

basis of many of the statements in the following pages. The method employed was very similar to that used for columns 6-9 above; but the inquiry was very much wider, extending (with certain exceptions) to all districts, all industries, all firms who employed more than 100 persons, and a considerable sample of smaller firms. Since (as is general in such cases) the furnishing of the information was not compulsory, only about two-thirds of the *questionnaires* issued were filled in and returned, but these were quite sufficiently numerous to give an adequate account. So far as private industry is concerned, there were very few serious omissions; but the transport trades (railways, cartage, tramways, docks) are not included in the main tables, no account is given of persons employed directly by the Government, and commerce and retailing are dealt with only in London. Questions were asked of each employer as to the number of persons (distinguishing male and female) employed in July, the numbers in September, in October, and in December, how many were on short time and how many on overtime, and how many were known to have joined His Majesty's forces. The general summary for industry is given on p. 10. In the occupations included there are about 7,000,000 males and 2,250,000 females. The number of men known by the employers to have joined the forces (about 900,000 in this group) includes both reservists called up and new recruits; but it is incomplete, because men who lost their work in the earlier months may have enlisted unknown to their last employers. The information as to employment in and enlisting from other industries is less definite; but it is certain that they have not only contributed their quota to the forces, but have also suffered less from want of work, since they consist mainly of workers in agriculture, on