

The value of output declined by £188,602, and value added by manufacture by £40,867. The reports for the current year reveal keen competition from local sources. Overseas manufacturers are handicapped by present adverse exchange rate between United Kingdom and New Zealand. Knitting-wools continue to be in strong demand, and while this has been of material assistance to woollen-mills in keeping production figures at present level, it has had the effect of diverting trade to some extent from other woollen-mill products.

The import figures of competing piece-goods show very substantial decreases. The three groups below show a total decline of £1,292,067, a decline of 38 per cent. on the 1930 figures.

Piece-goods.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
	£	£	£	£
Artificial and pure silk	1,001,569	1,211,335	1,020,019	610,191
Woollen	785,593	742,649	622,256	401,513
Cotton and linen	1,863,355	1,841,997	1,734,653	1,073,157
Totals	3,650,517	3,795,981	3,376,928	2,084,861

Printing and Publishing.

Official statistics, year ended 31st March :—	1929.	1930.	1931.
Establishments (number)	358	350	358
Employees (number)	8,322	8,255	8,192
Wages paid	£1,838,262	£1,859,182	£1,805,620
Value of output	£4,642,725	£4,772,811	£4,509,786
Value added by manufacture	£3,476,787	£3,569,680	£3,339,487

The increases in production recorded last year have not been maintained, and the 1931 statistics have receded below the 1929 figures. Further reduced output is recorded for the current year. Competition is very keen, and price-cutting for business is prevalent. The outlook is not promising.

Brush and Broom making.

Official statistics, year ended 31st March :—	1929.	1930.	1931.
Establishments (number)	10	14	15
Employees (number)	215	239	223
Wages paid	£40,332	£41,733	£42,415
Value of output	£111,898	£135,047	£116,107
Value added by manufacture	£67,074	£73,212	£66,479
Imports, calendar years :—			
Brushes, brushware, and brooms	£81,963	£78,003	£38,623

Unfavourable conditions are reported for the current year. Sales show a decline ranging from 15 to 25 per cent. It will be noticed that, while local production for year ending 31st March, 1931, declined £18,940, or 14 per cent., imports declined over 50 per cent. for the year ending 31st December, 1931.

Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, not given; printing (1,215 copies), £32.

By Authority : W. A. G. SKINNER, Government Printer, Wellington.—1932.

Price 9d.