

FACTORIES ACT.

The following details bring up to date the table regarding the number of factories and the number of factory workers included in previous reports :—

Year.	Number of Factories.	Working Occupiers.	Male Employees.	Female Employees.	Total Workers.
1941-42	17,421	16,509	80,469	37,111	134,039

Licenses were issued to 204 persons performing work elsewhere than in the factory.

Increases in the number of workers have been reported each year since 1933-34. The following shows the increase in some of the individual trades :—

	Total Workers.	
	1933-34 Registration.	1941-42 Registration.
Biscuit, confectionery, ice-cream cone, castor- and icing-sugar making ..	2,316	3,750
Boot, shoe, and slipper making	2,072	4,464
Clothing-manufacture (including dressmaking, millinery, hat and cap making, shirt, white, and silk working, and tailoring)	11,294	18,415
Engineering, general, iron and brass moulding, and rangemaking (including agricultural and dairying machinery and implement making)	3,579	7,868
Glass-manufacturing	36	216
Match-manufacturing	143	234
Meat freezing, preserving, and canning, ham and bacon curing, gluemaking, and boiling down	8,596	12,368
Nailmaking	26	120
Paper-milling	184	382
Paint and varnish making	124	421
Porcelain-enamelled-goods manufacturing	30	99
Rubber-goods manufacturing	20	349
Sail, tent, canvas goods, cover, and oilskin making	180	390
Ship and boat building	300	896
Woollen-milling, hosiery-manufacturing, and knitting	3,208	5,850

In last year's report attention was drawn to the reduction in the number employed in the motor and cycle engineering trade. A further decrease has taken place, and employment, which increased from 4,806 in 1933-34 to 8,399 in 1939-40, has now fallen away to 6,374 in 1941-42. The coach, motor, and tramcar building, motor trimming, and painting trade has also fallen off from 3,963 in 1938-39 to 2,289 in 1941-42. Rationing of petrol, also withdrawal of men, particularly for Air Force units, have contributed to these variations.

Localization of industry is distinctly marked throughout New Zealand. While on the one hand meat-freezing concerns are fairly well distributed, glass-manufacturing, plywood, wallboard (pulp), and pottery are practically restricted to the Auckland District. Boot-manufacturing is found in Auckland (1,759 workers), Christchurch (1,319 workers), Wellington (919 workers), and Dunedin (370 workers), with factories also in Wanganui and Timaru. Thus, while Dunedin ranks fourth in the number of workers in the boot-manufacturing industry, it holds premier place in the woollen-milling industry, Christchurch running it a close second, with Wellington third, and Auckland lowest of the four chief towns. Of interest also is the distribution in respect of laundry-work, dyeing, and cleaning. In these trades Auckland City has 589 workers, Wellington City 474, Christchurch City 265, and Dunedin City only 73, a variation that is not wholly explained by the differences in population.

ACCIDENTS.

Details regarding the number of accidents in factories are not yet sufficiently tabulated to permit inclusion in this report. Each accident reported to the Department is carefully inquired into for the purpose of ascertaining that the worker's rights under the Workers' Compensation Act, 1922, are made known to him, also that any precautions possible are adopted so that accident risks for the future will be lessened. In doing this the Department performs a useful service to worker, employer, and the country generally. Accidents that have occurred in recent years on farms, also in the distributive trades, have suggested that it is not unreasonable that there be introduced a responsibility to report all accidents to workers in the course of their employment. Accidents in factories and building-work are already provided for, and probably also accidents in connection with machines, electrical hazards, and transport. This is a matter that will be brought forward for the consideration of the Legislature.

A special investigation has been made of fire-escapes in factories in collaboration with the local authorities concerned. While the Factories Act, 1921-22, confers certain powers in this connection