

It may be noted that there is a decrease of £1,106 in the shipbuilding, of £897 in the basketware, and of £6,056 in the miscellaneous trades. This deficit, however to be regretted, is small compared with that of last year, when there was a decrease of £50,846, mainly caused by the failure of the flax and fellmongery businesses. These two years taken together show a loss of £56,902 in the annual wage-sheet over that of three years ago, and absorb part of the increases shown by the larger trades, but flax-milling and fellmongery have improved very much lately, and are on the ascending scale, so that we may confidently look forward to a plus sign against their earnings for the next annual report.

The local distribution of the wages paid is as follows :—

Factories in New Zealand.

Industrial District.	Number of Persons engaged.								Number of Workrooms employing				Total Wages paid during the Year.
	Male Employees.			Female Employees.			Total Employees.	Total Employers.					
	Age 14-16.	Age 17-20.	Age 21 and over.	Age 14-16.	Age 17-20.	Age 21 and over.			Up to 8 Persons.	9 to 30 Persons.	Over 30 Persons.	Total.	
Auckland City	652	1,323	6,087	542	1,108	1,525	11,237	1,550	1,276	199	85	1,560	997,264
Wellington City	355	778	4,104	370	753	1,301	7,661	1,067	863	160	51	1,074	800,357
Christchurch City	509	1,056	5,288	492	1,033	1,795	10,173	1,348	1,139	134	69	1,342	831,392
Dunedin City	571	957	4,793	656	1,019	1,670	9,666	1,143	990	152	68	1,207	758,199
*Northern District	287	620	3,850	119	227	253	5,356	1,284	1,241	132	18	1,391	480,550
Taranaki District	108	205	1,426	46	95	102	1,982	513	565	41	5	611	199,986
*Wellington District	415	820	5,706	229	457	650	8,277	2,022	2,030	202	18	2,250	826,551
Marlborough District	28	76	490	15	28	29	666	171	168	12	1	181	58,775
Nelson District	80	153	702	33	76	96	1,140	356	303	32	3	338	91,080
Westland District	100	191	1,075	56	107	104	1,633	395	354	51	1	406	165,909
*Canterbury District	191	418	2,205	89	198	327	3,428	904	913	73	8	994	263,848
* Otago District	121	250	958	35	88	199	1,651	503	486	32	4	522	141,580
* Southland District	214	351	1,981	91	169	237	3,043	637	578	84	8	670	275,450
Totals	3,631	7,198	38,665	2,773	5,358	8,288	65,913	11,893	10,906	1,304	338	12,548	5,890,941

* Excluding Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin Cities; respectively.

This table shows that of the four chief cities Auckland takes the leading place in wage-expenditure by nearly £165,872 over its nearest competitor, Christchurch.

Auckland.	Christchurch.	Wellington.	Dunedin.
£997,264	£831,392	£800,357	£758,199.

Christchurch, however, paid £29,310 less in factory wages this year than it did the previous year. The others paid considerably more.

	Auckland.	Christchurch.	Wellington.	Dunedin.
1908-9 ..	£921,314	£860,702	£784,177	£723,962
1909-10 ..	£997,264	£831,392	£800,357	£758,199
	+ 75,950	—£29,310	+ £16,180	+ £34,237

If we consider, however, the case of each chief city together with its surrounding industrial district, the wages paid give the leading place to Wellington.

Wellington.	Auckland.	Canterbury.	Otago and Southland.
£1,626,908	£1,477,814	£1,095,240	£1,175,229.

The numbers of employees engaged in factories in the four centres are—

Auckland.	Christchurch.	Dunedin.	Wellington.
11,237	10,173	9,666	7,661.

There is a falling-off in numbers employed on those of the preceding year in Auckland of 132 workers; in Christchurch, of 111; in Wellington, of 602; while Dunedin gained 43.

If we include together with each chief city the industrial district surrounding it, we find the manufacturing workers distributed as follows :—

Auckland.	Wellington.	Otago and Southland.	Canterbury.
16,593	15,938	14,360	13,601.

Again, taking the chief cities alone (without their surrounding districts), the proportion of employees to wages paid is as follows: Auckland paid 11,369 workers £997,264; Christchurch paid 10,284 workers £831,392; Wellington paid 8,263 workers £800,357; Dunedin paid 9,643 workers £758,199. The factory worker thus appears to receive on an average £9 a year more in Wellington than in Auckland; £16 more in Wellington than in Christchurch; £18 more in Wellington than in Dunedin.

NOTE.—These figures are the result of the division of the wages shown this year by the number of employees working during 1908-9. We do not get from employers until the following year the amount actually paid to their employees during the period. For instance, the total wages paid for the year ending 31st March, 1910, will not be given until the collection of schedules in April, 1911.