

Reference to the current index of male and female enrolees affords interesting information as to their occupational fitness. At 31st March of the current year the following position was revealed in this connection :—

Current Enrolments.

Classification.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Verified first class, fit, and prepared to travel to distant employment ..	237	5	242
Verified first class, fit, but not prepared to travel	720	13	733
Verified second class, fit, and prepared to travel to distant employment ..	1,197	11	1,208
Verified second class, fit, but not prepared to travel	2,543	64	2,607
Unverified and not finally classified	1,467	175	1,642
Fit for light work only	2,901	74	2,975
Unemployable	377	47	424
	9,442	389	9,831

Table V of the Appendix shows the provincial distribution of male and female enrolments current with the Service as at the 31st March, 1941.

Vacancies.

During the twelve months ended 31st March, 1941, 46,370 vacancies for males and 7,712 for females were notified to the Service for filling. The industrial distribution of notified vacancies for males during the period is shown by Table III of the Appendix. It must be mentioned that, although these figures will give some clue to those industries which are most in need of labour, they do not tell all the story, because it has been found that many employers, knowing that there is little likelihood of their requirements being speedily met, do not notify vacancies to the Service. In addition, there remains a conservative section of employers which does not take advantage of the facilities offered by the State Placement Service. However, if statistics relating to vacancies notified suggest any noteworthy conclusion it is that the shortage of labour in industry has not been confined to one or two industries but has tended to be general.

Placements.

In the year ended 31st March, 1941, the Placement Service filled 31,991 private positions with male and 3,553 with female enrolees. The following table gives the number of private positions filled with males during the calendar years since the inception of the Service in May, 1936, and also for the first quarter of the current year. As in previous reports, the figures relating to placements refer to positions filled and not to individuals placed. (N.B.—One person may enrol and be placed on several occasions in the same year. An indication of the extent to which this applies is shown by the fact that the 8,475 male placements effected in the first quarter of the current year relate to 7,262 individual workers.) Female placements were not recorded by the Service prior to October, 1939. The 3,553 placements effected during the year ended 31st March, 1941, include 2,779 permanent, 604 temporary, and 170 casual.

Table of Male Placements.

Nature of Placement.	1936 : May to December.	1937 : January to December.	1938 : January to December.	1939 : January to December.	1940 : January to December.	1941 : January to March.	Total to Date.
Permanent (of three months' duration or more)	9,530	17,650	12,885	11,370	10,827	3,264	65,526
Temporary (of more than one week's duration but less than three months)	5,384	12,051	9,416	8,569	9,224	3,015	47,659
Casual (up to one week's duration)	4,329	17,092	17,354	12,879	11,262	2,196	65,112
Totals.. ..	19,243	46,793	39,655	32,818	31,313	8,475	178,297

Table III, dealing with enrolments, placements, and vacancies in respect of male workers, is of value in indicating readjustments in the labour employed in the listed industrial groups. The number of female enrolments, placements, and vacancies is too small to permit of any accurate conclusions in this regard, but the totals of such figures tend to reflect trends similar to those observed in the case of male workers as per Table III of the Appendix.

The general shortage of labour referred to in the introduction of the Placement Service report is reflected in enrolments, placements, and vacancies shown in this table. Thus enrolments during the twelve months (not of individuals, but applications for employment) stand at 72,758, nearly 27,000