				
1 child . . . . .	4-20	3-60	6-60	4-80
2 or 3 children . . . . .	6-00	4-80	8-70	6-00
4 or more children . . . . .	7-80	6-00	10-50	7-20
	(Rate per child per month.)			
Commerce:				
1 child . . . . .	16-80	14-40	26-40	19-20
2 or 3 children . . . . .	24-00	20-40	34-80	24-00
4 or more children . . . . .	31-20	26-40	42-00	28-80

As was noted in the December issue of this GAZETTE (page 412), it was provided by an agreement concluded on 8th November, 1939, between the confederations of employers and workers in Italian industry, that the worker's contribution towards the cost of family allowances, namely one per cent. of his wages, should be borne by the employer so long as the agreement remained in force.

The same interconfederal agreement made provision for the payment, from funds to be supplied by the employers, of allowances in respect of the wives and dependent parents of industrial workers who are heads of families. The allowance for a wife was fixed at the weekly rate of 7-20 lire for manual workers and 10-20 lire for non-manual workers. The allowance for a dependent parent was fixed at 4-20 lire and 6-60 lire a week for manual and non-manual workers, respectively, to become payable when a father attains the age of 60 years or a mother 55 years, or when either is permanently incapacitated. These provisions, together with corresponding provisions applicable to commercial and agricultural workers in industrial undertakings, were to take effect at the beginning of December, 1939.

In virtue of other recent collective agreements, allowances in respect of wives and dependent parents have been granted to workers in commercial undertakings and officers and men of the mercantile marine, and the family allowances payable to banking and insurance workers have been increased.

## WAR-TIME LABOUR LEGISLATION IN GERMANY

In the issues of this GAZETTE for November and December, 1939, accounts were given of recent legislation in Germany whereby all limitations on the working time of adult male workers were removed, the normal restrictions on the working time of other categories of workers were relaxed, and employers were required to withhold from the workers and pay over to the Federal Exchequer the supplements normally payable, over and above the regular rates of pay, for overtime, night work, Sunday work and work performed on holidays. This legislation has now been revised in certain respects.

As regards wages, an Order of the Federal Minister of Labour dated 16th November, 1939, prescribes that, in view of the special difficulties and the extra expenditure which have to be met by workers employed at night, on Sundays or on holidays, the prohibition of the payment to the workers concerned of wage supplements for such work is withdrawn, with effect as from 27th November, 1939. For ordinary overtime work, the payment of the wage supplements is regulated by a further Order dated 12th December, 1939, amending in certain respects the earlier legislation respecting the extension of working hours. According to an official summary of the Order, the process of the adaptation of the economic system to war requirements was sufficiently advanced to permit of the relaxation of the more stringent regulation of working conditions which it had been necessary to introduce as an exceptional measure. The Order in question is, therefore, designed to obviate unduly long working hours, and, above all, to afford protection to working women and young workers. Accordingly, the principle of the normal eight-hour working day is maintained, but, as hitherto, exceptions are permitted. The Order prescribes that the daily working time is not to be extended to more than 10 hours a day, except in connection with the alternation of shifts in continuous working; however, for male workers over 18 years of age the daily working time may be extended up to 12 hours if it includes regular and considerable periods of waiting for work (*Arbeitsbereitschaft*). The working of overtime is inconsistent with the intention of the Order if it can be obviated by improved arrangements within the undertaking, the engagement of additional workers or by other means. The head of the undertaking is, moreover, responsible for ensuring that the health and working capacity of the employed persons are not impaired by undue strain. Exceptions from the foregoing limits of 10 or 12 hours a day are to be permitted only in exceptional cases by authorisation of the Federal Minister of Labour, or, if the exceptions are for a short period, by the Factory Inspectors. The worker's right to overtime pay at time and a quarter rates is restored for hours worked in excess of 10 a day, except where the working hours include periods of waiting for work. For working hours up to 10 a day, the existing regulations are to remain operative, so that the overtime supplement is not payable to the workers concerned, but is to continue to be paid to the Federal Exchequer.

The Order also prohibits the employment of women and young persons on night shifts. Exceptions from this prohibition are, however, to be permitted in exceptional cases by authorisation of the Federal Minister of Labour or, if the exceptions are for short periods, of the Factory Inspectors.

The Order is operative as from 1st January, 1940, except as regards the provisions respecting overtime supplements, which are to have effect as from 18th December, 1939. Applications for exceptions under the Order are to be submitted to the Factory Inspectors by 1st January, 1940.

## TAXATION OF WAGES IN FRANCE: Correction.

The sentence: "If the income does not exceed 10,000 francs a year, the special tax is paid on the first 7,000 francs only," which occurs at the end of the first paragraph on page 411 (first column) of the issue of this GAZETTE for December, 1939, should read: "If the income does not exceed 10,000 francs a year, the special tax is paid only on that portion of the income which exceeds 7,000 francs."

## WAGES AND HOURS MOVEMENTS OVERSEAS.

## BELGIUM.

*Working Hours in Coal Mines.*—The application of a Royal Decree dated 15th December, 1939, modifying the working hours of underground workers in Belgian coal mines, was the cause of a short stoppage of work in the Hainaut coal-field in December.

By a Royal Decree, dated 27th January, 1937, the normal working time of underground workers in coal mines was limited to 7½ hours a day and 45 hours a week (see this GAZETTE for February, 1937). The new Royal Decree authorised the working of 2,312 hours in a year, subject to a maximum of 8 hours on any one day. On the assumption that there are 51 weeks of work in the year (coal miners being entitled to a statutory paid holiday of one week annually), 2,312 working hours a year would correspond to an average duration of working time of 45 hours 20 minutes a week. The Government, in promulgating the Royal Decree, pointed out that the new provisions involved a slight increase only in average weekly working hours, and that the possibility of extending working time to 8 hours on any one day would permit of the more effective recovery of time lost owing to national and local holidays, and so tend to improve the output of coal and reduce its cost.

The National Mine Workers' Federation requested the coal owners not to enforce the terms of the new Royal Decree until the Federation had defined its attitude at a meeting to be held on 29th December. A number of coal owners, however, announced that the new regulations would be applied on 26th December, and, in consequence, about 45,000 coal miners in Hainaut refused to work on this and the following day.

A provisional settlement was effected on 27th December, when it was agreed that the mines should be open for work on the old terms, pending the outcome of the meeting to be held on 29th December. At this meeting, the National Mine Workers' Federation decided to refer the terms of the new Royal Decree to the local organisations, and stated that, in its view, the Decree should be revised so as clearly to indicate its limitation to the present period of emergency, that the new arrangement of working hours should be applied generally and in such a manner as to secure to underground workers rest days after 17 days' work and to safeguard surface workers against loss of earnings, and that, meantime, the Government should suspend the application of the Decree.

## DENMARK.

*Wage Regulation in War-Time.*—Although the majority of collective agreements in Denmark are not due to expire until 1st March, 1940, the Danish Confederation of Trade Unions, as early as September last, raised with the Employers' Confederation the question of the adjustment of wages to war-time increases in the cost of living. As the result of negotiations between the two organisations, a draft collective agreement laying down the bases for the war-time regulation of wages was drawn up and eventually approved by a ballot of the members of the organisations towards the middle of November. The agreement, which is stated to be the most comprehensive agreement of its kind ever concluded in Denmark, and will, it is anticipated, directly or indirectly regulate the wages of Danish workers generally, provides for the extension until 1st March, 1941, of all agreements due to expire on 1st March, 1940, subject to the adjustment of wages according to the following rules: on the basis of the official cost-of-living index figure, all time and piece rates of pay are to be adjusted in such a way that, for every point by which the index figure rises above or falls below the index figure at the date at which wages were last fixed, the rates are to be increased or reduced by 0.85, 0.55 and 0.35 per cent an hour for adult male, women and young workers, respectively. The revision of wage rates is, however, to be effected only in respect of changes of at least 3 points in the index figure. The first adjustment, to be applied in and from the pay-week ended on 17th November, 1939, is to be made on the basis of a six points increase in the cost-of-living index figure to 190 in October, 1939 (July, 1914 = 100), and subsequent adjustments are to be based on the figures for January, April, July and October, 1940, and January, 1941. Increases in wage rates resulting from the agreement are to be regarded as cost-of-living supplements and, accordingly, the rates may not in any circumstances be reduced below the pre-war level.

The agreement does not cover agricultural workers, seamen and workers paid wholly or partly on a percentage basis or by tips, but it is anticipated that agreements covering these workers will eventually be concluded.

## SWEDEN.

*National Agreement for the Adjustment of Wages to War-Time Conditions.*—An agreement which was concluded on 16th December, 1939, between the Swedish Employers' Federation and the National Federation of Trade Unions lays down the following basic principles for the adjustment of wage rates in Sweden to war-time increases in the cost of living. If, between 1st January and 1st April, 1940, there is a rise of at least six points in the official cost-of-living index figure, wage rates are to be adjusted at 1st May, and similar adjustments may be made at subsequent three-monthly intervals. The adjustment is to take the form of a supplement to normal wages representing about three-fourths of the actual percentage rise in the cost of living, and is to be calculated on the basis of the average wage rates, for male and female workers respectively, prevailing in the undertaking or undertakings concerned, in the area covered by the agreement or in specific localities. Should the cost of living fall, the supplement is to be reduced in a similar manner.

The two Federations recommend that these basic principles for wage regulation be incorporated in all collective agreements to be concluded between affiliated organisations, and that such agreements remain in force for at least one year.

It is anticipated that negotiations for the renewal of a large number of collective agreements, covering over half-a-million workers, will shortly be resumed, and that the principles laid down in the national agreement will also be adopted in the case of agreements between unaffiliated organisations.

## WAGES IN THE METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRIES IN THE NETHERLANDS.

STATISTICS of wages at 1st July, 1939, and in the preceding six months, of workers employed in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding industries in the Netherlands are contained in the issue for October, 1939, of the official monthly journal of the Netherlands Central Bureau of Statistics, from which the figures in the following Tables have been extracted.

The first Table shows the average hourly rates of wages at 1st July, 1939, and the actual average hourly earnings during the first half of 1939 of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers in the upper age classes, employed in undertakings affiliated to the *Metalbond*, an important association of employers in the Netherlands metal, engineering and shipbuilding industries. Separate particulars are given for the three groups of industrial centres according to which the constituents of the *Metalbond* are classified for purposes of wage regulation. The first of these groups comprises Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Schiedam, the second group, Utrecht, Hengelo, Haarlem, Velsen, Dordrecht and nine other centres, and the third group, Breda and nineteen other centres of minor importance.

Class of Worker.	Industrial Centres.		
	First Group.	Second Group.	Third Group.
	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.
<i>Skilled workers (30 to 65 years, inclusive):—</i>			
Average hourly time rate at 1st July, 1939 ... ..	65	57	52
Average hourly earnings during first half of 1939 ... ..	75	66	57
<i>Semi-skilled workers (28 to 65 years, inclusive):—</i>			
Average hourly time rate at 1st July, 1939 ... ..	57	50	45
Average hourly earnings during first half of 1939 ... ..	69	59	50
<i>Unskilled workers (26 to 65 years, inclusive):—</i>			
Average hourly time rate at 1st July, 1939 ... ..	51	47	40
Average hourly earnings during first half of 1939 ... ..	61	53	44

The particulars above relate to 23,602 workers, belonging to the upper age classes, of whom 10,939 were skilled, 7,905 were semi-skilled and 4,757 were unskilled. In all groups of workers, the actual average hourly earnings were slightly higher in the first half of 1939 than in the corresponding period of the previous year.

The second Table shows the average hourly earnings, in the first half of 1939, in some of the principal occupations and centres of the Netherlands metal, engineering and shipbuilding industries. The figures which relate, as before, to skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers in the upper age classes, cover constituents of the *Metalbond*, as well as certain other undertakings.

Occupation.	Average hourly earnings in cents.						
	Amsterdam.	Rotterdam and Schiedam.*	Utrecht.*	Hengelo.	Haarlem.*	Dordrecht.	Breda.
<i>Skilled workers (30 to 65 years, inclusive):—</i>							
Fitters ... ..	77.2	74.0	64.4	68.7	67.0	64.0	57.5
Turners ... ..	80.5	74.4	65.2	71.2	70.0	62.6	60.1
Boilermakers ... ..	76.8	74.2	...	65.0	...	60.8	...
Tinsmiths and copper-smiths ... ..	76.2	74.7	...	68.0	...	...	...
Patternmakers ... ..	75.3	73.7	64.0	67.0	69.7	...	...
Shipbuilders (iron) ... ..	73.7	73.7	...	71.2	...	57.8	...
Hand moulders ... ..	75.4	72.3	66.5	70.7	...	57.3	50.4
Smiths ... ..	76.6	72.1	66.9	68.1	69.1	59.9	...
<i>Semi-skilled workers (28 to 65 years, inclusive):—</i>							
Drilling machinists ... ..	74.4	66.6	57.8	63.3	63.6	48.3	53.5
Erectors (constructional ironwork) ... ..	68.2	63.7	58.9	62.1	61.3	52.3	46.0
Lathe hands ... ..	74.7	69.4	...	66.7	...	59.1	...
Riveters ... ..	72.2	76.6	...	62.2	...	57.7	...
Planing machinists ... ..	76.8	70.9	61.9	66.2	...	56.9	...
Grinding machinists ... ..	73.9	64.9	54.5	62.9	...	55.7	54.2
Machine moulders ... ..	...	...	57.4	62.4	57.2	...	53.2
<i>Unskilled workers (26 to 65 years, inclusive):—</i>							
Labourers ... ..	61.1	58.8	50.0	55.0	52.2	46.4	41.3

An article dealing with wages in the Netherlands metal, engineering and shipbuilding industries in 1938 appeared in this GAZETTE for January, 1939.

\* Together with some other localities.

## EMPLOYMENT AT 11th DECEMBER, 1939—GENERAL REVIEW.

EMPLOYMENT at 11th December showed an improvement as compared with 13th November.

The following Table gives an analysis of the numbers\* of persons on the registers at 11th December, 1939, with comparative figures for 13th November, 1939, and 12th December, 1938:—

	Wholly Unemployed (Including Casuals).	Temporarily Stopped.	Total.	Increase (+) or Decrease (−) as compared with 13th Nov., 1939.
GREAT BRITAIN.				
Men ... ..	809,389	88,595	897,984	+ 923
Boys ... ..	35,576	1,842	35,418	− 5,042
Women ... ..	327,049	50,119	377,168	− 28,007
Girls ... ..	48,446	2,509	50,955	− 8,937
Total ... ..	1,218,460	143,065	1,361,525	− 41,063
Increase (+) or Decrease (−) as compared with:				
13th November, 1939	− 48,895	+ 7,832	− 41,063	—
12th December, 1938	− 318,204	− 151,643	− 469,847	—

GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.				
Men ... ..	864,287	89,681	953,968	+ 5,636
Boys ... ..	36,273	1,858	38,131	− 5,147
Women ... ..	343,932	52,163	396,095	− 28,161
Girls ... ..	50,113	2,616	52,729	− 8,991
Total ... ..	1,294,605	146,318	1,440,923	− 36,663
Increase (+) or Decrease (−) as compared with:				
13th November, 1939	− 44,240	+ 7,577	− 36,663	—
12th December, 1938	− 324,032	− 153,628	− 477,660	—

There were reductions, between 13th November and 11th December, in the numbers unemployed in the distributive trades, hotel and boarding house service, dock, harbour, etc. service, the cotton industry, printing and bookbinding, the entertainment, sport, etc. industries, motor vehicle, cycle and aircraft manufacture, engineering, ship building and repairing, and the road transport and shipping services. On the other hand, unemployment increased for seasonal reasons in agriculture, horticulture, etc., and the building industry; there was also some increase, due to temporary causes, in the numbers suspended from work in the coal mining industry.

The following Table shows the numbers of unemployed persons, aged 14 and over, on the registers of Employment Exchanges in each administrative division at 11th December, 1939, and the increases or decreases compared with 13th November, 1939:—

Division.	Numbers on Register at 11th Dec., 1939.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) as compared with 13th Nov., 1939.	Division.	Numbers on Register at 11th Dec., 1939.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) as compared with 13th Nov., 1939.
London ... ..	286,754	− 16,468	Scotland ... ..	177,028	− 8,797
Eastern ... ..	60,200	+ 3,967	Wales ... ..	111,425	+ 924
South-Eastern ... ..	41,407	+ 20			
Southern ... ..	38,661	− 3,855	Great Britain	1,361,525	− 41,063
South-Western ... ..	46,254	+ 42			
Midlands ... ..	73,298	− 3,992	Northern Ireland	79,398	+ 4,400
North-Midlands ... ..	59,846	+ 5,976			
North-Eastern ... ..	104,393	− 2,806	Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1,440,923	− 36,663
North-Western ... ..	246,243	− 17,818			
Northern ... ..	116,016	+ 1,524			

The decrease in the numbers unemployed occurred mainly in the London, North-Western and Scotland Divisions: there were also decreases in the Southern, Midlands, and North-Eastern Divisions. Unemployment increased in the North-Midlands, Eastern, Northern and Wales Divisions and in Northern Ireland. In the South-Eastern and South-Western Divisions there was little change.

Among insured persons, aged 16-64, the percentage unemployed in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 11th December, 1939, was 9.1, as compared with 9.2 at 13th November, 1939, and 12.7 at 12th December, 1938. For persons within the general scheme the corresponding percentages were 9.1 at 11th December, 1939, 9.5 at 13th November, 1939, and 12.9 at 12th December, 1938. For persons within the agricultural scheme the percentages were 7.4, 5.1 and 8.9 respectively.

## CHANGES IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

*Mining and Quarrying.*—In the coal mining industry there was some increase, due to temporary causes, in the numbers suspended from work. The percentage unemployed (including those temporarily stopped) among insured workpeople, aged 16-64, was 8.5 at 11th December, 1939, as compared with 7.4 at 13th November, 1939, and 14.4 at 12th December, 1938.

Employment in the iron mining industry again showed little

\* The numbers and percentages unemployed have probably been affected to some extent by the withdrawal of men from the industrial field owing to the recent expansion of H.M. Forces, but the information necessary to enable an estimate to be made of the effect of this factor is not available.

change. The percentage unemployed was 5.4 at 11th December, 1939, as compared with 5.3 at 13th November, 1939, and 21.1 at 12th December, 1938. Employment declined slightly at stone quarries and also at slate quarries, where short-time working persisted. In the other mining and quarrying industries employment showed little change.

*Pig Iron, Iron and Steel and Tinplate.*—Employment in the pig iron industry continued very good, and there was some reduction in unemployment in most of the principal producing areas. The percentage unemployed at 11th December, 1939, was 5.8 as compared with 6.5 at 13th November, 1939, and 21.5 at 12th December, 1938.

In iron and steel manufacture employment showed little change, on the whole, and continued at a very high level. At 11th December, 1939, the percentage unemployed among insured persons was 6.0 as compared with 5.9 at 13th November, 1939, and 24.5 at 12th December, 1938.

Employment in the tinplate industry showed an improvement and continued fair. The percentage rate of unemployment among insured persons was 10.9 at 11th December, 1939, as compared with 12.8 at 13th November, 1939, and 37.5 at 12th December, 1938.

*Engineering, Shipbuilding and Other Metal Industries.*—In the engineering industry the numbers unemployed showed a further decrease on the whole. Employment improved in the general, electrical, marine and constructional engineering sections of the industry in nearly all districts. In motor vehicle, cycle and aircraft manufacture, also, there was a decrease in the numbers of insured persons recorded as unemployed. In most branches of the industry unsatisfied demands for skilled labour continued; and there was an increase in the number of firms working overtime and night shifts. The percentage unemployed among insured persons in the engineering industry as a whole (excluding motor vehicle, cycle and aircraft manufacture) was 3.2 at 11th December, 1939, as compared with 3.4 at 13th November, 1939, and 7.8 at 12th December, 1938. At these dates the corresponding percentages in the motor vehicle, cycle and aircraft industry were 4.2, 4.8 and 5.0, respectively.

Employment in the shipbuilding and ship-repairing industry showed a further slight improvement. The percentage unemployed among insured persons was 9.4 at 11th December, 1939, as compared with 10.1 at 13th November, 1939, and 22.5 at 12th December, 1938.

There was a slight decrease in the numbers unemployed in most of the other metal industries. Employment again declined slightly, however, in the stove, grate, pipe and general ironfounding industry, with considerable short-time working.

*Textile Industries.*—At 11th December there was a further reduction in the numbers unemployed in the cotton industry, affecting both the spinning and the weaving sections. It was reported that there was a serious shortage of juveniles in the spinning section and that the shortage of skilled weavers still continued. The percentage unemployed among insured persons in the industry as a whole was 7.0 at 11th December, 1939, as compared with 8.1 at 13th November, 1939, and with 21.2 at 12th December, 1938. In the preparing and spinning departments the corresponding percentages were 6.3, 7.1 and 19.7, and in the manufacturing department they were 7.7, 9.1 and 22.8.

In the wool textile industry employment continued at a high level, although a decline occurred in the woolcombing department and in the rag trade. Shortages of skilled workers were again reported from many areas and it was stated that overtime was being worked by many firms. The percentage unemployed at 11th December, 1939, was 3.4, compared with 3.6 at 13th November, 1939, and 13.6 at 12th December, 1938. In the carpet industry there was a further improvement: the percentage unemployed fell from 11.3 at 13th November to 7.5 at 11th December, 1939; the corresponding figure for 12th December, 1938, was 7.2.

There was a decrease in unemployment in most of the other textile industries, especially in the lace trade, where the percentage unemployed declined from 10.1 at 13th November to 7.7 at 11th December. An increase in the numbers unemployed was recorded in the jute trade, and in the textile bleaching, printing, dyeing, etc. trades. Shortages of skilled labour continued to be reported in respect of some of the textile trades, particularly in the hosiery industry.

*Clothing Trades.*—In the tailoring trades employment showed a further seasonal decline in London, but this was partly offset by increased activity at other centres. In the dressmaking and millinery trades there was some improvement; but there was little change in the hat and cap trade. Employment improved slightly in the other dress industries. In the clothing trades as a whole (exclusive of the boot and shoe industry) the percentage rate of unemployment among insured workers at 11th December, 1939, was 10.6, as compared with 10.5 at 13th November, 1939, and 11.9 at 12th December, 1938.

In the boot and shoe industry the numbers unemployed showed a further reduction. At 11th December, 1939, the percentage unemployed in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 4.4, as compared with 5.0 at 13th November, 1939, and with 10.9 at 12th December, 1938.

Leather Trades.—In the leather tanning, currying and dressing trade (including fur dressing) the numbers unemployed showed a slight decrease in most areas. In other sections of the industry the numbers unemployed showed little change on the whole as compared with a month ago. For Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage rate of unemployment in the leather trades as a whole decreased from 5.0 at 13th November, 1939, to 4.8 at 11th December, 1939; at 12th December, 1938, the corresponding figure was 8.7.

Building, Woodworking, etc.—The numbers unemployed in the building industry showed a further seasonal increase at 11th December, 1939. The increase affected all occupations excepting slaters and tilers, and was most marked with carpenters, bricklayers and painters. In the building industry as a whole the percentage unemployed at 11th December, 1939, was 15.8, as compared with 14.6 at 13th November, 1939, and 18.6 at 12th December, 1938.

In brick manufacture the numbers unemployed increased slightly. The percentage unemployed rose from 9.9 at 13th November, 1939, to 10.3 at 11th December, 1939; the figure for 12th December, 1938, was 11.8.

Employment in the furnishing trades showed little change; it again declined slightly in the sawmilling industry, but showed a slight improvement among coachbuilders.

Paper Manufacture, Printing and Bookbinding.—Employment in the paper-making industry showed little change as compared with the previous month and was much better than a year ago. The improvement reported in November in the printing and bookbinding industries continued in December but there was still some short-time working. The percentage unemployed in the paper and paper-board industries was 3.5 at 11th December, 1939, compared with 3.6 at 13th November, 1939, and with 7.1 at 12th December, 1938. The corresponding figures for printing and bookbinding were 10.8, 12.2 and 7.3, respectively; for the cardboard box, paper bag and stationery industries they were 4.8, 5.0 and 5.0, respectively.

Pottery and Glass.—In the pottery industry unemployment showed an increase, mainly due to the completion of Christmas orders. The percentage unemployed among insured persons, aged 16-64, was 17.5 at 11th December, 1939, compared with 16.9 at 13th November, 1939, and with 23.0 at 12th December, 1938.

Employment in the bottle-making section of the glass trades, showed little change; in other sections there was a slight improvement.

Fishing.—Employment with fishermen showed little change. The percentage rate of unemployment in the fishing industry at 11th December, 1939, was 23.8, compared with 22.7 at 13th November, 1939, and 28.9 at 12th December, 1938.

Dock Labourers and Seamen.—Among dock labourers employment in December fluctuated to some extent, but was better, on the whole, than in the previous month. The percentage unemployed in dock, harbour, river and canal service was 20.6 at 11th December, 1939, compared with 23.3 at 13th November, 1939, and with 25.3 at 12th December, 1938. In harbour, river and canal service the corresponding percentages were 6.3, 7.0 and 10.8, respectively; in dock, wharf and lighterage (port transport) service, they were 23.3, 26.4 and 27.9, respectively.

There was a decrease between 13th November and 11th December in the number of seamen recorded as unemployed. Shortages of certain classes of ratings, especially deck hands and engineers, were reported from several areas. The percentage unemployed in shipping service was 18.0 at 11th December, 1939, compared with 19.3 at 13th November, 1939, and 26.8 at 12th December, 1938.

UNEMPLOYMENT SUMMARY BY DISTRICTS.

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

Table with 4 columns: Division, Estimated Numbers Insured at July, 1939 (Males, Females), Percentages Unemployed at 11th December, 1939 (Males, Females, Total), and Inc (+) or Dec (-) on 13th Nov., 1939. Includes sub-tables for I.—GENERAL SCHEME and II.—AGRICULTURAL SCHEME.

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

Table with 4 columns: Division, Estimated Numbers Insured at July, 1939 (Males, Females), Percentages Unemployed at 11th December, 1939 (Males, Females, Total), and Inc (+) or Dec (-) on 13th Nov., 1939.

II.—AGRICULTURAL SCHEME.

Table with 4 columns: Division, Estimated Numbers Insured at July, 1939 (Males, Females), Percentages Unemployed at 11th December, 1939 (Males, Females, Total), and Inc (+) or Dec (-) on 13th Nov., 1939. Lists regions like London, Eastern, South-Eastern, etc.

III.—GENERAL AND AGRICULTURAL SCHEMES.\*

Table with 4 columns: Division, Estimated Numbers Insured at July, 1939 (Males, Females), Percentages Unemployed at 11th December, 1939 (Males, Females, Total), and Inc (+) or Dec (-) on 13th Nov., 1939. Lists regions like London, Eastern, South-Eastern, etc.

UNEMPLOYMENT DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

The following Table shows the numbers of unemployed persons (insured and uninsured) on the registers of Employment Exchanges at one date in each month since December, 1938:—

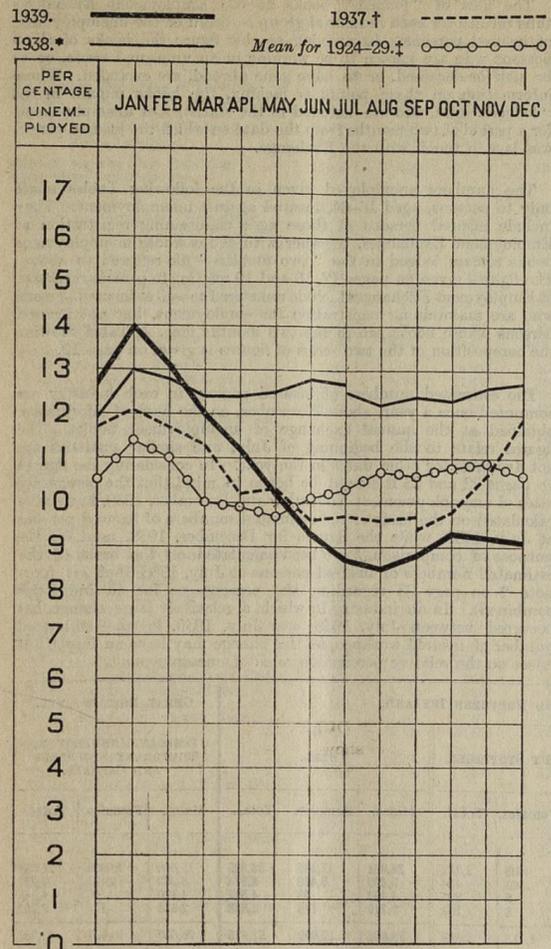
Table with 6 columns: Date, Men 18 and over, Boys 14-17, Women 18 and over, Girls 14-17, Total 14 and over, and Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Shows monthly data from 12th December 1938 to 11th December 1939.

The following Table shows the percentages† unemployed among insured persons, aged 16-64, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland at one date in each month since December, 1938:—

Table with 6 columns: Date, General and Agricultural Schemes, General Scheme, and Agricultural Scheme. Shows monthly percentage data from 12th December 1938 to 11th December 1939.

\* See footnote \* in previous column. † Up to and including June, 1939, these are revised percentages calculated on the basis of the estimated numbers insured at the dates referred to (see article on page 409 of the December, 1939, issue of this GAZETTE); those for later months are based on the estimated numbers insured at the beginning of July, 1939, and may be subject to slight revision. (The percentages for July, 1939, and for November, 1938, to October, 1939, given in the corresponding Table on page 414 of last month's issue of the GAZETTE, were based on the numbers insured at July, 1938, and not, as stated in the footnote, on the numbers insured at the dates referred to in the footnote to the Table.) ‡ Including the Special Schemes for the banking and insurance industries.

UNEMPLOYMENT CHART. PERCENTAGES UNEMPLOYED\* AMONG INSURED PERSONS, AGED 16-64, GT. BRITAIN AND N. IRELAND:—



COMPOSITION OF UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS: GREAT BRITAIN.

ANALYSIS FOR 11TH DECEMBER, 1939.

Table with 6 columns: Category, Men (18 and over), Boys (14-17), Women (18 and over), Girls (14-17), and Total. Lists categories A through D, including insured on register, insured unemployed, and total on register.

\* From July, 1938, the figures include persons in the domestic employments brought into insurance in April, 1938; the effect of this is shown by the two points for July, 1938.

† The method of counting the unemployed was altered in September, 1937 (see article on page 379 of the October, 1937, issue of this GAZETTE). The effect of the change is shown by the two points for that month. ‡ Excluding the period April, 1926, to March, 1927, and agricultural workers, for whom no figures were available. § See explanation on page 20.

NUMBERS ON THE REGISTERS IN THE PRINCIPAL TOWNS.

The Table below shows for each of the Employment Exchange administrative areas in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and for the principal towns therein, the number of unemployed persons registered at Employment Exchanges on 11th December, 1939.

Table with 6 columns: Divisions (in italics) and Towns, Number of Persons on Register at 11th December, 1939 (Men, Women, Juveniles, Total), and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Totals as compared with 13th Nov., 1939, and 12th Dec., 1938. Lists numerous towns and regions like London, Eastern, Ipswich, etc.

\* The figures for Divisions relate to the areas constituted after the provincial reorganisation of the Ministry of Labour and National Service (see page 335 of the September, 1939, issue of this GAZETTE). † The figures for Rutherglen are included.

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

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

The Unemployment Insurance Acts provide, subject to certain exceptions, for the compulsory insurance against unemployment of substantially all employed persons. The principal classes of excepted employments are indoor private domestic service, employment otherwise than by way of manual labour at a rate of remuneration exceeding in value £250 a year, employment as female professional nurse, and, subject to certain qualifications, employment in the teaching profession and in the police forces. Employment under public or local authorities, railways and public utility companies may, in certain circumstances, also be excepted. Persons aged 65 and over, and certain other classes, are excluded from insurance. The Unemployment Insurance Acts do not apply to persons serving in an established capacity in the permanent service of the Crown. Some persons employed in agricultural occupations are outside the scope of the agricultural scheme. These include sons, daughters, and other near relatives of the employer, persons not working under a contract of service, and persons engaged in such casual harvesting work as hop-picking, or gathering flowers, fruit, peas or potatoes (unless they normally undertake other insurable work). Persons not domiciled in Great Britain, such as Irish migratory labourers, are not included in the figures. Prior to September, 1934, juveniles under 16 years of age were also excepted, and they are excluded from the statistics in these Tables; particulars of the numbers of these juveniles recorded as unemployed at 11th December, 1939, are, however, given on page 24.

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

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

The numbers unemployed given in the following Tables relate only to persons, aged 16-64, insured against unemployment. They include insured persons of those ages maintaining registration at Employment Exchanges, together with those whose unemployment books remain lodged in the "two months" file referred to above. The figures given on pages 17, 18 and 19 relating to persons registered at Employment Exchanges include uninsured as well as insured persons who are maintaining registration for employment, but not insured persons whose books are in the two months file. A Table showing the composition of the two series of figures is given on page 19.

The estimated numbers of insured persons in each industry are computed once a year, about November, on the basis of information obtained at the annual exchange of unemployment books. The figures relate to the beginning of July, and similar statistics are not available for other dates in the year. In considering the figures on pages 22 and 23 it should be borne in mind that the percentage rates of unemployment at November and December, 1939, have been calculated on the basis of the estimated numbers of insured persons at July, 1939, while the figures for December, 1938, used for the purpose of comparison, have been calculated on the basis of the estimated numbers of insured persons at July, 1938 (but see footnote \* on page 23 regarding the percentages for all industries combined). In an industry in which a relatively large change has occurred between July, 1938 and July, 1939, in the estimated number of insured workpeople, this change may have an important effect on the relative percentage rates of unemployment.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals), TEMPORARY STOPPAGES, TOTAL, and GREAT BRITAIN ONLY. Rows include Agricultural Scheme, Fishing, Mining, Brick, Tile, Pipe, etc., Pottery, Glass, Chemicals, Metal Manufacture, Engineering, etc.

\* The numbers and percentages unemployed have probably been affected to some extent by the withdrawal of men from the industrial field owing to the recent expansion of H.M. Forces, but the information necessary for making an estimate of this effect is not available.

Table with columns: INDUSTRY, WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (including Casuals), TEMPORARY STOPPAGES, TOTAL, and GREAT BRITAIN ONLY. Rows include Construction and Repair of Vehicles, Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing, Textiles, Leather Goods, Clothing, Food, Drink and Tobacco, Woodworking, Paper, Printing, Building and Contracting, Gas, Water and Electricity Supply, Transport and Communication, Distributive Trades, Commerce, Banking, Insurance and Finance, Miscellaneous Trades and Services, and Total, General Scheme.

\* Persons insured under the Special Schemes for the banking and insurance industries are included in these figures. † Including 49,827 casuals (males, 47,959; females, 1,868). Of these, 368 males and 34 females were insured under the agricultural scheme.

INDUSTRY.	GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.											GREAT BRITAIN ONLY. TOTAL PERCENTAGES AT 11TH DEC. 1939.			
	PERCENTAGES AT 11TH DECEMBER, 1939.														
	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS, AGED 16-64, AT JULY, 1939.			WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED (INCLUDING CASUALS).			TEMPORARY STOPPAGES.			TOTAL.			INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) IN TOTAL PERCENTAGES AS COMPARED WITH		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.		Total.	13TH NOV. 1939.	12TH DEC. 1939.
<b>Agricultural Scheme:</b>															
Farming, Forestry, etc.	448,130	30,940	479,070	5.5	34.1	7.3	0.1	2.6	0.3	5.6	36.7	7.6	+2.7	-2.0	
Market Gardening, Horticulture, etc.	61,520	14,700	76,220	5.5	35.2	11.2	0.2	2.1	0.6	5.7	37.3	11.8	+3.6	-1.2	
Private Gardening	104,230	610	104,840	4.0	7.5	4.1	0.3	0.4	0.2	4.3	7.9	4.3	+0.4	+0.1	
Other Employments	49,120	750	49,870	5.4	15.6	5.5	0.2	0.1	0.2	5.6	15.7	5.7	+0.2	+0.2	
<b>TOTAL, AGRICULTURAL SCHEME</b>	<b>663,000</b>	<b>47,000</b>	<b>710,000</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>33.8</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>+2.3</b>	<b>-1.5*</b>	
<b>Fishing</b>	<b>31,120</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>31,880</b>	<b>23.1</b>	<b>24.2</b>	<b>23.1</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>29.5</b>	<b>23.8</b>	<b>+1.1</b>	<b>-5.1</b>	
<b>Mining:</b>															
Coal Mining	835,070	3,860	838,930	5.7	6.9	5.7	2.9	0.7	2.8	8.6	7.6	8.5	+1.1	-5.9	
Iron Ore and Ironstone Mining, etc.	10,990	—	10,990	5.2	—	5.2	0.2	—	0.2	5.4	—	5.4	+0.1	-15.7	
Lead, Tin and Copper Mining	3,740	10	3,750	14.9	20.0	14.9	0.6	—	0.6	15.5	20.0	15.5	+0.9	-3.5	
Stone Quarrying and Mining	50,210	580	50,790	11.2	2.1	11.1	3.3	0.5	3.7	14.5	2.6	14.4	+0.7	-0.8	
Slate Quarrying and Mining	9,300	20	9,320	13.2	10.0	13.2	3.7	5.0	3.7	16.9	15.0	16.9	+0.7	+10.8	
Other Mining and Quarrying	9,170	1,320	10,490	4.2	4.8	4.2	2.6	0.0	2.3	6.8	4.8	6.5	+0.4	-4.9	
Clay, Sand, Gravel and Chalk Pits	18,440	230	18,670	6.2	4.3	6.1	0.8	0.5	0.8	7.0	4.8	6.9	+0.7	-4.0	
<b>Total, Mining</b>	<b>936,920</b>	<b>6,020</b>	<b>942,940</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>+1.1</b>	<b>-5.5</b>	
<b>Non-Metallic Mining Products:</b>															
Coke Ovens and By-Product Works	13,590	90	13,680	6.9	17.8	7.0	0.8	1.1	0.8	7.7	18.9	7.8	+4.0	-7.2	
Artificial Stone, Concrete, etc.	28,900	2,470	31,370	6.8	5.2	6.7	1.4	0.5	1.4	8.2	5.7	8.1	+0.7	-6.0	
Cement, Limekilns and Whiting	17,380	650	18,030	3.7	7.7	3.8	0.2	—	0.3	3.9	7.7	4.1	+0.7	-3.0	
<b>Total, N.-M. Mining Products</b>	<b>59,880</b>	<b>3,220</b>	<b>63,100</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>+0.4</b>	<b>-5.4</b>	
<b>Brick, Tile, Pipe, etc., Making</b>	<b>94,200</b>	<b>6,300</b>	<b>100,500</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>+0.4</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	
<b>Pottery, Earthenware, etc.</b>	<b>32,000</b>	<b>41,220</b>	<b>73,220</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>+0.6</b>	<b>-5.5</b>	
<b>Glass:</b>															
Glass (excluding Bottles, Optical Glass, Lenses, Prisms, etc.)	23,500	7,860	31,360	6.0	5.7	6.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	7.0	6.7	7.0	+0.2	-4.1	
Glass Bottles	17,100	2,080	19,180	6.0	10.0	6.4	1.4	0.4	1.3	7.4	10.4	7.7	+0.2	-6.9	
<b>Total, Glass</b>	<b>40,600</b>	<b>9,940</b>	<b>50,540</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>-5.3</b>	
<b>Chemicals, Paints, Oils, etc.:</b>															
Chemicals	84,850	33,360	118,210	3.5	4.2	3.7	0.1	0.3	0.2	3.6	4.5	3.9	+0.3	-3.0	
Explosives	27,920	7,900	35,820	2.2	4.4	2.7	0.2	0.7	0.3	2.4	5.1	3.0	+0.3	-0.4	
Paint, Varnish, Red Lead, etc.	19,040	6,060	25,100	4.0	5.2	4.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	4.2	5.5	4.5	+0.1	-1.5	
Oil, Glue, Soap, Ink, Matches, etc.	57,830	21,590	79,420	3.8	5.3	4.2	1.2	0.6	1.1	5.0	5.9	5.3	+0.5	-2.0	
<b>Total, Chemicals, Paints, Oils, etc.</b>	<b>189,640</b>	<b>68,910</b>	<b>258,550</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>+0.5</b>	<b>-2.3</b>	
<b>Metal Manufacture:</b>															
Pig Iron (Blast Furnaces)	17,040	40	17,080	4.7	35.0	4.4	1.0	5.0	1.0	5.7	40.0	5.8	-0.7	-15.7	
Steel Melting and Iron Puddling, Iron and Steel Rolling, etc.	183,090	5,790	188,880	3.3	2.4	3.2	2.8	0.1	2.8	6.1	2.5	6.0	+0.1	-13.5	
Brass, Copper, Zinc, Tin, Lead, etc.	24,170	2,520	26,690	2.7	5.3	3.0	0.3	0.5	0.3	2.6	4.1	2.7	+0.2	-4.7	
Tin Plates	30,600	2,430	33,030	4.0	3.0	3.9	3.0	0.5	2.8	7.0	3.5	6.7	+0.2	-7.1	
Iron and Steel Tubes	22,590	4,230	26,820	3.2	4.5	3.4	1.3	0.5	1.2	4.5	5.0	4.6	+0.1	-4.5	
Wire, Wire Netting, Wire Ropes	328,510	19,540	348,050	3.2	3.6	3.2	2.7	1.0	2.6	5.9	4.6	5.8	+0.2	-15.0	
<b>Engineering, etc.:</b>															
General Engineering: Engineers' Iron and Steel Foundry	598,900	62,850	661,650	2.7	4.7	2.9	0.3	0.4	0.3	3.0	5.1	3.2	+0.2	-4.7	
Electrical Engineering	96,440	26,450	122,890	2.0	3.3	2.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	2.1	3.5	2.4	+0.2	-2.5	
Marine Engineering, etc.	58,850	1,090	59,940	3.2	2.0	3.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	3.3	2.1	3.2	+0.1	-6.1	
Constructional Engineering	47,550	1,840	49,390	4.9	1.9	4.8	0.4	0.1	0.4	5.3	2.0	5.2	+0.3	-7.4	
<b>Total, Engineering</b>	<b>801,640</b>	<b>92,270</b>	<b>893,910</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>+0.2</b>	<b>-4.6</b>	
<b>Construction and Repair of Vehicles:</b>															
Motor Vehicles, Cycles and Aircraft Carriages, Carts, etc.	415,490	43,680	459,170	3.1	4.6	3.3	0.9	0.7	0.9	4.0	5.3	4.2	+0.6	-0.8	
Railway Carriages and Wagons, etc.	10,530	1,770	12,300	9.2	5.6	8.7	0.5	0.7	0.5	9.7	6.3	9.2	+0.7	-3.8	
<b>Total, Vehicles</b>	<b>426,020</b>	<b>45,450</b>	<b>471,470</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>+0.7</b>	<b>-1.3</b>	
<b>Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing</b>	<b>172,830</b>	<b>3,220</b>	<b>176,050</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>+0.7</b>	<b>-13.1</b>	
<b>Other Metal Industries:</b>															
Stove, Grate, Pipe, etc., and General Iron Foundry	87,950	9,490	97,440	3.6	4.4	3.7	3.0	2.0	2.9	6.6	6.4	6.6	+0.2	-6.7	
Electrical Wiring and Contracting	40,070	2,750	42,820	7.4	4.0	7.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	7.6	4.1	7.4	+0.5	-2.3	
Electric Cable, Apparatus, Lamps, etc.	106,810	78,480	185,290	3.1	6.3	4.5	0.2	0.3	0.2	3.3	6.6	4.7	+0.4	-2.1	
Hand Tools, Cutlery, Saws, Files	22,060	11,880	33,940	3.0	5.3	3.8	0.9	0.6	0.8	3.9	5.9	4.6	+0.2	-9.1	
Bolts, Nuts, Screws, Rivets, Nails, etc.	16,300	12,630	28,930	2.8	4.4	3.5	0.4	0.5	0.4	3.2	4.9	3.9	+0.2	-8.2	
Brass and Allied Metal Wares	16,980	11,030	28,010	2.8	4.0	3.2	0.6	0.6	0.7	3.4	4.6	3.9	+0.2	-3.5	
Heating and Ventilating Apparatus	20,630	1,370	22,000	4.4	2.8	4.4	3.3	0.2	0.2	4.7	3.0	4.6	+0.4	-3.5	
Watches, Clocks, Plate, Jewellery, etc.	20,860	17,270	38,130	4.3	4.6	4.4	1.2	0.9	1.1	5.5	5.5	5.5	+0.9	-1.9	
<b>Total, Other Metals</b>	<b>180,620</b>	<b>96,670</b>	<b>277,290</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>+0.2</b>	<b>-3.9</b>	
<b>Textiles:</b>															
Cotton Preparing, Spinning, etc.	72,240	121,200	193,440	4.9	5.2	5.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	6.0	6.4	6.3	+0.8	-13.4	
Cotton Manufacturing (Weaving, etc.)	58,250	126,410	184,660	4.6	7.3	6.5	1.2	1.3	1.2	5.8	8.6	7.7	+1.4	-15.1	
<b>Total, Cotton</b>	<b>130,490</b>	<b>247,610</b>	<b>378,100</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>+1.1</b>	<b>-14.2</b>	
Woolen and Worsted	90,990	123,240	214,230	2.1	2.2	2.2	1.3	1.2	1.2	3.4	3.4	3.4	+0.2	-10.2	
Silk Spinning and Manufacture and Artificial Silk Weaving, etc.	19,460	30,540	50,000	2.2	3.9	3.2	1.4	2.0	1.8	3.6	5.9	5.0	+0.6	-11.4	
Artificial Silk Yarn Manufacture	15,760	8,530	24,290	2.0	3.5	2.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	2.3	3.8	2.8	+0.1	-11.7	
Linen	20,680	50,930	71,610	15.9	15.6	15.7	0.7	1.3	1.1	16.6	16.9	16.8	+0.1	-7.6	
Jute	10,880	17,530	28,410	6.9	15.0	11.9	0.1	0.7	0.5	7.0	15.7	12.4	+0.3	-8.1	
Hemp, Rope, Cord, Twine, etc.	7,180	11,560	18,740	5.1	9.4	7.7	0.3	1.5	1.1	5.4	10.9	8.8	+0.8	-5.4	
Hosiery	27,850	92,950	120,800	1.7	2.2	2.1	1.0	0.7	0.8	2.7	2.9	2.9	+0.1	-5.7	
Lace	5,450	8,060	13,510	3.4	4.5	4.0	3.6	3.7	3.7	7.0	8.2	7.7	+0.3	-6.9	
Carpets	12,590	18,200	30,790	1.7	4.0	3.1	2.4	6.0	4.4	4.1	10.9	7.5	+3.8	-3.8	
Other Textiles	19,810	42,260	62,070	4.4	5.9	5.4	0.6	1.4	1.2	5.0	7.3	6.6	+0.4	-3.1	
Textile Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, etc.	67,130	26,840	93,970	3.2	4.2	3.7	5.5	4.6	5.3	9.3	9.9	9.5	+0.4	-11.6	
<b>Total, Textiles</b>	<b>428,270</b>	<b>678,250</b>	<b>1,106,520</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>+0.6</b>	<b>-10.3</b>	
<b>Leather, Leather Goods, Fur:</b>															
Tanning, Currying and Dressing	34,430	11,760	46,190	3.8	7.0	4.6	0.3	0.8	0.4	4.1	7.8	5.0	+0.2	-3.8	
Leather Goods	11,200	15,800	27,000	4.5	3.8	4.1	0.4	0.4	0.4	4.9					

JUVENILE UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS.

DIVISIONAL ANALYSES: JUVENILES UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE.

JUVENILES, UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE, ON THE REGISTERS OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES AND JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX AT 11TH DECEMBER, 1939.

Table with 6 columns: Division, Aged 14 and 15, Aged 16 and 17, Total, Aged 14 and 15, Aged 16 and 17, Total. Rows include London, Eastern, Southern, etc.

INSURED JUVENILES, UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE, RECORDED AS UNEMPLOYED AT 11TH DECEMBER, 1939.

Table with 6 columns: Division, Aged 14 and 15, Aged 16 and 17, Total, Aged 14 and 15, Aged 16 and 17, Total. Rows include London, Eastern, Southern, etc.

Note:—These figures include not only insured juveniles on the register, but also those whose unemployment books were in the "two-months' file"...

JUVENILES, UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE, IN ATTENDANCE AT AUTHORIZED COURSES OF INSTRUCTION IN DECEMBER, 1939.

Table with 8 columns: Division, Week ended 20th Dec., 1939, Month ended 20th Dec., 1939, Total number of individuals who have attended Junior Instruction Centres and Classes, Other Educational Institutions, No. of Centres, No. of Classes, Average attendance, No. of Institutions, Average attendance since 1st April, 1939.

\* Comparable figures for other educational institutions are not available.

INDUSTRIAL ANALYSIS: JUVENILES UNDER 16 YEARS OF AGE.

The Table below shows for each group of industries, and for the principal industries, the numbers of insured boys and girls under 16 years of age recorded as unemployed in Great Britain, and in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, at 11th December, 1939.

Table with 5 columns: Industry, Great Britain (Boys, Girls), Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Boys, Girls). Rows include Agricultural Scheme, Fishing, Mining, Non-Metalliferous Mining Products, etc.

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

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

EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS.

[N.B.—The following paragraphs include an abstract of such official and other information as is available with regard to the state of employment abroad, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period.]

IRELAND.\*

The number of persons on the live registers of the Employment Exchanges fell from 118,130 at 25th November, 1939, to 108,180 at 30th December. At 2nd January, 1939, the corresponding figure was 97,814.

GERMANY.†

The number of persons wholly unemployed in Greater Germany at the end of December, 1939, is officially stated to have been 128,000, as compared with 126,000 in the preceding month.

NETHERLANDS.‡

Figures compiled by the State Department of Unemployment Insurance and Employment Exchanges show that, of 513,741 members of subsidised unemployment funds making returns for the week ended 28th October, 1939, 17.2 per cent. were unemployed during the whole week and 2.3 per cent. for less than 6 days.

HUNGARY.§

Unemployment declined during September. The number of applications for employment registered at Employment Exchanges at the end of the month was 41,712, as compared with 42,670 at the end of the previous month, and 47,413 at the end of September, 1938.

SWITZERLAND.||

Unemployment continued to decline during October. At the end of that month, 23,823 applications for employment (14.7 per thousand of the employed population according to the census of 1930) were registered at Employment Exchanges, as compared with 25,275 (15.7 per thousand) at the end of September, 1939, and 57,405 (40.0 per thousand) at the end of October, 1938.

Returns from unemployment insurance funds show that, of a total membership of 544,753, 4.2 per cent. were wholly, and 2.8 per cent. partially, unemployed at the end of September, 1939, the corresponding percentages being 4.4 and 2.7 at the end of June, 1939, and 6.3 and 4.3 at the end of September, 1938.

NORWAY¶

Returns furnished by ten trade unions with a total membership of 94,669 show that 15.0 per cent. of this membership were unemployed at the end of October, 1939, as compared with 13.1 per cent. at the end of September, 1939, and 18.5 per cent. at the end of October, 1938.

UNITED STATES.\*\*

There was a further increase in employment during October. According to returns received by the Bureau of Labour Statistics from employers, covering over one-half of the aggregate number of wage-earners in manufacturing industries, the number of workpeople employed at the middle of October, 1939, showed an increase of 3.3 per cent., as compared with the previous month.

Reports received by the American Federation of Labour from affiliated trade unions in 24 cities showed that, in November, 1939, 11.7 per cent. of the membership of these unions covered by the returns were unemployed, as compared with 11 per cent. also in October, 1939, and 16 per cent. in November, 1938.

According to the estimates of the American Federation of Labour, the total number of unemployed persons in the United States in October, 1939, was 9,221,000,†† as compared with 9,451,000†† in September, 1939, and 10,371,000 in October, 1938.

\* Information supplied by the Department of Industry and Commerce Dublin.

† Deutscher Reichsanzeiger, 8th January, 1940.

‡ Manusschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek, 30th November, 1939. The Hague.

§ Magyar Statisztikai Szemle, November, 1939. Budapest.

¶ La Vie Economique, November, 1939. Berne.

\*\* Information supplied by the Central Bureau of Statistics, Oslo.

†† Survey of Current Business, December, 1939, and American Federationist, December, 1939. Washington; and Conference Board Economic Record, 21st December, 1939. New York.

‡‡ Provisional figure. †† Revised figure.

CANADA.\*

Industrial employment showed a further increase at the beginning of November. The total number of workpeople employed at 1st November, by 11,914 firms from which returns were received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, was 1,206,183, as compared with 1,187,269 at the beginning of October, 1939.

At the end of November, 1939, 9.7 per cent. of the aggregate membership (approximately 244,000) of trade unions making returns were unemployed, as compared with 9.0 per cent. at the end of October, 1939, and 13.7 per cent. at the end of November, 1938.

RETAIL PRICES OVERSEAS.

N.B.—While the percentages given in the following Summary Tables are derived from the most authoritative sources of statistical information, certain differences in the nature and scope of the data used, in the methods of combining such data and in the periods for which the rise is measured, suggest the need for caution in drawing conclusions from a comparison between the figures for any two countries or cities. In every case, the percentage calculation is based on the cost of a fixed list of commodities taken in identical quantities.

I.—FOOD.

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

Table with 6 columns: Country, July 1936, July 1937, July 1938, July 1939, Latest figures available (Rise, Date). Rows include Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Other European Countries, etc.

II.—ALL ITEMS.

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

Table with 6 columns: Country, July 1936, July 1937, July 1938, July 1939, Latest figures available (Rise, Date). Rows include Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Other European Countries, etc.

\* The November Employment Situation, 1939, and information supplied by the Department of Labour, Ottawa.

† Exceptions to this are: Finland, Italy (Rome), January to June, 1914; Switzerland, June, 1914; Portugal, South Africa, 1914; Egypt, Germany, 1913-1914; Netherlands, 1911-1913; Canada, 1913; Australia (all items), November, 1914. The Australian percentages for all items are weighted averages for the six capital cities. The percentages are calculated on prices in the ordinary currency.

‡ Figure for August.

§ The method of calculation was revised in 1937.

¶ Figure for June.

\*\* Fuel and light are also included in these figures.

†† The method of calculation was revised during the latter half of 1936.

‡‡ A = Food; B = House-rent; C = Clothing; D = Fuel and Light; E = Other or Miscellaneous Items.

§§ Figure for 3rd quarter.

CHANGES BETWEEN JUNE, 1923, AND JUNE, 1939, IN THE ESTIMATED NUMBERS OF INSURED WORKERS IN EMPLOYMENT (EXCLUSIVE OF JUVENILES UNDER 16 YEARS OF AGE AND OF AGRICULTURAL WORKERS) IN GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

[See also the Article on pages 7 to 10.]

Table with columns: Industry, Estimated Number of Insured Persons in Employment (Aged 16 and over, Aged 16 to 64 inclusive), and Index Numbers (June, 1923 = 100).

For footnotes, see next page.

Table with columns: Industry, Estimated Number of Insured Persons in Employment (Aged 16 and over, Aged 16 to 64 inclusive), and Index Numbers (June, 1923 = 100). Includes sections for Manufacturing Industries, Building and Contracting, Transport and Distributive Trades, Gas, Water and Electricity Supply, Miscellaneous Services, Commerce, Banking, Insurance and Finance, and National and Local Government.

\* All the figures given in the Table are exclusive of (a) juveniles under 16 years of age, and (b) persons insured under the Agricultural Scheme. † Persons aged 65 and over, who were insurable against unemployment prior to 2nd January, 1928, ceased to be insurable as from that date. Information was available, however, which enabled estimates to be made of the numbers aged 16-64 in employment in 1927, and those estimates have been used to provide a basis for a comparable series of index numbers, unaffected by the change in the scope of the scheme in January, 1928. ‡ A revised procedure for counting the unemployed was introduced in September, 1937 (see the October, 1937, issue of this GAZETTE, page 379). Since that date, persons on the registers who are subsequently found to have been in employment on the date of the count are excluded from the unemployment figures. The figures of the numbers in employment for June, 1937, and earlier years have been compiled on the basis of the old procedure for counting the unemployed, and the figures for June, 1938, and June, 1939, on the basis of the new procedure. For 13th September, 1937, however, unemployment figures were compiled by both the old and the new methods, and in compiling the index numbers for subsequent dates, estimates for September, 1937, of the numbers in employment, obtained on the basis of the new procedure, have been equated to those obtained on the basis of the old procedure, so as to provide a comparable series of "index" numbers, unaffected by the change of basis. § Persons engaged in various classes of domestic employment were brought within the scope of the Unemployment Insurance Scheme in April, 1938. For each of the industries concerned (and also for the totals for the industry groups affected) two figures are shown for 1938: of these, the figures in line (a) exclude, whilst those in line (b) include, the estimated numbers of such persons, aged 16-64, in employment. In calculating the index numbers for 1938 and 1939, the figures in line (b) for the year 1938 have been equated to those in line (a) so as to provide a comparable series of index numbers, unaffected by this change in the scope of the Unemployment Insurance Scheme. ¶ See notes †, ‡ and § above. The index numbers given reflect the changes, on a comparable basis, in the numbers of persons, aged 16 and under 65, in employment in the various industries, unaffected by the changes in 1928 and 1938 in the scope of the Unemployment Insurance Scheme, and the change in 1937 in the procedure for counting the unemployed. \* See footnote † on page 488 of the December, 1937, issue of this GAZETTE. † See footnote ‡ on page 489 of the December, 1937, issue of this GAZETTE.

CHANGES IN RETAIL PRICES AND COST OF LIVING.

Summary of Index Figures for 1st January.

	Food	All Items
Average Increase since July, 1914 ...	57%	74%
Average Increase since 1st December, 1939 :—		
Index points ...	Nil	1
Per cent. ...	Nil	1/2*

FOOD.

THERE was no appreciable change in the average level of retail prices of food at 1st January, 1940, as compared with a month earlier.

There were small increases during the month in the average prices of cheese, butchers' meat and bacon. On the other hand, there were seasonal reductions in the prices of eggs. The average prices of flour, bread, tea, sugar, milk, butter, margarine and potatoes were practically the same at the two dates.

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

Article.	Average Price (per lb. unless otherwise indicated—to the nearest $\frac{1}{2}$ d.) at—			Percentage Inc. or Dec. (—) at 1st January, 1940 compared with	
	1st Jan., 1940.	1st Dec., 1939.	1st Sept., 1939.	1st Dec., 1939.	1st Sept., 1939.
Beef, British—					
Ribs ...	s. d. 1 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	s. d. 1 3	s. d. 1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	8
Thin Flank ...	0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 7 $\frac{1}{2}$		14
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—					
Ribs ...	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	10
Thin Flank ...	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	17
Mutton, British—					
Legs ...	1 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3	8
Breast ...	0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	14
Mutton, Frozen—					
Legs ...	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 11	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	8
Breast ...	0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 4	3	19
Bacon (streaky)†	1 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 3	2	31
Fish ...					2
Flour ... per 7 lb.	1 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 1 $\frac{1}{2}$		26
Bread ... per 4 lb.	0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$		3
Tea ...	2 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 4	+1	+6
Sugar (granulated) ...	0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 3		49
Milk ... per quart	0 7	0 7	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$		4
Butter—					
Fresh ...	1 7	1 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 4 $\frac{1}{2}$		14
Salt ...	1 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 3 $\frac{1}{2}$		23
Cheese§ ...	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 10	6	25
Margarine ...	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$		2
Eggs (fresh) ... each	0 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 2	-10	30
Potatoes ... per 7 lb.	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$		4

Of the average rise of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb., since 1st September, in the price of sugar, 1d. per lb. is due to the increased duty provided for by the last Budget.

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

Article.	Average Percentage Increase or Decrease (—) since July, 1914, at—		
	1st September, 1939.	1st December, 1939.	1st January, 1940.
Beef, British—			
Ribs ...	44	51	56
Thin Flank ...	15	25	31
Beef, Chilled or Frozen—			
Ribs ...	32	43	45
Thin Flank ...	1	15	18
Mutton, British—			
Legs ...	48	56	60
Breast ...	14	26	30
Mutton, Frozen—			
Legs ...	51	61	63
Breast ...	-3	12	15
Bacon (streaky)†	35	72	77
Fish ...	116	167	173
Flour ...	26	30	30
Bread ...	42	46	46
Tea ...	52	60	61
Sugar (granulated) ...	46	118	118
Milk ...	92	99	99
Butter—			
Fresh ...	13	29	30
Salt ...	7	32	32
Cheese§ ...	16	36	44
Margarine ...	-8	-6	-6
Eggs (fresh) ...	58	128	104
Potatoes ...	33	37	38
All above articles (Weighted Average) ...	38	57	57

On the basis of these figures, the average level of retail food prices at 1st January, 1940, was about the same as a month earlier,

\* A rise of 1 point on a total of 173, for "all items," is equivalent to a little over one-half of one per cent.

† Where this kind is seldom sold, the returns relate to another kind, locally representative.

‡ The increase in price as compared with 1st December was slight, but sufficient to alter the average, expressed to the nearest  $\frac{1}{2}$  d.

§ Mostly Canadian or New Zealand cheese, but in some districts the returns relate to another kind, locally representative.

but showed a rise of nearly 14 per cent. (19 points on a total of 138) since the beginning of September, 1939.

ITEMS OTHER THAN FOOD.

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

As regards clothing, information collected from representative retailers in a number of the principal towns indicates that at 1st January, 1940, the prices of clothing of the kinds generally bought by working-class families averaged about 2 per cent. higher than at 1st December, 1939, and about 20 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939. For men's suits and overcoats, the average increase during December was about 2 per cent.; for woollen materials, underclothing and hosiery the increase was about 3 per cent.; for cotton materials and hosiery it was about 3 per cent.; and for boots and shoes it was about 3 per cent. Owing to the wide range of quotations, to changes in qualities, and to the variations in the extent to which different articles have been affected by price changes, it is not possible to make an exact comparison over a long period of years, but on the basis of such information as is available it is estimated that at 1st January, 1940, the average rise over the level of July, 1914, was about 150 per cent.

In the fuel and light group, the average level of coal prices was about 1 per cent. higher at 1st January, 1940, than at 1st December, 1939, 7 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 108 per cent. higher than in July, 1914. The corresponding percentages for gas were 8, 15 and 78, respectively. Prices of lamp oil and of candles rose by about 5 and 11 per cent., respectively, during December, while those of matches showed practically no change. For the fuel and light group as a whole, the average level of prices at 1st January, 1940, was about 3 per cent. higher than at 1st December, 1939, 10 per cent. higher than at 1st September, 1939, and about 100 per cent. higher than in July, 1914.

As regards other items included in these statistics, there were increases during December in the prices of domestic ironmongery, brushware and pottery, averaging about 2 per cent. The prices of soap, soda, newspapers, tobacco and cigarettes, and fares remained generally unchanged during the month. For the "miscellaneous" group of items, as a whole, the average level at 1st January, 1940, was about 1 per cent. above that at 1st December, 1939, 6 per cent. above that at 1st September, 1939, and about 90 per cent. above the level of July, 1914.

ALL ITEMS.

If the average increases in the cost of all the foregoing items are combined in accordance with their relative importance in working-class family expenditure prior to August, 1914, the resultant general average increase at 1st January, 1940, is approximately 74 per cent. over the level of July, 1914, as compared with 73 per cent. at 1st December, 1939, and 55 per cent. at 1st September, 1939. The result of this calculation (in which the same quantities and, as far as possible, the same qualities of each item are taken at each date) is to show the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the standard of living prevailing in working-class families prior to August, 1914, no allowance being made for any changes in the standard of living since that date, or for any economies or re-adjustments in expenditure which may have been effected since the outbreak of the war.

The rise of 19 points since the beginning of September, 1939, (i.e., from 155 to 174 when July, 1914, is taken as 100) is equivalent to about 12 per cent. Of these 19 points, between 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  and 2 points are due to the increases, since that date, in the taxes on sugar and tobacco.

SUMMARY TABLE: ALL ITEMS.

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

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

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

TRADE DISPUTES IN DECEMBER.\*

Number, Magnitude and Duration.—The number of disputes involving stoppages of work, reported to the Department as beginning in December in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was 40, as compared with 79 in the previous month and 30 in December, 1938. In these 40 new disputes about 11,000 workpeople were directly involved, and 2,300 workpeople indirectly involved (i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, though not themselves parties to the disputes). In addition, about 2,500 workpeople were involved, either directly or indirectly, in 12 disputes which began before December and were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of new and old disputes was thus 52, involving 15,800 workpeople, and resulting in a loss, during December, estimated at 36,000 working days.

Causes.—Of the 40 disputes beginning in December, 11, directly involving 1,100 workpeople, arose out of demands for advances in wages, and 9, directly involving 2,800 workpeople, on other wage questions; 2, directly involving 2,700 workpeople, on questions as to working hours; 8, directly involving 2,500 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; 8, directly involving 1,600 workpeople, on other questions respecting working arrangements; and one, directly involving 100 workpeople, on questions of trade union principle. One dispute, directly involving 200 workpeople, arose out of the issue of summonses to certain workpeople for breach of contract.

Results.—Final settlements of disputes which terminated during December have been effected in the case of 33 new disputes, directly involving 9,100 workpeople, and 9 old disputes, directly involving 2,200 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 6, directly involving 1,200 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 26,

directly involving 7,600 workpeople, were settled in favour of the employers; and 10, directly involving 2,500 workpeople, resulted in a compromise. In the case of 6 other disputes, directly involving 1,700 workpeople, work was resumed pending negotiations.

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

Industry Group.	Number of Disputes in progress in Month.			Number of Workpeople involved in all Disputes in progress in Month.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress in Month.
	Started before beginning of Month.	Started in Month.	Total.		
Mining and Quarrying ...	3	17	20	12,200	23,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ...	4	6	10	800	2,000
Building, etc. ...	2	2	4	1,200	2,000
Other ...	3	15	18	1,600	9,000
Total, December, 1939	12	40	52	15,800	36,000
Total, November, 1939 ...	10	79	89	42,900	132,000
Total, December, 1938 ...	11	30	41	9,200	29,000

STATISTICS FOR 1939.

A summary of the statistics of disputes in 1939, with comparative statistics for 1938, and, in less detail, for earlier years, is given in the annual review on page 6 of this issue.

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES INVOLVING STOPPAGES OF WORK DURING DECEMBER.

Occupations and Locality.	Approximate Number of Workpeople Involved.		Date when Dispute Began.		Cause or Object.	Result.
	Directly.	Indirectly.†	Began.	Ended.		
COAL MINING :— Colliery workpeople—near Kirkcaldy, Fife (one colliery).	973	202	16 Nov.	5 Dec.	Claim on the part of strippers for increase in tonnage rates.	Work resumed at wage rates in operation prior to stoppage.
Colliery workpeople—Ferryhill, Co. Durham (one colliery).	1,023	220	14 Dec.	16 Dec.	Drillers' objection to reduction in number of holes to be drilled, involving reduced earnings.	Settlement effected involving a reduction in number of drills and resulting in increased earnings per man; surplus drills to be transferred to other work.
Colliery workpeople—near Rotherham (one colliery).	1,707	796	22 Dec.	27 Dec.	Against employers' refusal to close the pit on afternoon of 22nd December in order that workpeople might qualify for Unemployment Insurance Benefit.	Work resumed.
ENGINEERING :— Skilled and semi-skilled workpeople employed in aircraft manufacture—Dumbarton (one firm).	511	...	7 Dec.	9 Dec.	Dispute arising out of bonus times allowed on certain jobs.	Work resumed on advice of trade union officials.
FOOD PREPARATION :— Food canners, packers, etc.—Sheffield (one firm).	260	...	30 Nov.	2 Dec.	For increase in rates of wages.	Increases in rates of wages conceded.
BUILDING, ETC. :— Building trade operatives—London, S.W. (one firm).	1,046	...	2 Dec.	4 Dec.	For a guaranteed working week.	Work resumed pending negotiations.

\* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration (i.e., number of workpeople multiplied by number of working days, allowing for workpeople replaced, etc.) exceeded 100 days.

† I.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred but not themselves parties to the disputes.

PRICES AND WAGES IN THE IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRIES.

The following Table shows the results of recent ascertaining of selling-prices of pig-iron and of manufactured iron and steel, upon which are based changes in the rates of wages of certain classes of iron and steel and other workers in particular districts :—

Product and District.	Period covered by last Audit.	Average selling-price per ton* according to last Audit.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) compared with	
			Previous Audit.*	A Year ago.*
Pig-Iron :—	1939.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Lincolnshire ...	July-Sept.	79 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	-6 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	-22 3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Nottingham District ...	July-Sept.	83 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	-12 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Manufactured Iron :—				
West of Scotland ...	Sept.-Oct.	247 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	-3 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	-20 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Steel :—				
South-West Wales ...	July-Sept.	141 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	- 9 3 $\frac{1}{2}$

\* Stated to the nearest farthing.

In accordance with the provisions of the agreements under which wages are regulated, the increase in the selling-price of pig iron in the Nottingham District resulted in increases in the wages of blast-furnacemen in Nottingham and Leicestershire, and of ironstone and limestone quarrymen in Leicestershire and certain adjoining parts of Lincolnshire. In the case of blast-furnacemen, ironstone miners and quarrymen in North Lincolnshire, the ascertainment warranted a reduction in wages, but it was agreed that wages should continue to be paid at the same level.

In the case of Siemens steel workers in South-West Wales and iron puddlers and millmen in the West of Scotland, the ascertainments did not warrant a change in wages, but it was agreed that advances in wage rates should be granted in November in anticipation of future advances under the sliding scales.

Details of the changes in wages referred to above were given on pages 430 and 431 of the December, 1939, issue of this GAZETTE.

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

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 December in Great Britain and Northern Ireland resulted in an increase estimated at about £250,000 in the weekly full-time wages of 2,155,000 workpeople, and in a decrease of £350 in those of 46,000 workpeople.

The particulars are analysed by industry groups below:—

Industry Group.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Estimated Amount of Change in Weekly Wages	
	Increases.	Decreases.	Increases.	Decreases.
Mining and Quarrying ...	307,000	46,000	£ 22,800	£ 350
Brick, Chemical, etc. ...	122,300	—	15,800	—
Engineering, Shipbuilding, and Metal ...	164,400	—	20,000	—
Clothing ...	317,700	—	52,200	—
Building ...	886,000	—	82,900	—
Other ...	357,700	—	56,400	—
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>2,155,100</b>	<b>46,000</b>	<b>250,100</b>	<b>350</b>

In the mining and quarrying group there were increases in the rates of wages of coal miners in Northumberland, Yorkshire, Derbyshire (except South Derbyshire), Cannock Chase, North Staffordshire, Leicestershire, and Warwickshire, and a decrease in Nottinghamshire, the changes being due to fluctuations in the proceeds of the industry as shown by the district ascertains. Other workpeople in this group whose rates of wages were increased included quarrymen in several districts, shale miners in Scotland, and cokemen and by-product workers in South Yorkshire.

The principal increases in the brick, chemical, etc. group affected workpeople employed in cement manufacture in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, drug and fine chemicals workers, brickmakers, and paint, colour and varnish workers. Other workpeople whose wages were increased included glass workers in various districts, and timeworkers employed in match manufacturing in Great Britain.

In the metal group the principal change affected women and girls employed by federated firms in the engineering industry, for whom a standard minimum schedule of wage rates was adopted. Other workpeople whose wages were increased included workpeople employed in heating, ventilating and domestic engineering, wire makers, lock, latch and key makers in England, metal bedstead makers and metal pen makers in Birmingham and district, gold and

silver workers at Birmingham and Sheffield, iron puddlers and millmen in the Midlands, South Yorkshire and South Lancashire, tinplate makers in South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire, and electrical cable makers (timeworkers).

In the clothing group there were increases for workpeople employed in the ready-made and wholesale bespoke tailoring trades, shirt-makers, glove makers and boot and shoe makers.

Building trade operatives in Great Britain and Northern Ireland received an increase of 1/4d. per hour. Other workpeople in this group whose wages were increased included men employed by civil engineering contractors, and asphalt workers.

The principal increases in the other industry groups affected workpeople employed by electricity supply undertakings in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, coal trimmers at various ports, and employees of municipal tram, omnibus and trolleybus undertakings in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Other workpeople whose wages were increased included linen workers in Northern Ireland, those employed in flannel manufacture in Wales, silk workers at Macclesfield, lace and net dressers and curtain finishers at Nottingham, asbestos makers, sawmill workers in various districts, furniture trade operatives in a number of towns, brush and broom makers, employees of waterworks undertakings in the Midlands, Home Counties, and South Wales and Monmouthshire areas, and manual workers employed in the non-trading departments of local authorities in certain districts.

Of the estimated total increase of £250,100 per week, £23,700 was due to the operation of sliding scales based on selling prices or on the proceeds of the coal mining industry; £127,940 was due to arrangements made by joint standing bodies (including £62,550 under cost-of-living sliding-scales arranged by such bodies); £20,750 was due to the operation of other sliding scales based on the cost of living; £10 was due to mediation; and the remaining £77,700 was the result of direct negotiations between employers and workpeople or their representatives.

The whole of the estimated decrease of £350 per week was due to the operation of a sliding scale based on the proceeds of the coal mining industry.

Hours of Labour.

No important changes in normal weekly hours of labour were reported as having come into operation in December, 1939.

Changes in Wages and Hours in 1939.

A special article dealing with these changes appears on pages 3 to 5 of this issue of the GAZETTE.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED DURING DECEMBER.

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Agriculture	Northumberland ...	24 Dec.	Male workers (except casual workers).	Increases in minimum rates of 1s. to 3s. per week. Minimum rates after change at 21 years and over: shepherds—householders, 47s.; non-householders, 44s.; stewards, horsemen, cattlemen or stockmen—householders, 43s. 6d.; non-householders, 40s. 6d.; others, 35s. 6d.†
	Cumberland and Westmorland.	3 Dec.	Male casual workers 16 years of age and over.	Increase in minimum rates of 1/4d. per hour. Minimum hourly rate after change at 18 years and over, 8 1/4d.†
			Female workers 18 years of age and over.	Increase in minimum rate of 1/4d. per hour (6d. to 6 1/4d.)†
	Durham ...	3 Dec.	Horsemen 21 years and over (other than casual workers).	Increase in minimum rates of 2s. 6d. per week. Minimum rates after change: householders—37s. 8d. per week of 50 hours, plus 7s. 6d. for all time customarily spent in attention to horses; others—36s. 6d. per week of 50 hours, plus 3s. 6d. for time spent in attention to horses; workers who receive board and/or lodging, 36s. 6d. per week of 50 hours subject to a deduction of 15s. per week.†
			Stockmen and shepherds 21 years and over (other than casual workers).	Increase in minimum rates of 2s. 6d. per week. Minimum rates after change: householders—48s. 6d.; those receiving board and/or lodging, 40s. 6d. subject to a deduction of 15s. per week; others—42s. 4 1/4d.†
	East Riding of Yorkshire.	3 Dec.	Other male workers (except casual workers).	Increases in minimum rates of 1s. 3d. or 2s. 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change at 21 years and over: 35s. 6d.
			Female workers ...	Increases in minimum rates of 2s. to 3s. per week. Minimum rate after change at 21 years and over: 38s.†
	Lancashire—Southern Area	24 Dec.	Male workers 16 years and over employed as stockmen, teams-men, poultrymen, pigmen or shepherds.	Increase in minimum rates of 1d. per hour. Minimum rates after change: 6d. per hour at under 16 years and 7d. at 16 years and over.†
			Other male workers ...	Increases in minimum rates of 1s. to 2s. 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change at 21 years and over: 38s.†
	Other Areas	24 Dec.	Male workers 19 years and over employed as stockmen, teams-men, poultrymen, pigmen or shepherds.	Increases in minimum rates of 2s. 2d. to 2s. 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change at 21 years and over: 44s. 6d.†
			Female workers ...	Increases in minimum rates of 1s. to 2s. 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change at 21 years and over: 43s.†
	Cheshire ...	24 Dec.	Male workers ...	Increase in minimum rates of 1d. per hour. Minimum rates after change: 6d. per hour at 16 years and 7d. per hour at 18 years and over.†
Nottinghamshire ...	3 Dec.	Male workers ...	Increases in minimum rates of 1s. 1d. to 3s. per week. Minimum rate after change at 21 years and over: 39s.†	
		Female workers ...	Increases in minimum rates of 1s. 2d. to 3s. 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change at 21 years and over: 38s.†	

\* The particulars of numbers affected and amount of change in the weekly wages and hours of labour exclude changes affecting Government employees, agricultural labourers, shop assistants and clerks, for which classes the information available is not sufficient to form a basis for statistics. Where information is available, however, details of changes in the wages and hours of these classes are shown in the list of principal changes recorded. The estimates of the effects of the changes on weekly wages are based on normal conditions of employment and do not take into account the effect of short-time working, etc.

† These increases took effect under Orders issued under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act, 1924.

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

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics).	
Agriculture—contd.	Derbyshire ...	24 Dec.	Male workers ...	Increases in minimum rates of 1s. 3d. to 2s. per week. Minimum rate after change at 21 years and over: 40s.*	
	Kesteven and Lindsey divisions of Lincolnshire.	24 Dec.	Female workers ...	Increases in minimum rates of 1d. to 1 1/4d. per hour. Minimum rate after change at 18 years and over: 6 1/4d. per hour.*	
			Male workers employed as waggoners.	Increases in minimum rates of 1s. 3d. to 3s. per week. Minimum rate after change at 21 years and over: 44s. 6d.*	
	Leicestershire and Rutland.	10 Dec.	Male workers 21 years and over employed as shepherds and stockmen.	Increase in minimum rates of 3s. per week. Minimum rates after change: shepherds, 42s. 6d.; stockmen, 43s. 6d.*	
			Other male workers ...	Increases in minimum rates of 1s. to 3s. per week. Minimum rate after change at 21 years and over: 37s. 6d.*	
	Shropshire ...	24 Dec.	Female workers ...	Increase in minimum rates of 1/4d. per hour. Minimum rates after change: 5d. per hour at under 17 years and 6 1/4d. at 17 years and over.*	
			Male workers ...	Increases in minimum rates of 1s. to 3s. per week. Minimum rates after change for workers 21 years and over: Leicestershire—38s.; Rutland—36s. 6d.*	
	Warwickshire ...	24 Dec.	Female workers ...	Increase in minimum rates of 1/4d. per hour. Minimum rate after change at 21 years and over: 36s.*	
			Male workers ...	Increases in minimum rates of 1d. or 2d. per hour. Minimum rate after change at 18 years and over: 7d. per hour.*	
	Suffolk ...	24 Dec.	Female workers ...	Increases in minimum rates of 1s. to 3s. per week. Minimum rate after change at 18 years and over: 6d. per hour.*	
			Male workers ...	Increases in minimum rates of 1d. or 2d. per hour. Minimum rate after change at 18 years and over: 7d. per hour.*	
	Hertfordshire ...	24 Dec.	Male workers ...	Increases in minimum rates of 8d. to 2s. per week. Minimum rate after change for ordinary workers 21 years and over: 35s.*†	
Female workers ...			Increases in minimum rates of 1s. per week. Minimum rate after change at 21 years and over: 37s.*		
Essex ...	24 Dec.	Male workers ...	Increase in minimum rates of 1s. per week. Minimum rate after change at 19 years and over: 30s.*		
		Female workers ...	Increases in minimum rates of 8d. to 2s. per week. Minimum rate after change at 21 years and over: 36s. 6d.*		
Kent ...	24 Dec.	Male workers 21 years and over employed as horsemen, stockmen or shepherds.	Increases in minimum rates of 1d. to 1 1/4d. per hour. Minimum rate after change at 21 years and over: 7d.*		
		Other male workers ...	Increase in minimum rate of 4s. per week (36s. to 40s.).*		
Surrey ...	24 Dec.	Female workers ...	Increases in minimum rates of 10d. to 3s. per week. Minimum rate after change at 21 years and over: 38s.*		
		Male workers 21 years and over employed as horsemen, stockmen or shepherds.	Increase in minimum rates of 1/4d. per hour. Minimum rate after change at 18 years and over: 6 1/4d.*		
Dorsetshire ...	24 Dec.	Skilled workers 21 years and over employed as horsemen, stockmen or shepherds.	Increase in minimum rate of 2s. 6d. per week (41s. 6d. to 44s.).*		
		Other male workers (except casual workers).	Increases in minimum rates of 1 1/4d. to 2s. 6d. per week. Minimum rate after change at 21 years and over: 37s.*		
Dorsetshire ...	24 Dec.	Male casual workers ...	Increases in minimum rates of 1/4d. to 3/4d. per hour. Minimum rate after change at 21 years and over: 9d.*		
		Female workers ...	Increases in minimum rates of 1/4d. to 3/4d. per hour. Minimum rate after change at 18 years and over: 7d.*		
Dorsetshire ...	24 Dec.	Male workers ...	Increases in minimum rates of 8d. to 2s. per week. Minimum rate after change at 21 years and over: 36s.*		
		Female workers ...	Increases in minimum rates of 9d. to 2s. per week. Minimum rate after change at 21 years and over: 27s.*		
Anglesey and Caernarvon.	31 Dec.	Male workers 15 years and over employed as horsemen, cowmen, shepherds or hwsymyn (balliffs).	Increases in minimum rates of 1s. to 2s. per week. Minimum rate after change at 21 years and over: 38s.*		
		Other male workers ...	Increases in minimum rates of 1s. to 2s. per week. Minimum rate after change at 21 years and over: 34s.*		
Pembroke and Cardigan.	31 Dec.	Female workers ...	Increase in minimum rates of 1/4d. per hour. Minimum rate after change at 18 years and over: 7d.*		
		Male workers ...	Increases in minimum rates of 9d. to 2s. per week. Minimum rate after change at 21 years and over: 35s.*		
Coal Mining	Northumberland ...	1 Dec.	Workpeople employed in and about coal mines.	Increase of 0.26 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 45.26 per cent. above the basis rates.†	
	West Yorkshire ...		Increases of 6 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 42 per cent. above the basis rates.‡		
	South Yorkshire ...		Increase of 6 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 42 per cent. above the basis rates for underground workers; 40-34 per cent. for surface workers in the Eastern sub-division and 37 per cent. for surface workers in the Western sub-division.‡		
	Nottinghamshire ...		Decrease of 0.35 per cent. on basis rates, lowering wages 75.0 per cent. above the basis rates.†		
	Derbyshire (except South Derbyshire).		Increase of 0.47 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 4.16 per cent. above the basis rates.†		
	Cannock Chase ...		Increase of 1.49 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 51.25 per cent. above the basis rates for shopmen, mechanics and surface workers not handling coal and 49.25 per cent. for all other workers.‡		
	North Staffordshire		Increase of 1 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 47 per cent. above the basis rates.†		
	Leicestershire ...		Increase of 1.98 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 55.48 per cent. above the basis rates.†		
	Warwickshire ...		Increase of 2 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 92 per cent. above the basis rates at the majority of the collieries.‡		
	South Yorkshire ...		1 Dec.	Workpeople employed in and about coal mines.	Increase of 6 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 42 per cent. above the basis rates.‡
	Coke, etc. Manufacture.		1 Dec.	Cokemen and by-product workers...	Increase of 6 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 42 per cent. above the basis rates.‡
				Ironstone miners ...	Increase of 6 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 42 per cent. above the basis rates.‡
Other Mining and Quarrying.	13 Nov.	Limestone quarrymen ...	Increases in the flat-rate additions payable per shift of 8d. for those 18 years and over and of 4d. for those under 18.		
		Masons, sawyers and labourers employed at stone yards.	Flat-rate additions granted of 1s. per shift for those 18 years and over and of 6d. for those under 18.		
Northumberland and Durham.	1 Dec.	Banker-masons, mason machinists, labourers, etc. employed in saw mills and stone yards.	Increase of 1/4d. per hour. Rates after change: masons, 1s. 5 1/4d. per hour; sawyers, 1s. 2 1/4d.; labourers, 1s. 1 1/4d.		
		Freestone quarrymen ...	Increase of 1/4d. per hour. Rates after change: stone planing machine men, 1s. 7 1/4d. per hour; quarrymen and grindstone turners, 1s. 7d.; crane drivers, 1s. 4d.; labourers, 1s. 2 1/4d.		
Morley and district (Yorkshire).	1 Dec.	Sandstone quarryworkers ...	Increase of 1/4d. per hour for banker-masons and planing machine men.		
Shepley (near Huddersfield).	1 Dec.	Sandstone quarryworkers ...	Increase of 1/4d. per hour for banker-masons and planing machine men. Rate after change: 1s. 8d. per hour.		

\* These increases took effect under Orders issued under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act, 1924.  
 † Additional weekly sums are payable to certain special class workers for work in connection with care of animals.  
 ‡ Apart from the percentage addition to basis rates, certain flat-rate additions per day or per shift, are paid.  
 § Apart from the percentage addition to basis rates, certain flat-rate additions per day or per shift are paid to all workers, as well as "subsistence allowances" to adult day-wage workers for whom the basis rates plus the percentage additions do not yield certain specified amounts.  
 ¶ Flat-rate additions totalling 1s. 8d. per day are paid to workers 21 years and over and of 10d. per day to other workers. The subsistence wage payable at the majority of the collieries to adult able-bodied underground and surface workers remained unaltered at 8s. 6d. per shift and 8s. per shift respectively. At three collieries a lower percentage is payable: the percentage addition is 37 at two collieries and 78 at another.

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

Table with columns: Industry, District, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of Change. Rows include Other Mining and Quarrying, Brick, Tile, Pipe, etc. Manufacture, Cement Manufacture, Glass Manufacture, Chemical, etc. Manufacture, Paint, Colour and Varnish Manufacture, Match Manufacture, Pig Iron and Iron and Steel Manufacture, Engineering.

\* This increase was agreed upon by the National Joint Industrial Council for the Cast Stone and Cast Concrete Products Industry. † These increases were agreed upon by the National Joint Industrial Council for the Clay Industries. ‡ These increases were agreed upon by the National Joint Industrial Council for the Cement Manufacturing Industry. § Including Barnsley, Birmingham, Dudley, Edinburgh, Glasgow, London, Manchester, Sheffield, Stourbridge, Tutbury and Warrington. ¶ Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements. †† This increase applied to firms affiliated to the Association of Chemical Employers or the Scottish Association of Chemical Manufacturers. ‡‡ This increase applied to firms affiliated to the Scottish Association of Chemical Employers or the Scottish Association of Chemical Manufacturers. ††† These increases affected firms affiliated to the National Joint Industrial Council for the Paint, Colour and Varnish Industry. †††† This increase was agreed upon by the Joint Industrial Council for the Match Manufacturing Industry. ††††† This increase was agreed upon by the Joint Industrial Council for the Match Manufacturing Industry. †††††† This increase was granted in anticipation of, and is to be merged in, future increases under the selling-price sliding-scale.

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

Table with columns: Industry, District, Date from which Change took effect, Classes of Workpeople, Particulars of Change. Rows include Engineering—contd., Electrical Cable Manufacture, Lock, Latch and Key Manufacture, Heating, Ventilating and Domestic Engineering, Wire Manufacture, Metallic Bedstead Manufacture, Pen Manufacture, Needle, Fish Hook and Fishing Tackle Manufacture, Gold, Silver, and allied trades, Chain Manufacture, Malleable Ironfounding, Typefounding.

\* This increase affected workpeople employed by members of the Edinburgh and District Ironmongers' and Master Blacksmiths' Association. † Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements. ‡ The flat-rate bonus for girls over 16 and under 18 years remained unchanged.

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

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Tinplate Manufacture.	South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire.	3 Dec.	Workpeople (excluding those engaged on maintenance work) employed in tinplate manufacture.	Increase of 2 per cent. on standard basis rates over 6s. 10½d. per day, making wages 12 per cent. above the standard basis rates, and of 7 per cent. on standard basis rates of 6s. 10½d. per day or less, making wages 32.75 per cent. above the standard basis rates.
Tube Manufacture.	West of Scotland	1 Dec.	Joiners and bricklayers employed in tube manufacture.	Increase of 2s. per week.
Flannel Manufacture.	Wales	Pay day in week ending 9 Dec.	Workpeople employed in flannel manufacture.	Increases of 9.65 per cent. for timeworkers and 7.7 per cent. for pieceworkers.
Linen Weaving.	Northern Ireland	11 Dec.	Workpeople employed in the linen weaving industry.	Increase of 7½ per cent. on current wages.
Flax Spinning.	Northern Ireland	4 Dec.	Workpeople employed in the flax spinning industry.	Increase* of ½d. in the shilling.
Silk Manufacture.	Macclesfield	1st pay day in Dec.	Workpeople employed in silk manufacture.	Increase of 1d. in the shilling.
Lace and Net Dressing and Curtain Finishing.	Nottingham and district.	Pay day in week commencing 16 Oct.	Female workers	Increase of 1d. in the shilling.
		Pay day in week commencing 4 Dec.	Male workers	Increase of ½d. per hour for those 18 years and over and of ¼d. for those under 18 years.
Textile Bleaching, Dyeing, Finishing, etc.	Certain towns in Lancashire.†	Week commencing 20 Nov.	Mechanics employed in dyeworks by members of the Employers' Federation of Dyers and Finishers.	Increase of 2s. per week (70s. to 72s.).
	Northern Ireland	11 Dec.	Men 21 years and over	Increase of 3s. per week for those receiving more than 30s. per week, and of 10 per cent. on rates for those receiving less.
			Women	Increase of 2s. per week for those receiving more than 20s. per week and of 10 per cent. on rates for those receiving less.
			Juveniles	Increase of 1s. 6d. per week.
Asbestos Manufacture.	Great Britain	4 Dec.	Workpeople employed in the asbestos industry.	Increases of 1½d. per hour for men 21 years and over, of 1d. for women 18 years and over, and of proportional amounts for juveniles. Minimum rates after change: men, 1s. 2½d.; women, 9½d.
Elastic Web Manufacture.	Leicester	25 Dec.	Elastic web weavers and braid hands (male workers).	Bonus on earnings increased* from 14s. to 15s. in the £.
Ready-made and Wholesale Bespoke Tailoring.	Great Britain	1st full pay period in Dec.	Workpeople employed in the ready-made and wholesale bespoke tailoring trades.	Increases on current earnings of 1½d. per hour for adult male workers, of 1d. to 1½d. for juniors and of ¾d. for adult female workers with corresponding increases for learners.
	Northern Ireland	4 Dec.	Workpeople employed in the ready-made and wholesale bespoke tailoring trades.	Increase of 10 per cent. on Trade Board rates.
Shirtmaking	Great Britain	1st full pay period in Dec.	Workpeople employed in the shirt, collar and tie making industry.	Increases on current earnings of 1½d. per hour for adult male workers, of 1d. to 1½d. for juniors and of ¾d. for adult female workers with corresponding increases for learners.
	Northern Ireland	4 Dec.	Workpeople employed in shirt, collar, and tie manufacture.	Increase of 10 per cent. on Trade Board rates.
Glove Manufacture.	England	Pay day in week ending 9 Dec.	Workpeople employed in the glove making industry.	War bonus granted of 7½ per cent. on current rates.
Felt Hat Making.	Atherstone and Bedworth.	25 Nov. to 23 Dec.	Male pieceworkers	Bonus of 27½ per cent. on list prices increased* to 30 per cent. Bonus of 30 per cent. on list prices increased* to 32½ per cent.
			Male timeworkers	Increase* of 1s. to 3s. per week. Minimum weekly rates after change: 15s. at 15 years increasing each year to 23s. 6d. at 17, and then each half-year to 61s. at 22 years and over.
			Female timeworkers	Increase* of 1s. to 2s. per week. Minimum weekly rates after change: 15s. at 15 years increasing each year to 23s. 3d. at 17, and then each half-year to 40s. at 20 years and over.
			Pieceworkers	Increase* on basic statement prices of 4½ per cent., making 6½ per cent. in all.
Boot and Shoe Manufacture.	Great Britain	Pay day in week ending 9 Dec.		
	Aberdeen	9 Dec.		Increase* of 3s. per week for journeymen, of 3d. per half-day for jobbers, of 2s. per week for other adult male workers, and of 1s. 6d. for female workers, apprentices and boys.
		16 Dec.	Bakers and confectioners	Increase* of 1s. per week for journeymen, and of 6d. per week for other classes. Rates after change include: journeymen, 75s. per week; jobbers and casual workers, 8s. 4d. per half-day, 13s. 2d. per day.
	Ayrshire	30 Dec.	Bakers and confectioners	Increase* of 3s. per week. Rates after change for journeymen—Ayr and Kilmarnock co-operative societies, 73s. per week of 45 hours; other co-operative societies and private traders, 72s. per week of 47 hours.
	Border district (including Galashiels, Hawick, Jedburgh, Kelso, Peebles and Selkirk).	2 Dec.	Bakers and confectioners employed by co-operative societies.	Increase* of 1s. per week for adults and of proportional amounts for apprentices. Rate after change for journeymen, 70s.
	Dundee	23 Dec.	Bakers and confectioners	Increase* of 1s. per week. Rate after change for tablehands, 75s. 6d.
	Edinburgh and Leith.	20 Nov. to 18 Dec.	Bakers and confectioners	Increase* of 1s. 6d. per week. Rates after change for journeymen: 74s. to 81s. 6d. according to time of start.
	Various districts in Lothians.‡	13 Nov.	Adult male bakers and confectioners employed by co-operative societies.	Increase* of 3s. 6d. per week. Rates after change: 74s. for those starting at 4 a.m. (3 a.m. Saturdays); ovenmen and those starting at 3 a.m. (2 a.m. Saturdays) to receive 5s. per week extra.
Tobacco Manufacture.	Northern Ireland	14 Dec.	Workpeople employed in tobacco manufacture.	Increase of 5 per cent. on Trade Board rates.
Pork Curing	Londonderry	1 Dec.	Workpeople employed in the pork curing industry.	Increases of 1s. per week for those 21 years and over and of 6d. per week for those under 21.
	Various towns in the West Riding of Yorkshire (excluding Sheffield and Rotherham).§	Week ending 8 Dec.	Woodcutting machinists and sawyers employed in sawmills.	Increase of ½d. per hour. Minimum rate after change for journeymen: foreign timber section, 1s. 8d.; home-grown section 1s. 7d.¶
Mill-sawing	Sheffield and district	9 Dec.	Woodcutting machinists and sawyers employed in sawmills.	War bonus of 1d. per hour payable on standard rates. Rate after change: 1s. 7d. per hour plus 1d. per hour war bonus.
	Manchester, Salford and district and Ashton-under-Lyne.	1 Dec.	Woodcutting machinists and sawyers employed in steam joinery and sawmill shops.	Increase of ½d. per hour (1s. 7½d. to 1s. 8d.).

\* Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.  
 † Including Accrington, Blackburn, Bolton, Burnley, Bury, Horwich, Oldham, Rochdale and Wigan.  
 ‡ Including Armadale, Bathgate, Broxburn, West Calder, Gorebridge, Musselburgh, Tranent, Prestonpans, etc.  
 § Including Barnsley, Bradford, Dewsbury, Halifax, Huddersfield, Keighley and Leeds.  
 ¶ A further increase of ½d. per hour is to take effect in week ending 5th January, 1940

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

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Mill-sawing—contd.	Preston and district	1 Dec.	Woodcutting machinists employed in planing and sawmills and building trade shops.	Increase of ½d. per hour (1s. 7½d. to 1s. 8d.).
	Bristol	1st full pay in Dec.	Woodcutting machinists and sawyers employed in sawmills.	Increase of ½d. per hour (1s. 7½d. to 1s. 8d.).
	Various towns in Scotland.*	1st full pay week in Dec.	Woodcutting machinists and sawyers employed in sawmills.	Increase of 1d. per hour for journeymen, and of proportional amounts for apprentices. Minimum rate after change for journeymen, 1s. 8d.
			Labourers employed in sawmills	Increase of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: Glasgow and district, 1s. 2d.; other districts, 1s. 2½d.
Packing-case making.	Manchester, Salford and district and Ashton-under-Lyne.	1 Dec.	Woodcutting machinists and sawyers employed in packing case shops.	Increase of ½d. per hour (1s. 7½d. to 1s. 8d.).
	Manchester, Salford, Bolton and district.	1 Dec.	Wood case makers	Increase of 2d. per hour for timeworkers and of proportional amounts for apprentices and pieceworkers. Rate after change for timeworkers, 1s. 8d.
	Scotland	Pay week beginning 16 Dec.	Woodcutting machinists, sawyers, and packing case makers employed in packing case shops.	Increase of 1d. per hour. Rate after change for woodcutting machinists, 1s. 8d.
	Various towns in Great Britain.†	1 Dec.	Furniture trade operatives	Increase of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: Peterborough 1s. 7½d.; Edinburgh and Leith—cabinet makers, 8½d.; french polishers and upholsterers, 8s. 8d.; Sheffield—carpet fitters, 1s. 6d., other classes, 1s. 8d.; all other districts 1s. 8d.
	Hull	2nd full pay week in Dec.	Furniture trade operatives	Increase of 1d. per hour for journeymen and of ½d. per hour for women. Rates after change: journeymen, 1s. 8d.; women, 9½d.
	Manchester and district.‡	1 Dec.	Furniture trade operatives and decorative glass workers.	Increase of ½d. per hour for men, of ¼d. per hour for women, and of proportional amounts for apprentices and improvers. Rates after change: craftsmen, 1s. 8d.; labourers, 1s. 3½d.; women polishers, 1s.; glassworkers—bevelers, silverers and cutters, 1s. 8d.; brilliant cutters, 1s. 9d.; fitters, 1s. 6d.; packers, 1s. 5d.
Furniture Manufacture.			Journeymen	Increase of ½d. per hour. Standard rates after change: men on skilled processes, 1s. 6½d.; Wycombe Section, packers, markers-out and benders, 1s. 6d.
	High Wycombe and district.	13 Dec.	Female timeworkers employed on skilled processes.	Increase of ½d. per hour (10d. to 10½d.).
			Labourers	Increase of ½d. per hour (1s. 2d. to 1s. 2½d.).
			Caners (special)	Increase of ½d. per hour (8½d. to 9d.).
			Apprentices	Increase of 3d. to 10d. per week. Rates after change: 10s. 9d. to 32s. 0d. per week.
	Bath	14 Dec.	Cabinet makers, carvers, chair makers, polishers, upholsterers and machinists.	Increase of 1d. per hour (1s. 7d. to 1s. 8d.).
	Wrexham	27 Dec.	Furniture trade operatives	Increase of ½d. per hour (1s. 6d. to 1s. 6½d.).
	Scotland	1st full pay week in Dec.	Bedding and mattress makers	Increase of 5 per cent. for pieceworkers. Minimum rates after change: men, 1s. 6d.; women, 9d.
Cabinet case making.	Sheffield	4 Dec.	Workpeople employed in cabinet case making.	War bonus of 7½ per cent. on existing rates granted. Minimum rate after change for skilled workers: 1s. 6d. per hour plus 7½ per cent. war bonus.
			Bricklayers, stone and marble masons, marble polishers, carpenters and joiners, machinists, slaters and tilers, plasterers, plumbers, painters, french polishers and labourers.	Increase of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: within a 12-mile radius of Charing Cross—masons (fixers), 1s. 10½d.; bricklayers, masons (banker hands), carpenters and joiners, woodcutting machinists, slaters and tilers, plasterers and plumbers, 1s. 9½d.; painters, 1s. 8½d.; marble polishers, 1s. 7½d.; french polishers, 1s. 9d.; labourers, 1s. 4½d.; 12 to 15 miles from Charing Cross—½d. per hour less for craftsmen and ¼d. for labourers.
	London district (within a 15-mile radius of Charing Cross).	1 Dec.	Derrick, crane, etc. drivers, signalmen, fitters, etc.	Increase of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: within a 12-mile radius of Charing Cross—derrick drivers, 1s. 8½d., plus height-money; travelling crane and overhead traveller drivers and loco. drivers, 1s. 7d.; portable and stationary engine drivers (steam, petrol or electric winches and pumps), 1s. 6d.; boiler attendants and crane signalmen, 1s. 4½d.; fitters and blacksmiths, 1s. 8d.; rope runners, 1s. 5½d.; 12 to 15 miles from Charing Cross—½d. per hour less.
	London	1 Dec.	Glaziers	Increase of ½d. per hour for journeymen and of proportional amounts for apprentices. Rate after change for journeymen, 1s. 9½d.
	Various other districts in England and Wales (excluding Liverpool and Birkenhead).	1 Dec.	Building trade operatives	Increase of ½d. per hour. Rates after change for craftsmen and labourers respectively: Grade A towns, 1s. 8d., 1s. 3½d.; A1, 1s. 7½d., 1s. 2½d.; A2, 1s. 7d., 1s. 2½d.; A3, 1s. 6½d., 1s. 2d.; B, 1s. 6d., 1s. 1½d.; B1, 1s. 5½d., 1s. 1½d.; B2, 1s. 5d., 1s. 1d.; B3, 1s. 4½d., 1s. 0½d.; C, 1s. 4d., 1s. 0½d.
	Various districts in Scotland.¶	1 Dec.	Building trade operatives (except plasterers and painters).	Increase of ½d. per hour. Rates after change for craftsmen and labourers respectively: Grade A districts, 1s. 8½d., 1s. 3½d.; A1, 1s. 8d., 1s. 3½d.; A2, 1s. 7½d., 1s. 2½d.; A3, 1s. 7d., 1s. 2½d.
	Various towns in Scotland.**	1 Dec.	Plasterers	Increase of ½d. per hour (1s. 8½d. to 1s. 9d.).
	Various towns in Scotland.††	1 Dec.	Painters	Increase of ½d. per hour. Rates after change: Grade A towns, 1s. 8½d.; B, 1s. 7½d.; C, 1s. 6½d.
	Certain towns in Northern Ireland.	1 Dec.	Building trade operatives	Increase of ½d. per hour. Rates after change for Belfast include: plumbers, 1s. 10d.; other craftsmen, 1s. 9d.
Civil Engineering.	Great Britain	2nd full pay week in Dec.	Men employed by civil engineering contractors.	Increase of ½d. per hour. Rates after change for navvies and labourers: County of London, 1s. 4d.; Class 1 districts, 1s. 3½d.; 1A, 1s. 3d.; 2, 1s. 2½d.; 2A, 1s. 2d.; 3, 1s. 1½d.; 3A, 1s. 1d.; 4, 1s. 0½d.; 4A, 1s.; 5, 11½d.
Gas Retort Making, etc.	Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	1 Dec.	Retort setters and bricklayers employed by outside contractors on certain classes of work in gasworks.‡‡	Increase of ½d. per hour, maintaining wages at 1d. per hour in excess of the district building rates.

\* Including Aberdeen, Bo'ness, Dundee, Falkirk, Glasgow, Grangemouth, Leith and Tayport.  
 † The towns are those in which wage changes follow changes in the building trade, and include Barrow-in-Furness, Chester, Edinburgh, Fenton, Hanley, Lancaster, Leicester, Leith, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Peterborough, Radcliffe, Rochdale, St. Helens, Sheffield, Southport, Stoke-on-Trent and Warrington.  
 ‡ Including Altrincham, Ashton-under-Lyne, Bolton, Bury, Eccles, Flixton, Glossop, Heywood, Irlam, Oldham, Sale, Salford, Stockport, Stretford, Swinton, Urmoston and Wigan.  
 § Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.  
 ¶ For wage purposes the majority of localities have been assigned to the various grades, but the localities so graded are too numerous to be quoted in the space available. Generally speaking the largest towns have been allocated to the highest-paid grades, while small country towns and rural areas are allocated to the lowest-paid. Remaining localities have been classified to the intermediate grades.  
 \*\* In the Glasgow and West of Scotland district it is understood that bricklayers receive ½d. per hour above Grade A rate.  
 †† The principal towns to which the rates are reported to apply are as follows:—Grade A.—Aberdeen, Airdrie, Alexandria, Alloa, Ardrossan, Ayr, Barrhead, Bellshill, Beth, Bridge of Allan, Broxburn, Broughty Ferry, Burtisland, Carnoustie, Clydebank, Coatbridge, Cowdenbeath, Dalkeith, Dumbaron, Dundee, Dunfermline, Dunoon, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Glasgow, Gourock, Greenock, Hamilton, Irvine, Johnstone, Kilmarnock, Kilsyth, Kirkcaldy, Kirkintilloch, Lanark, Largs, Kirkcaldy, Largs, Leslie, Motherwell, Neilson, North Berwick, Paisley, Perth, Prestwick, Renfrew, Rosyth, Saltcoats, Stenhousemuir, Stirling, Troon, Vale of Leven. Grade B.—Cupar, Galashiels, Girvan, Hawick, Kirkcudbright, Lanark, Peebles, Peterhead, Selkirk, St. Andrews. Grade C.—Elgin, Forfar, Fortres, Inverness, Nairn and Wick.  
 ‡‡ Viz., work of new construction, repairs or renewals of carbonising and gas-making plant and the building or repairing of retort stacks and chimneys, also work on retort-house brickwork when the retort house forms part of the same contract as the retort bench.

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

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.	
Asphalt	Great Britain ...	1 Dec.	Asphalt workers ...	Increase of 1d. per hour. Rate after change for spreaders in London, 1s. 10½d.	
	London and district	1 Dec.	Workpeople employed in the manufacture of mastic asphalt.	Increase of 1d. per hour. Minimum rates after change: crane drivers, 1s. 6d.; charge hands on machines, 1s. 5d.; labourers, 1s. 4d.; night gangs, 1s. 5½d.	
Shop Fitting	London district (within a 15-mile radius of Charing Cross).	1 Dec.	Brass and metal mechanics employed in the shop-fitting industry.	Increase of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: skilled, 1s. 9d.; semi-skilled, 1s. 7d.; assistants, 1s. 4½d.	
	Bristol ...	1 Dec.	Polishers employed in the shop-fitting industry.	Increase of 1d. per hour (1s. 7½d. to 1s. 8d.).	
Exhibition Contracting	London ...	1 Dec.	Carpenters and joiners, painters, sprayers and labourers employed by exhibition contractors.	Increase of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: carpenters and joiners and sprayers, 1s. 9½d.; painters, 1s. 8½d.; labourers, 1s. 4½d.	
	Leeds and district ...	1 Dec.	Marble, tile and mosaic workers ...	Increase of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: marble masons, tilers and mosaic layers, 1s. 8½d.; polishers and rubbers, 1s. 4½d.; labourers, 1s. 3½d.	
Tile-laying Glass-working Concrete-laying, etc.	Manchester, Salford and district.	1 Dec.	Decorative glass workers and lead light cementers.	Increase of 1d. per hour (1s. 7½d. to 1s. 8d.).	
	London ...	1 Dec.	Tile fixers ...	Increase of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: lead light glaziers and embossers, 1s. 8d.; lead light cementers, 1s. 3½d.	
	Glasgow and West of Scotland.	1 Dec.	Tile fixers ...	Increase of 1d. per hour (1s. 9d. to 1s. 9½d.).	
	London district ...	1 Dec.	Terrazzo workers ...	Increase of 1d. per hour (1s. 9½d. to 1s. 10d.); 12 to 15 miles from Charing Cross—1d. per hour less.	
	Various other districts in England and Wales.	1 Dec.	Terrazzo workers ...	Increase of 1d. per hour (1s. 8d. to 1s. 8½d.).	
	Scotland ...	1 Dec.	Terrazzo and mosaic layers and polishers.	Increase of 1d. per hour. Minimum rates after change: terrazzo and mosaic layers, 1s. 10d.; polishers, 1s. 5½d.	
	Edinburgh, Leith and Dundee.	1 Dec.	Marble masons, fireplace builders, tile fixers, polishers, etc.	Increase of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: craftsmen—Edinburgh and Leith, 1s. 9½d.; Dundee, 1s. 8½d.; polishers, 1s. 6½d.	
	Hampshire and Dorsetshire.	1 Dec.	Glaziers, men fixing plate and sheet glass, wall liners and leadlight fixers.	Increase of 1d. per hour.	
	Waterworks Undertakings.	Certain Undertakings in the Midland Area.*	Commencement of 1st full pay week in Dec.	Manual workers, except those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries.	Increase of 1d. per hour and modification of existing cost-of-living sliding-scale for the war period. Minimum rates after change in Zone A include trenchmen, furnaces and stokers, 1s. 3½d.; lead pipe joiners, 1s. 6½d.; meter readers, 1s. 4½d.; labourers, 1s. 2½d. The rates in Zones B and C Areas are 1d. and 1½d. per hour respectively less than in Zone A.
		Certain Undertakings in the Home Counties Area*	1st pay day following 1 Dec.	Manual workers, except those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries.	Increase of 2s. per week and revised cost-of-living sliding-scale adopted. Weekly rates after change for labourers: Grade A Area, 48s.; B, 52s.; C, 54s. 6d.
Certain Undertakings in South Wales and Monmouthshire.*		1 Dec.	Manual workers except those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries.	War bonus granted of 8d. per day for adult workers 21 years and over, and 4d. for juniors. Rates after change for labourers: Class 1 Area, 1s. 5d.; Class 2, 1s. 2d.; Class 3, 1s. 1d.; plus 8d. per day bonus in each case.	
Electricity Supply.	Various districts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.†	1st full pay period following 15 Dec.	Manual workers, except those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries.	Increase of 1d. per hour.	
	Various towns in Great Britain (excluding Metropolitan Area) and Northern Ireland.	1st full pay period following 7 Dec.	Employees of municipal tramway, trolleybus and motor omnibus undertakings, other than those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries.	War wage granted of 4s. per week for adult workers, 2s. for those 18 to 21 years, 1s. 6d. for those 16 to 18 years and 1s. for those under 16 years.‡	
Road Transport.	London ...	6 Dec.	Tram and trolleybus drivers and conductors employed by the London Passenger Transport Board.	Increase of 2s. per week. Rates after change: starting, 75s.; maximum, 84s. after 2 years.	
	Various districts in Scotland.§	Pay week commencing 7 Dec.	Omnibus employees	Increase of 4s. per week for those 21 years and over, of 3s. for those 20-21 years, of 2s. 6d. for those 18-20 years, and 2s. for those under 18.	
Port, Harbour and River Authorities.	Various Port, Harbour and River Authorities in Great Britain.	1 Dec.	Maintenance staff, etc. employed under building trade conditions.	Increase of 1d. per hour.	
	Various ports in Great Britain.	11 Dec.	Coal trimmers ...	Percentage deduction from National Tariff rates of 16th August, 1920, reduced by 5½ per cent. (33½ to 27½).¶	
Dock, Wharf and Riverside Labour.	Various ports in Great Britain.	11 Dec.	Coal trimmers ...	Percentage deduction from National Tariff rates of 16th August, 1920, reduced by 5½ per cent. (33½ to 27½).¶	
	Various ports in Great Britain.	11 Dec.	Coal trimmers ...	Percentage deduction from National Tariff rates of 16th August, 1920, reduced by 5½ per cent. (33½ to 27½).¶	
Railway Service	Northern Ireland ...	1st pay day in Dec.	Railway employees (conciliation grades) of the Belfast and County Down Railway.	Deduction from earnings based on the rates of pay in operation prior to May, 1931, reduced from 10 per cent. to 7½ per cent.	
National Government.	England and Wales	1 Dec.	Building trade operatives employed by H.M. Office of Works.	Increase of 1d. per hour.	

\* The Undertakings affected were mainly those affiliated to the District Joint Industrial Council for the Waterworks Undertakings Industry in the Area concerned.  
 † The Undertakings affected are those which follow the wages agreements of the National Joint Industrial Council for the Electricity Supply Industry in the following Areas:—London, Yorkshire, North Western, West Midlands, East Midlands, North East Coast, East Coast, Home Counties, South Coast, Devon and Cornwall, West of England, South Wales and Monmouthshire, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. The scheduled minimum rates of wages of indoor and outdoor labourers in the various Areas are as follows:—London: indoor, 17 7/8d.; outdoor, 18 5/8d. Yorkshire: indoor—Zone A, 15-00d.; Zone B, 15-25d.; Zone C, 14-50d.; outdoor—Zone A, 15-25d.; Zone B, 15-50d.; Zone C, 14-75d. North Western: indoor—Zone A, 15-64d.; Zone B, 15-27d.; 15-25d.; Zone C, 14-50d.; outdoor—Zone A, 15-25d.; Zone B, 15-50d.; Zone C, 14-75d. North Eastern: indoor—Zone A, 15-57d.; Zone B, 14-98d.; Zone C, 14-78d.; Zone D, 14-28d. East Midlands: Grade I, 16-50d.; Grade II, 15-50d.; North East Coast: indoor—Zone A, 15-57d.; Zone B, 14-98d.; Zone C, 14-78d.; outdoor—Zone A, 16-17d.; Zone B, 15-47d.; Zone C, 15-17d. East Coast: Zone A, 15-75d. to 15-00d.; Zone B, 15-10d. to 14-29d.; Zone C, 12-45d. to 13-58d. Home Counties: (stations over 800 kw.) 15-50d. South Coast: Zone A, 15-30d.; Zone B, 14-94d.; Zone C, 14-57d.; Zone D, 14-21d. Devon and Cornwall: Zone A, 15-52d.; Zone B, 14-50d.; Zone C, 13-47d. West of England: Zone A, 16-48d.; Zone B, 15-69d.; Zone C, 14-91d.; Zone D, 14-21d. South Wales and Monmouthshire: 15-50d. Scotland: Zone A, 15-21d.; Zone B, 14-85d.; Zone C, 14-49d. Northern Ireland: Zone A, 15-00d.; Zone B, 14-25d.

‡ This increase was the result of an agreement made by the National Joint Industrial Council for the Road Passenger Transport Industry (Tramways, Trolleybuses and Motor Omnibuses).  
 § These increases were the result of an agreement between an important company (and its subsidiaries) operating in Scotland and the Transport and General Workers' Union.  
 ¶ This increase applied to the principal coal exporting centres where the men work on a tonnage basis, including the Firth of Forth, North East Coast, Humber and South Wales ports; it did not apply to the coal bunkering ports such as London, Bristol, Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester and Southampton where wages are governed by those paid to dock labourers. At Cumberland ports the deduction was 2½ per cent. less, i.e. tariff rates less 25 per cent.

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

Industry.	District.	Date from which Change took effect.	Classes of Workpeople.	Particulars of Change.
Various Authorities in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.		1 Dec.	Paviors, masons, yard and road labourers, and certain other classes (apart from building trade operatives) employed in non-trading departments whose wages are regulated by wages movements in the building industry.	Increase of 1d. per hour.
	Certain Authorities in Lancashire and Cheshire.*	1st full pay week in Dec.	Manual workers other than those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries.	Increase of 3s. per week in the wages of general classes and of 1d. per hour for road labourers, semi-skilled road workers and paviors and masons. Scheduled rates after change for general labourers: Zone A, 57s. 8d.; Zone A(2), 55s. 9d.; Zone B, 53s. 9d.; Zone C, 51s. 10d.; Zone D, 47s. 11d.; Zone E, 44s. Increase of 3s. per week for males and 2s. for females.
Certain Authorities in the Eastern District.*		1st full pay day following 15 Dec.	Manual workers other than those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries.	Increase of 1d. per hour. Scheduled rates after change for road and general labourers: Grade A Area, 1s. 3½d.; Grade A(1), 1s. 2½d.; Grade A(2), 1s. 2½d.; Grade B, 1s. 1½d.; Grade B(1), 1s. 1½d.; Grade C, 1s. 0½d.; Grade D, 1s. 0½d.; Grade E, 11½d. Increase of 3s. per week for adult male manual workers and pro rata increases for female workers and night watchmen. Minimum rates after change for Grade I occupations (e.g., labourers): Zone A1, 57s. 8d.; Zone A2, 56s. 2½d.; Zone B1, 53s. 2½d.; Zone B2, 50s. 3½d.; Zone B3, 47s. 3½d.; Zone C1, 43s. 4½d.; Zone C2, 39s. 5½d.
	Certain Authorities in the West Midlands Area.*	1 Dec.	Manual workers other than those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries.	Increase of 1d. per hour. Rates after change: general yard and road labourers, 1s. 2½d. per hour; road paviors and masons, 1s. 6½d.; road scavengers, 51s. 3d. per week; refuse collectors, 57s.
Local Authorities (Non-trading Services).	St. Albans ...	8 Dec.	Manual workers employed by the Corporation.	Increase of 1d. per hour.
	East Suffolk ...	11 Dec.	Certain classes of manual workers employed by the County Council.	Increase of 2s. per week. Rates after change: general yard and road labourers and road scavengers, 39s. 6d. to 40s. 6d.; road paviors and masons, 44s. to 62s.
	Bedfordshire ...	1 Dec.	Manual workers employed by the County Council.	Revised rates of wages adopted resulting in increases of various amounts. Rates after change include: general yard labourers, 1s. 2½d. per hour; road labourers on repairs, 11½d. to 1s. 0½d., on new roads, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 2d.; road paviors and masons, 1s. 4d. to 1s. 8½d.
	Devonshire ...	19 Dec.	Manual workers employed by the County Council.	Increase of 2s. per week. Minimum rate after change for road labourers, 42s.
Certain Authorities in Glamorganshire.†		1 Dec.	Manual workers other than those whose wages are regulated by movements in other industries.	War bonus granted of 8d. per day for adult workers and 4d. for juniors. Rate after change for labourers, 1s. 3d. per hour, plus 8d. per day bonus.
	Certain Authorities in Monmouthshire.‡	1st pay day in Dec.	Workpeople employed in the Persian section of the roller leather industry.	Cost-of-living wage increased   from 65 to 70 per cent. on basis rates. Minimum hourly rates after change: men—skilled, 9d.; semi-skilled, 6d. to 7½d.; women, 6d., plus in each case 70 per cent.
Roller Leather Manufacture.	Lancashire and Cheshire.	4 Dec.	Skip and basket makers ...	Increase   of 4 per cent. on list prices, making wages 96½ and 84½ per cent. above the list for timeworkers and pieceworkers respectively.
Brush and Broom Manufacture.	Great Britain ...	1 Dec.	Male workers 21 years and over with 3 years' experience in certain operations and those of all ages who have served 5 years' apprenticeship in one or more of these operations.	Increase   in the minimum time rate fixed under the Trade Boards Acts of 1d. per hour (1s. 2d. to 1s. 2½d.) and of 1d. in the piecework basis time rate (1s. 3½d. to 1s. 4d.).
			Female pan hands ...	Increase   of 1d. per hour for those 14½ to 15, 15½ to 16, 18 to 19 and those over 21 years. Minimum rate after change at 21 years and over, 11½d.
Lancashire and Cheshire (excluding Liverpool and Chester), Whitehaven, Huddersfield and Wakefield.		16 Dec.	Workpeople employed in wholesale grocery establishments by members of the North of England Wholesale Grocers' Association.	Increase   of 1d. or 1½d. per hour in time rates and of 1d. in piecework basis time rates.
	Oldham and district	1st full pay day after 7 Dec.	Male and female pieceworkers on certain operations.	Increase   in time rates of 1d. per hour for those 14½ to 15, 15½ to 16, and those 18 years and over. Minimum rate after change: at 21 years and over, 6½d.
Distributive Trades.	London ...	1 Nov.	Workpeople employed in the coal distributive trade.	Increase   in the minimum piece rates from 20 to 17½ per cent. below the list.
	London ...	18 Dec.	Loaders and transport workers employed in the coal and coke distributive trade.	Increase   proportional to the above.
Entertainments.	Certain towns in Yorkshire.¶	29 Nov.	Workers employed in cinema theatres.	New scales of minimum rates adopted resulting in increases in some cases and decreases in others. Rates after change: males—clerks, warehousemen, packers, etc., 16s. at 16 years increasing to 55s. at 25 years; porters, 15s. at 16 years increasing to 50s. at 24 years; females—clerks, 14s. at 16 years increasing to 34s. at 24 years; warehouse workers and general hands, 14s. at 16 years increasing to 30s. at 22 years.
			Yardmen and bag fillers employed in the coal distributive trade.	Increase of 5s. per week. Rates after change include: one-horse drivers, 65s.; two-horse drivers, 61s.; motor drivers—under 2 tons carrying capacity, 59s.; 2 tons and over, 66s.; assistants, 56s.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED DURING DECEMBER.

Local Authorities (Non-trading Services).	Bedfordshire ...	1 Dec.	Certain classes of manual workers employed by the County Council.	Decrease of 1 hour per week (48 to 47).**
Entertainments	Certain towns in Yorkshire.¶	29 Nov.	Workers employed in cinema theatres.	Normal working week adopted of 52 hours for males and of 48 for females.**

\* The Authorities affected were mainly those affiliated to the District Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities' Non-Trading Services (Manual Workers) in the Area concerned.  
 † See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour."  
 ‡ The Authorities affected were mainly those affiliated to the Joint Wages Board of Local Authorities in the Area concerned.  
 § In certain cases the date of operation differed from that shown.  
 ¶ Under cost-of-living sliding-scale arrangements.  
 \*\* Including Leeds, Huddersfield and district, Wakefield, Barnsley, Castleford, Pontefract, Normanton, York, Scarborough, Harrogate and Ripon.  
 \*\*\* See also under "Changes in Rates of Wages."

## FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

The number of workpeople, other than seamen\*, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, whose deaths from accidents in the course of their employment occurred or were reported in December†, was 218, as compared with 200‡ in the previous month, and with 204§ in December, 1938.

MINES AND QUARRIES.†		Factories—continued.	
Under Coal Mines Acts:—		Paper, Printing, etc.	3
Underground ...	65	Rubber ...	1
Surface ...	6	Gas Works ...	2
Metalliferous Mines ...	1	Electrical Stations ...	1
Quarries ...	3	Other Industries ...	3
<b>TOTAL, MINES AND QUARRIES</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>WORKS AND PLACES UNDER SS. 105, 107, 108, FACTORIES ACT, 1937.</b>	
<b>Factories.</b>		Docks, Wharves, Quays and Ships ...	3
Clay, Stone, Cement, Pottery and Glass ...	1	Building Operations ...	20
Chemicals, Oils, Soap, etc....	5	Works of Engineering Construction ...	3
Metal Extracting and Refining ...	5	Warehouses ...	1
Metal Conversion and Founding (including Rolling Mills and Tube Making) ...	15	<b>TOTAL, FACTORIES ACT ...</b>	<b>120</b>
Engineering, Locomotive Building, Boilermaking, etc. ...	7	<b>RAILWAY SERVICE.</b>	
Railway and Tramway Carriages, Motor and other Vehicles, and Aircraft Manufacture ...	3	Brakemen, Goods Guards	2
Shipbuilding ...	14	Engine Drivers, Motormen	1
Other Metal Trades ...	4	Firemen ...	1
Cotton ...	2	Guards (Passenger) ...	6
Wool, Worsted, Shoddy ...	3	Permanent Way Men ...	2
Other Textile Manufacture	1	Porters ...	3
Textile Printing, Bleaching and Dyeing ...	4	Shunters ...	2
Tanning, Currying, etc. ...	1	Mechanics ...	2
Food and Drink ...	9	Labourers ...	7
General Woodwork and Furniture ...	9	Other Grades ...	7
		Contractors' Servants ...	—
		<b>TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE</b>	<b>23</b>
		<b>Total (excluding Seamen)</b>	<b>218</b>

## INDUSTRIAL DISEASES.

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

I. Cases.		I. Cases—continued.	
<b>LEAD POISONING.</b>		<b>EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION (SKIN CANCER).</b>	
Among Operatives engaged in—		Pitch ...	4
Smelting of Metals ...	1	Tar ...	1
White and Red Lead Works ...	2	Oil ...	3
Vitreous Enamelling ...	1	<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>8</b>
Paint and Colour Works ...	3	<b>CHROME ULCERATION.</b>	
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>7</b>	Manufacture of Bichromates	2
<b>OTHER POISONING.</b>		Dyeing and Finishing ...	—
Mercurial ...	1	Chrome Tanning ...	—
Arsenical ...	1	Chromium Plating ...	12
Aniline ...	2	Other Industries ...	4
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>ANTHRAX.</b>		<b>Total, Cases ...</b>	<b>41</b>
Wool ...	1	<b>II. Deaths.</b>	
Handling of Horsehair ...	—	<b>LEAD POISONING.</b>	
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins ...	2	Vitreous Enamelling ...	1
Other Industries ...	1	<b>OTHER POISONING.</b>	
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>4</b>	Arsenical ...	1
		<b>EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION.</b>	
		Tar ...	1
		Oil ...	2
		<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>3</b>
		<b>Total, Deaths ...</b>	<b>5</b>

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The Home Secretary has made the following Regulations:—  
The Factories (Separation for Certain Purposes) Regulations, 1939, made on 21st December, 1939, under Section 151 (8) of the Act, providing that, subject to certain conditions specified in the Regulations, different branches or departments (or groups of branches or departments) of work carried on in the same factory may be deemed to be different factories for the purposes of the periods of employment in Part VI of the Act or in any Regulations made thereunder.

\* Statistics of fatal accidents to seamen are not available.  
† For mines and quarries weekly returns are furnished, and the figures cover the 4 weeks ended 30th December, in comparison with the 5 weeks ended 2nd December, and the 4 weeks ended 31st December, 1938.  
‡ Revised figure.  
§ Cases include all attacks reported during the month, and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding 12 months. Deaths include all fatal cases reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not.

## UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.

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

	Five weeks ended 30th Dec., 1939.	Four weeks ended 25th Nov., 1939.	Five weeks ended 31st Dec., 1938.
<b>(1) General Account.</b>			
Contributions received from:—			
Employers ...	1,952,000	1,623,000	2,057,000
Employed persons ...	1,951,000	1,623,000	2,036,000
Exchequer ...	1,950,000	1,623,000	2,049,000
Miscellaneous Receipts ...	3,000	—	2,000
<b>Total Income ...</b>	<b>5,856,000</b>	<b>4,869,000</b>	<b>6,144,000</b>
Benefit ...	3,395,000	2,737,000	5,343,000
Cost of Administration ...	119,000†	483,000	834,000†
Accrued Charge for Debt Service†	373,000	297,000	385,000
Miscellaneous Payments ...	56,000	31,000	38,000
<b>Total Expenditure ...</b>	<b>3,943,000</b>	<b>3,548,000</b>	<b>6,600,000</b>
Debt Outstanding†	77,082,000	77,082,000	81,530,000
<b>(2) Agricultural Account.</b>			
Contributions received from:—			
Employers ...	36,000	26,000	47,000
Employed persons ...	36,000	26,000	47,000
Exchequer ...	36,000	26,000	47,000
Miscellaneous Receipts ...	—	—	1,000
<b>Total Income ...</b>	<b>108,000</b>	<b>78,000</b>	<b>142,000</b>
Benefit ...	77,000	48,000	115,000
Cost of Administration ...	13,000	9,000	17,000
Miscellaneous Payments ...	2,000	—	2,000
<b>Total Expenditure ...</b>	<b>92,000</b>	<b>57,000</b>	<b>134,000</b>

## UNEMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCES.

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

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

For the period of five weeks ended 30th December, 1939, expenditure on unemployment allowances (excluding the cost of administration) amounted to approximately £2,399,000 compared with £1,948,000 during the four weeks ended 25th November, 1939, and £3,549,000 during the five weeks ended 31st December, 1938.

Owing to the extension referred to above, the figures for November and December, 1939, are not comparable with those for December, 1938.

## OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

[NOTE.—The prices are net, and (except in the case of the publications of the International Labour Office) do not include postage.]

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.—Survey of industrial development, 1938. Particulars of factories opened, extended and closed in 1938, with some figures for 1937. Board of Trade. [S.O. publication; price 6d.]

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE.—League of Nations, International Labour Conference. Draft conventions and recommendations adopted by the Conference at its twenty-fifth session, 8th–28th June, 1939. [Cmd. 6141; price 2s.]

SPECIAL AREAS.—Commissioner for the Special Areas (England and Wales). Report of the Committee of Enquiry into land settlement. [S.O. publication; price 2s. 6d.]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.—Selected decisions given by the Unemployment Insurance Tribunal during the months of August and September, 1939. U.I. Code 8B. Pamphlet No. 8/1939. Ministry of Labour. [S.O. publication; price 2d.]

WORKERS' LEISURE.—Facilities for the use of workers' leisure during holidays. Studies and Reports, series G (Housing and Welfare) No. 5. [Published in London for the International Labour Office by P. S. King & Son, Ltd.; price 2s. 6d.]

\* A detailed account of the Fund is presented to Parliament annually (see H.C. 24 of 1939 for the period ended 31st March, 1938).

† Statutory provision was made for the repayment (including interest) of the debt outstanding on 1st July, 1934 (amounting to £105,780,000) by half-yearly payments of £2,500,000 commencing on 30th September, 1934. Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1938, an additional sum of £20,000,000 was repaid on 31st March, 1938, and thereafter the half-yearly payment was reduced to £2,006,250. A further sum of £3,000,000 was repaid on 31st March, 1939, and the half-yearly payment was reduced to £1,931,787.

‡ Includes adjustment.

## LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

MASTER AND SERVANT—RIGHT OF SERVANT EMPLOYED ON HOURLY BASIS TO WAGES DURING SICKNESS.

This was a claim by a radial driller for wages in respect of two periods (of approximately three weeks and five weeks respectively) when he was unable to work owing to sickness. The workman had been engaged on the basis of being paid 39s. Od. a week for a 47 hours week plus the national bonus of 16s. 6d. a week. After a few days he was put on piece-work, and if his pay then amounted to less than he would have received if working on time, the amount was made up to him and he also received the bonus.

The workman's contention was that, where the contract of service was subsisting, his right to wages was not suspended merely because he was away ill unless there was an express or implied term in his contract of employment to that effect.

The employers' case was that men in the plaintiff's position were employed on the terms of no work, no pay. If a man was sick, or there was a public holiday, or he applied for leave for family reasons, he was not entitled to pay. The men must be assumed to be engaged on terms which were universally recognized as the practice throughout the trade. Also, a notice was conspicuously displayed which stated that employment was on an hourly basis, which meant that a man would only be paid for the hours on which he worked. If that was the basis of the contract, the plaintiff was not entitled to receive pay while sick.

Mr. Justice Atkinson, in giving judgment dismissing the workman's claim, said that the action was brought on a misunderstanding of what was decided by the Court of Appeal in *Marrison v. Bell*. There had been two lines of cases running side by side from time immemorial, one being those in which an employee had been held entitled to pay when he was ill on the basis that his engagement was for a month, or a year, and the consideration was his readiness and willingness to work; and the other where the consideration was the work done, in which, if the work was not done, the pay was not earned.

After reviewing the evidence his Lordship said that it seemed too clear for argument that it was a term of the plaintiff's employment that he should only be paid for the work which he did. He (his Lordship) was satisfied that that was a custom of this particular trade or industry and that the plaintiff understood it to be so. Then came the decision in *Marrison v. Bell* which led the plaintiff to suppose that, as a matter of law, he was entitled to something, and so he made the present claim. The question was purely one of fact; he (his Lordship) found that the plaintiff was only entitled to be paid for the work which he did. There must be judgment for the defendants. *Hancock v. B.S.A. Tools, Limited*. High Court of Justice, King's Bench Division. 11th December, 1939.

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

Recent Proceedings.  
INDUSTRIAL COURT AWARD.

ARTIFICIAL LIMB MAKERS:—The Staff Representation Committee of the employees of J. E. Hanger and Company Limited, and Artificial Limb Makers Limited, claimed an adjustment of wages in relation to the increased cost of living owing to the war. They claimed, for the first 10 points increase on the August, 1939, cost-of-living figures, as issued by the Ministry of Labour, a bonus of 2d. an hour in the case of employees of 21 years of age and over, of 1½d. an hour in the case of employees of 18 and under 21 years of age, and of 1d. an hour for those under 18 years of age. The employers submitted that the bonus should be assessed at 1d., ¾d., and ½d., an hour, or alternatively 4s., 3s., and 2s. a week at the respective ages. The Court decided in favour of the proposal of the employers, viz., that the wages of the employees concerned should be increased by 4s., 3s. and 2s. a week and that for each rise or fall of 5 points in the cost-of-living figure the wages at the respective ages should be increased or decreased by 2s., 1s. 6d. and 1s. a week.—Award No. 1742; dated 4th December, 1939.

## OTHER ARBITRATION AWARDS.

OFFICERS EMPLOYED IN THE PRISON SERVICE.—A difference having arisen between the Prison Officers' Association and the Prison Commissioners regarding the hours of attendance of certain grades employed in the Prison Service in England and Wales, the matter was referred for settlement to a Board of Arbitration appointed by the Minister of Labour and National Service under Section 2 (2) (c) of the Industrial Courts Act, 1919, consisting, in accordance with the arrangements agreed between the parties, of Sir Harold Morris, K.C., as independent Chairman, and one member, as he might direct, from each of the two panels of the Civil Service Arbitration Tribunal. On the invitation of the Chairman, Sir Frank Goldstone and Sir David Owen accepted appointments as members of the Board.

In issuing their Award on 28th December, 1939, the Board stated that they had given due regard to the fact that the country is at war and that they considered that it was not advisable in the circumstances to award an alteration of the working hours from a fortnightly to a weekly basis. They were, however, of the opinion that, if it were possible to do so, bearing in mind the special conditions of the service, the schedules of work should be altered so as to provide a working week of 44 hours only. The Board accordingly awarded that the hours of work of the grades concerned should be 88 per fortnight, exclusive of mealtimes, provided that the hours of work should not be more than 54 in any one week.

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (EMERGENCY POWERS) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS.

The Minister of Labour and National Service made the above Regulations on 20th December, 1939, amending the principal Unemployment Insurance (Emergency Powers) Regulations, which were made on 6th September.

One main object of these Regulations is to regularise the insurance position of persons engaged in various forms of National Service, whether in the Armed Forces or otherwise, who are not provided for under the normal Unemployment Insurance statutory provisions. A Regulation has also been made postponing until further notice the operation of the "holiday provisions" of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1939, and the amendments of the "continuity rule" which were to have come into operation on 18th January, 1940.

The details are as follows:—  
Regulation 3 makes a minor change in the principal Regulations designed to enable a refund of contributions paid in error to be made in certain cases where application was made prior to the date of the principal Regulations.

Regulation 4 introduces a drafting amendment to Regulation 10 of the principal Regulations.

Regulation 5 adds additional Regulations (19 to 24) to the principal Regulations.

Regulations 19 and 20 amend Sections 95 (2) and 96 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1935, which provide insurance rights for members of the Armed Forces. Previously Reservists, Territorials and men enlisted for the duration were only insured during their first four months of service if they were previously insured (Section 95 (2)). If they served beyond four months, however, they received a credit of contributions at the rate of one for every week of service, irrespective of their previous insurance status (Section 96). This has been amended so that all members of the Armed Forces, apart from Officers, will receive a credit of contributions on discharge, irrespective of their length of service. Officers will continue to be insured for their first four months of service, if they were previously insured. The amended provisions of Sections 95 and 96 are also extended to Officers and members of certain auxiliary organisations serving with the Armed Forces, such as the Women's Royal Naval Service, the Auxiliary Territorial Service, and women members of V.A.Ds.

Regulation 21 provides for the insurance of temporary members of Police Forces, or of the Police War Organisations, recruited for service during the emergency. Previously certain members of these Forces were not insurable.

Regulation 22 brings into insurance nursing auxiliaries serving in hospitals or in connection with the Civil Defence Scheme, while leaving professional nurses outside insurance. Women who take up nursing duties as a form of National Service are regarded as in a different position to professional nurses, and they have therefore been given insurance rights.

Regulation 23 extends the Regulations regarding employment abroad to persons who go abroad to take up work in certain specified "war occupations," whether or not they were previously insured.

Regulation 24 postpones the operation of Sections 1 (1–6) and 3 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1939, which were to have come into operation on 18th January, 1940, until such date as the Minister may appoint. Section 1 empowered the Minister, in conjunction with the Minister of Health, to make Regulations defining "holidays" and "remuneration in respect of holidays" for the purpose of the Unemployment Insurance Acts, while Section 3 dealt with certain amendments in the "continuity rule" for reckoning periods of continuous unemployment.

## THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (SUBSIDIARY EMPLOYMENTS) ORDER, 1939.

A Subsidiary Employments Order was made at the same time as the above Regulations, excepting from insurance part-time members of the Air Ministry Observer Corps and part-time Coast Auxiliary Watchers.

## TRADE BOARDS ACTS AND HOLIDAYS WITH PAY ACT.

## NOTICES OF PROPOSAL.

## Rubber Reclamation Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal R.R. (1), dated 5th December, 1939, to fix minimum rates of wages for male and female workers. Objection period expires 5th February, 1940.

## Cutlery Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal C.T. (21), dated 8th December, 1939, to vary minimum rates of wages and to amend proposals relating to holiday remuneration. Objection period expires 8th February, 1940.

## Milk Distributive Trade Board (England and Wales).

Proposal M.D. (27), dated 22nd December, 1939, to vary minimum rates of wages and holiday remuneration. Objection period expires 22nd February, 1940.

## Milk Distributive Trade Board (Scotland).

Proposal M.D.S. (28), dated 29th December, 1939, to vary minimum rates of wages and the Direction for holidays with pay. Objection period expires 29th February, 1940.

## Button Manufacturing Trade Board (Great Britain).

Proposal V. (24), dated 29th December, 1939, relating to holidays with pay. Objection period expires 29th February, 1940.

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

Proposal N.I.H.H.G. (N.63), dated 12th December, 1939, relating to holidays with pay and overtime rates.

Proposal N.I.H.H.G. (N.64), dated 22nd December, 1939, to vary minimum rates of wages for male and female workers.

TRADE BOARDS ACTS—*continued.*

## NOTICE OF INTENTION.

## Notice of Intention to make a Special Order applying the Trade Boards Act, 1909 and 1918, to the Furniture Manufacturing Trade.

The Minister of Labour and National Service hereby gives notice that he intends, pursuant to the powers conferred by Sections 1 and 2 of the Trade Boards Act, 1918, and by virtue of the provisions of the Minister of National Service Order, 1939, to make a Special Order applying the Trade Boards Acts, 1909 and 1918, to the Furniture Manufacturing Trade as set out in the Special Order.

Copies of the Draft Special Order may be obtained on application in writing to the Secretary, Ministry of Labour and National Service, Sunnyside Mansions Hotel, Knowsley Road, Southport, Lancs.

Objections to the Draft Special Order must be sent so as to reach the Minister of Labour and National Service at the above address within 40 days from the twenty-second day of December, 1939, that is to say, on or before the thirty-first day of January, 1940. Every objection must be in writing and must state:—

- (a) the specific grounds of objection; and  
(b) the omissions, additions or modifications asked for.

Given under the Official Seal of the Minister of Labour and National Service this eighteenth day of December in the year one thousand nine hundred and thirty-nine.

(L.S.)

T. W. PHILLIPS.

Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

## DRAFT SPECIAL ORDER.

## TRADE BOARDS.

## Furniture Manufacturing Trade.

The Trade Boards (Furniture Manufacturing) Order, 1940. Special Order, dated , 1940, made by the Minister of Labour and National Service under Sections 1 and 2 of the Trade Boards Act, 1918, and by virtue of the Provisions of the Minister of National Service Order, 1939 (S. R. & O. 1939, No. 1118), applying the Trade Boards Acts, 1909 (9 Edw. 7, c. 22) and 1918 (8 and 9 Geo. 5, c. 32) to the Furniture Manufacturing Trade.

Whereas the Minister of Labour is empowered under and by virtue of subsection 2 of section 1 of the Trade Boards Act, 1918, to make a Special Order applying the Trade Boards Acts, 1909 and 1918, to any specified trade to which they do not at the time apply if of opinion that no adequate machinery exists for the effective regulation of wages throughout the trade and that accordingly having regard to the rates of wages prevailing in the trade or in any part of the trade it is expedient that the Trade Boards Acts, 1909 and 1918, should apply to that trade.

And whereas the Trade Boards Acts, 1909 and 1918, do not apply to the trade specified in the Appendix to this Order.

And whereas by virtue of the provisions of the Minister of National Service Order, 1939, the functions exercisable by the Minister of Labour under the Trade Boards Acts, 1909 and 1918, are now being exercised concurrently by the Minister of National Service and the Minister of Labour and the Minister of National Service is authorised to describe himself as the Minister of Labour and National Service.

And whereas by the said Order it is provided that so far as may be necessary for such concurrent exercise any reference to the Minister of Labour in any of the documents therein specified passed or made before the date of that Order shall be construed as a reference to the Minister of Labour and National Service.

And whereas the Minister of Labour and National Service is of the aforesaid opinion.

Now therefore the Minister of Labour and National Service by virtue of the powers and provisions aforesaid and of all other powers in that behalf hereby makes the following Special Order:—

1. The Trade Boards Acts, 1909 and 1918, shall apply to the trade specified in the Appendix hereto.

2.—(i) This Order may be cited as the Trade Boards (Furniture Manufacturing) Order, 1940.

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

(iii) This Order shall come into force on the day of 1940.

Given under the Official Seal of the Minister of Labour and National Service this day of

in the year one thousand nine hundred and forty

Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

## APPENDIX TO DRAFT SPECIAL ORDER.

## DEFINITION OF THE FURNITURE MANUFACTURING TRADE.

1. Subject to the provisions of this Appendix the Furniture Manufacturing Trade consists of the following operations:—

- (a) the manufacture and finishing of articles of furniture made wholly or mainly of wood, cane, wicker or woven fibre;  
(b) the manufacture and finishing of parts of the articles specified in sub-paragraph (a) above, being parts made wholly or mainly of wood, cane, wicker or woven fibre;

(c) the preparation of materials used in any of the operations specified in the preceding sub-paragraphs (including the sawing and machining of wood) when carried on in an establishment mainly engaged on one or more of those operations or on such preparation;

(d) the upholstering and re-upholstering of articles of furniture made of any materials, the manufacture of upholstery cushions, the making up and re-making of mattresses of any description and of palliasses, divans, pillows and bolsters, when such operations are performed:—

- (i) in an establishment, branch or department wholly or mainly engaged on one or more of such operations; or  
(ii) by a worker who is wholly or mainly engaged on any one of such operations;

(e) the preparation of materials used in the operations specified in sub-paragraph (d) above when such preparation is carried on in an establishment, branch or department wholly or mainly engaged on one or more of those operations;

(f) the making up of blinds, hangings, curtains, loose covers or any similar article when such making up is done:—

- (i) in an establishment, branch or department wholly or mainly engaged on one or more of such operations; or  
(ii) by a worker who is wholly or mainly engaged on any one of such operations;

(g) the fixing of blinds which have been made in an establishment, branch or department specified in sub-paragraph (f) above when such fixing is carried out by workers employed in connection with such establishment, branch or department;

(h) the manufacture of cases, cabinets and containers forming part of musical instruments:—

- (i) when manufactured for sale as such cases, cabinets or containers; or  
(ii) when manufactured in an establishment which is not substantially engaged in the manufacture of completed musical instruments;

(i) work which is incidental to any of the above operations including, inter alia, packing, portering, delivering and the work of general yard labourers.

2. Notwithstanding anything in this Appendix the following operations are not operations in the Furniture Manufacturing Trade:—

(a) the operations specified in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) of paragraph 1 hereof when performed in a general sawmilling establishment or branch or department thereof not mainly engaged on any of those operations;

(b) work performed in a shipbuilding or shiprepairing yard or in an engineering establishment;

(c) the manufacture of fittings of wood (including shop fittings) to be built into a specified position and the manufacture of any fittings or fitments made in joiners' workshops or builders yards;

(d) the manufacture of ironing boards, plate racks, trays, pastry boards and rolling pins and other utensils of domestic woodware, except where the establishment, branch or department in which such manufacture is carried on is mainly engaged on operations specified in sub-paragraphs (a), (b) and (d) in paragraph 1 hereof;

(e) the manufacture of musical instruments except the manufacture specified in paragraph 1 (h) hereof;

(f) the manufacture of metal furniture or parts of metal furniture or metal parts of articles the manufacture of which is included under paragraph 1 hereof;

(g) the bevelling and silvering of glass;

(h) the manufacture of billiard tables;

(i) the upholstering of vehicles;

(j) operations included in the trades specified in the Orders hereinafter mentioned or in amendments or variations thereto, that is to say:—

The Trade Boards (Button Manufacturing) Order, 1935;

The Trade Boards (Hair, Bass and Fibre) Order, 1919;

The Trade Boards (Linen and Cotton Handkerchief and Household Goods and Linen Piece Goods) Order, 1920;

The Trade Boards (Made-up Textiles) Order, 1920;

The Trade Boards (Perambulator and Invalid Carriage) Order, 1926;

The Trade Boards (Rubber Manufacturing) Order, 1938;

The Trade Boards (Toy Manufacturing) Order, 1935.

3. For the purposes of this Appendix "musical instruments" includes radio sets and gramophones.

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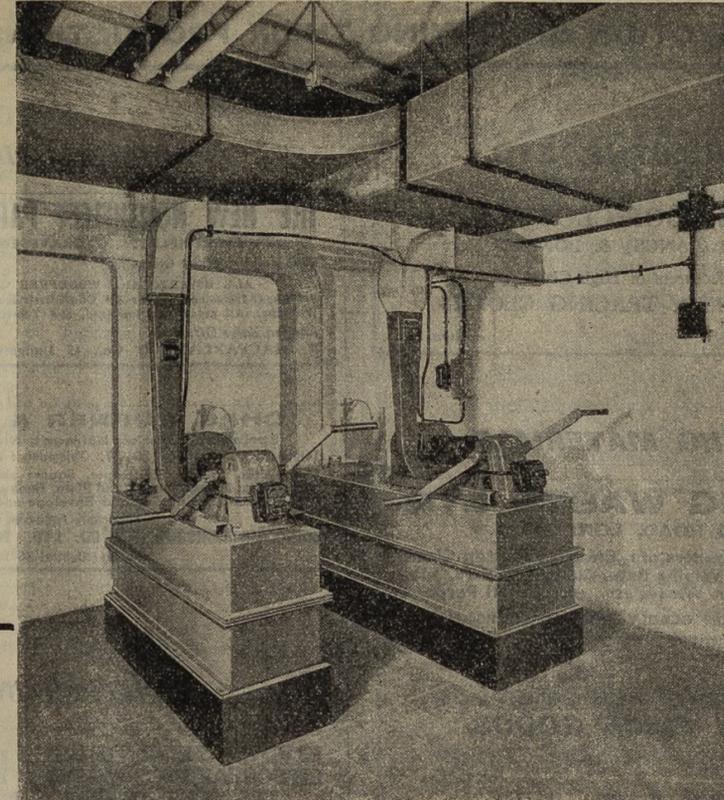


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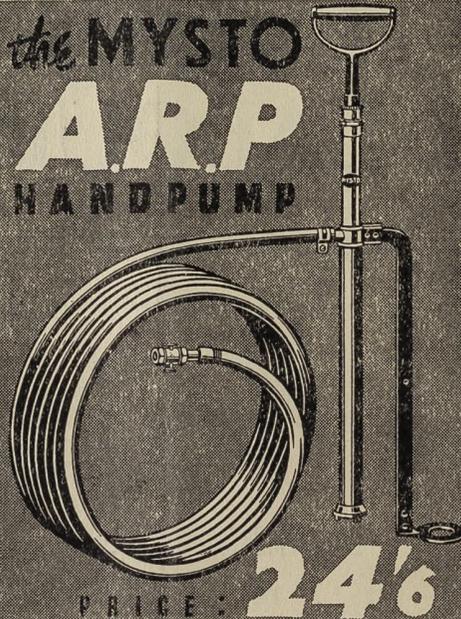
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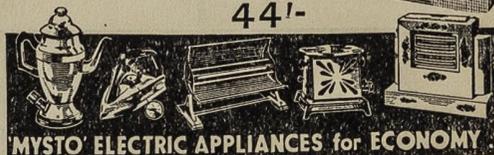
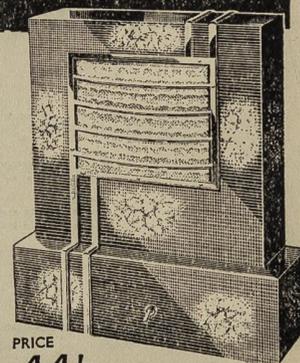
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