

The following table shows how the wages were distributed amongst the leading trades :—

Wages paid in the several Trades, 1st April, 1908, to 31st March, 1910.

Class.	Wages paid during the Years		Increase.	Increase Percentage.
	1909-10.	1908-9.		
	£	£	£	
Food trades	1,226,817	1,157,058	69,759	6.0
Clothing trades	847,688	844,621	3,067	0.4
Printing and stationery trades	379,434	366,869	12,565	3.4
Leather-working trades	363,754	348,454	15,300	4.4
Light, heat, and power trades	163,315	147,879	15,436	9.1
Chemical and by-product trades	100,680	92,267	8,413	9.1
Watch and jewellery trades	49,469	45,582	3,887	8.4
Basket and wicker trades	17,873	17,281	592	3.4
Miscellaneous	556,384	491,921	64,463	13.1
Woodworking trades	958,902	1,035,489	76,587	..
Iron and metal trades	1,005,444	1,018,657	13,213	..
Stone, clay, and mineral trades	214,543	222,901	8,358	..
Paper and cardboard trades	22,159	24,504	2,345	..
Ship building and repairing trades	74,608	77,458	2,850	..
Totals	5,981,070	5,890,941	90,129	..

* The total wages paid in factories, as shown in the various tables, are for the twelve months ending 31st March, 1910—the figures for 1910-11, for instance, will not be obtainable from the employers until later.

It will be noted that there have been decreases in the wages paid in the following trades : Woodworking, iron and metal, stone, clay, and mineral, paper and cardboard ; and ship building and repairing.

No doubt the depression suffered in the building and iron trades is responsible for some of the decreases shown. The figures published by the Department as to wages deal with the twelve months prior to 31st March, 1910, and, seeing that since that time the building trades have assumed their normal activity, I feel confident that our next returns will show a better result. As to the iron trades, the outlook is not so promising. The special inquiry instituted by the Government during the last few months will, no doubt, elicit much valuable information. Large increases are shown in the wages paid in food ; leather-working ; light, heat, and power ; and miscellaneous trades. The total increase in wages paid over the previous return is £90,129.

Factories in New Zealand.

Industrial District.	Number of Persons engaged.								Number of Workrooms employing				Total Wages paid during the Year ending 31st March, 1910.
	Male Employees.			Female Employees.			Total Employees.	Total Employers engaged.				Total.	
	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.		
Auckland City ..	627	1,265	6,310	579	1,053	1,523	11,357	1,639	1,251	214	94	1,559	1,032,607
Wellington City ..	344	750	4,100	388	707	1,273	7,562	1,148	913	161	46	1,120	750,580
Christchurch City ..	294	1,048	5,323	267	1,067	1,892	9,891	1,365	1,174	154	65	1,393	855,478
Dunedin City ..	364	963	5,028	345	1,093	1,845	9,638	1,067	1,010	147	64	1,221	800,287
*Northern District ..	336	630	4,025	106	231	265	5,593	1,326	1,357	153	21	1,531	500,818
Taranaki District ..	110	219	1,425	54	83	100	1,991	580	615	40	3	658	197,444
*Wellington District	394	1,045	5,946	209	466	586	8,646	2,346	2,168	234	20	2,422	812,611
Marlborough District	25	78	520	3	32	25	683	168	170	16	1	187	56,378
Nelson District ..	69	142	700	22	65	89	1,087	387	329	28	3	360	90,568
Westland District ..	93	196	1,084	58	109	102	1,642	381	350	56	1	407	168,722
*Canterbury District	183	383	2,171	101	193	333	3,364	892	915	71	7	993	280,196
* (Otago District ..	100	252	951	46	113	206	1,668	513	512	30	5	547	143,377
Southland District	198	414	2,167	86	175	242	3,282	574	622	86	8	716	292,004
	3,137	7,385	39,750	2,264	5,387	8,481	66,404	12,386	11,386	1,390	338	13,114	5,981,070

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