

75. In the case of both males and females the number of juveniles aged fifteen to twenty years has shown a gradual decrease from a peak of 82,000 males and 79,000 females in 1941 to the present total of 77,900 males and 74,700 females. This reduction in the juvenile group is likely to continue until 1952. After 1952 it is estimated that the numbers aged fifteen to twenty years will increase.

76. Without allowing for immigration, estimates of the number of males and females aged fifteen to twenty years for each year up to 1955 are given below. These figures represent the probable numbers of survivors of persons born fifteen to twenty years previously :—

Year.	Juveniles aged Fifteen to Twenty : Survivors of those born Fifteen to Twenty Years previously.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
1947	77,900	74,700	152,600
1948	76,200	73,100	149,300
1949	74,600	71,700	146,300
1950	73,200	70,300	143,500
1951	72,100	69,200	141,300
1952	71,300	68,800	140,100
1953	71,600	69,400	141,000
1954	73,200	71,000	144,200
1955	76,300	74,100	150,400

77. The age-groups 50–65 for males will also be a small group over the next few years, however, so that retirements will continue to be fewer than replacements and the male labour force as a whole will continue to increase very slowly, but with a serious dearth of juveniles. The same position regarding retirements will not hold for the female labour force, which, unless assisted by immigration, will actually decrease in total.

78. The following table shows the estimated changes in the male and female labour force over the next eight years if immigration is not allowed for :—

Year.	Estimated Labour Force (including Armed Forces).		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
1947	533,000	185,000	718,000
1948	535,000	184,000	719,000
1949	537,000	183,000	720,000
1950	538,000	181,000	719,000
1955	552,000	180,000	732,000

NOTE.—At the time of writing this report (April, 1947) a revision of estimated employment figures has become possible through the availability of fuller information from Half-yearly Surveys and other sources. The revised figures, which will not be completed in time for inclusion in the report, will, however, be shown in the forthcoming Half-yearly Survey of Employment, July, 1947.

79. If the present rate of industrial expansion continues, this slow increase in available man-power will be quite inadequate to cope with the increase in demand for labour, and it will be necessary to seek out all possible expedients to add to the numbers of persons in the labour force and to increase the effectiveness with which labour can be used.

80. Immigration is the most obvious method by which a direct addition can be made to the labour force, but (as discussed in Section VI of Part I of this report) shipping meanwhile places fairly close limits on the flow of immigrants. New Zealand thus appears likely to be faced with a labour shortage for some time. In Sections II and III below the problems arising from this shortage are reviewed.