

The distribution of vacancies geographically was as follows :—

VACANCIES RECORDED IN HALF-YEARLY RETURNS, OCTOBER, 1948

	Male Vacancies.	Female Vacancies.
Auckland	3,483 (3,557)	3,349 (3,547)
Wellington-Lower Hutt	3,999 (4,947)	3,030 (3,473)
Christchurch	1,150 (1,329)	1,378 (1,767)
Dunedin	1,079 (1,061)	1,504 (1,868)
Twenty-two other districts	5,008 (4,985)	2,658 (2,553)
Total	14,719 (15,879)	11,919 (13,208)

(October, 1947, figures shown in parentheses.)

The following table shows the incidence of the above vacancies to total surveyed labour force :—

VACANCIES RECORDED IN HALF-YEARLY RETURNS, OCTOBER, 1948, AS PERCENTAGES OF LABOUR FORCE COVERED BY RETURNS

	Males.	Females.
Auckland	4.8	11.0
Wellington-Lower Hutt	7.7	13.7
Christchurch	3.1	8.9
Dunedin	4.4	15.5
Other districts	3.9	6.0
New Zealand	4.6	9.8

Vacancies notified by employers to the National Employment Service for filling (as distinct from vacancies shown by all employers in their half-yearly returns) are set out in Table I of the Appendix to this report. These figures reflect approximately the same relative distribution over industry as those recorded in half-yearly returns. From them it will be seen that a majority of the vacancies occur in secondary industries.

(5) Unemployment during the twelve months has continued at an insignificant figure. Disengaged persons enrolling for employment with the National Employment Service totalled 27,171 for the year (19,823 males and 7,348 females). Nevertheless, the highest number remaining unplaced at the end of any month was 141 in June. This mid-winter figure comprised 133 males and 8 females.

(6) In the expansion of secondary industries the greatest gain was made in the building and construction industry, where the surveyed labour force moved from 37,333 in October, 1947, to 39,321 in October, 1948, half of this increase occurring in the house-construction sector. In manufacturing industries—i.e., secondary industries excluding building and construction—the aggregate labour force moved from 146,115 in October, 1947, to 148,408 in October, 1948. The following table shows the movement in the main groups :—

SURVEYED LABOUR FORCE IN MAIN MANUFACTURING GROUPS

	October, 1947.	October, 1948.	Gain.
Food, drink, and tobacco (excluding seasonal)	14,960	15,219	259
Textiles, leather, and clothing	35,428	35,799	371
Building materials and furnishings	18,664	19,424	760
Engineering and metal working	47,794	48,365	971
Other manufacturing	21,164	20,863	301 (loss)
Power and water-supply	8,505	8,738	233