

If in the field of agriculture there is some evidence that the demand for agricultural labour has been satisfied, this cannot be said of the manufacturing field, where large unsatisfied demands exist at the present time. Some indication of the present unsatisfied demands of secondary industry for labour is given by the following figures of vacancies notified from secondary industries to the Director of Employment at the end of July, 1946 :—

Group.	Notified Vacancies.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Food, drink, and tobacco	310	676	986
Textiles, clothing, leather	494	6,029	6,523
Building materials and furnishings	501	89	590
Engineering and metals	2,193	267	2,460
Other secondary	410	1,049	1,459
Power and water supply	113	7	120
Totals	4,021	8,117	12,138

It is of importance to observe that the above table shows only notified vacancies. There can be little doubt that there are many more vacancies which are not advised to the Director of Employment, and that approximately only 50 per cent. of the actual total vacancies in secondary industries are included above. At a later stage the question of the satisfaction of this demand will be discussed in some detail, but at this stage it is worth pointing out that even if there were immigrants available to come to New Zealand to work in the manufacturing industries the problem of housing is such as to severely limit such a development in the immediate future. The problem of the location of industry has been discussed elsewhere.

D. POTENTIAL INDUSTRIAL POPULATION

In view of the above evidence of expanding industrial economy and an unsatisfied demand for labour within that industry it is important to examine the future possibilities of obtaining within the country recruits for industrial purposes. The key to this situation is found in the birth-rate. On the assumption that young people enter industry between the ages of fourteen and eighteen, then the birth-rate from fourteen to eighteen years* previously is the determining factor in estimating the number that will be available for industry at any given time. The following table, taken from the evidence submitted by the Industries and Commerce Department, sets out over a period of twenty years the juvenile population of New Zealand :—

Table No. 100.—Table showing Juvenile Population (aged Fourteen to Eighteen) of New Zealand from 1938 to 1956

(NOTE.—The numbers refer to those born from fourteen to eighteen years previously)

Year.	Juvenile Population.	Year.	Juvenile Population.
1938 ..	144,375	1948 ..	126,949
1939 ..	142,607	1949 ..	124,137
1940 ..	141,613	1950 ..	122,432
1941 ..	140,488	1951 ..	123,560
1942 ..	139,721	1952 ..	126,475
1943 ..	138,454	1953 ..	130,986
1944 ..	137,088	1954 ..	139,792
1945 ..	135,237	1955 ..	149,955
1946 ..	132,240	1956 ..	157,510
1947 ..	129,374		

* The school leaving age is now fifteen years of age.