

PART II.—EMPLOYMENT LEVELS

SECTION I.—SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION OF LABOUR

67. New Zealand's labour force in 1947 is estimated at 533,000 males and 185,000 females. Of these, there are 13,000 persons serving in the Armed Forces. The total population of New Zealand (including Maoris) at the 31st December, 1946, was 893,000 males and 891,000 females, a total of 1,784,000. The working population, plus Armed Forces, represents approximately 60 per cent. of the total male population in the case of males and 21 per cent. in the case of females.

68. It is estimated that the distribution of persons in industry is as follows :—

						Males.	Females.
						Per Cent.	Per Cent.
Farming and other primary industries	..	..	..	..	..	34	4
Manufacturing (secondary) industries	..	..	..	..	..	31	22
Servicing or tertiary industries	..	..	..	..	..	35	74
All industry	..	..	..	..	..	100	100

69. New Zealand is regarded as a predominantly primary producing country, and the value of farm products produced annually still exceeds the value added to raw materials by her rapidly expanding secondary industries. Progress in the application of machinery to farming and improved farming methods generally have enabled primary production to hold its place as the chief contributor to New Zealand's national income, in spite of the increasing demands made upon the labour force by secondary and tertiary industries.

70. The development of New Zealand's manufacturing industries by lessening her dependence on imports from overseas has reduced the effects upon her economy of fluctuations in international trading conditions. The increase in manufacturing activity is illustrated by the following table of numbers employed in successive years, as shown by the statistics of factory production published in the "New Zealand Official Year-Book" (figures for 1944-45 and subsequent years are not yet available) :—

Year.				Factory Production : Number of Persons engaged.	
				Males.	Females.
1935-36	..	..	..	65,200	21,400
1936-37	..	..	..	72,000	24,400
1937-38	..	..	..	76,200	26,200
1938-39	..	..	..	76,900	25,700
1939-40	..	..	..	80,200	28,600
1940-41	..	..	..	81,700	32,300
1941-42	..	..	..	82,000	35,200
1942-43	..	..	..	78,500	36,100
1943-44	..	..	..	81,700	36,200

71. The figures show the rapidity of the pre-war expansion and the relative stability in numbers employed during the war years, in spite of heavy withdrawals of men for the Armed Forces.