

Engineering.

Official statistics, year ended 31st March—	1933.	1934.	1935.
Establishments (number)	188	181	196
Employees (number)	2,329	2,283	2,772
Wages paid	£414,409	£398,721	£502,117
Value of output	£974,490	£1,054,643	£1,413,701
Value added by manufacture ..	£623,079	£652,638	£855,960

The figures indicate a general improvement in all branches of the industry. Recent reports from the various centres indicate that general conditions in the industry show a marked improvement as a result of increased sales owing to a greater demand mainly from the building industry, the dairying industry, and from commercial laundries. There has also been an increase in the number of hands employed, and in the case of one centre it is reported that considerable difficulty exists in obtaining skilled labour.

Production has been reported to have commenced on the following new lines: Bread-moulding machine; plate-type pasteurizer for dairy factories; Bakelite products.

Sauce, Pickle, and Vinegar Making.

Official statistics, year ended 31st March—	1933.	1934.	1935.
Establishments (number)	20	19	18
Employees (number)	210	237	236
Wages paid	£38,086	£39,940	£38,345
Value of output	£177,861	£176,561	£192,219
Value added by manufacture ..	£103,104	£102,667	£108,125
Imports, calendar years—			
Pickles (gallons)	728	1,010	944
Value	£622	£669	£731
Sauce and chutney (gallons) ..	6,040	8,102	8,702
Value	£7,833	£10,466	£10,781
Vinegar (gallons)	20,379	18,676	12,670
Value	£6,868	£6,136	£4,068

Conditions generally in the industry show a slight improvement. The current year opened satisfactorily, and prospects are promising.

Soap and Candle Making.

Official statistics, year ended 31st March—	1933.	1934.	1935.
Establishments (number)	23	24	23
Employees (number)	470	468	513
Wages paid	£86,570	£85,207	£86,817
Value of output	£467,393	£468,988	£536,235
Value added by manufacture ..	£251,257	£258,324	£299,695

Soap sales show an increase over the previous year. Heavy local competition in bar soap is a feature of the trade, while overseas manufacturers are well represented in the toilet-soap market. A South Island firm has recently made an important addition to its factory, and, besides the manufacture of several new lines of toilet soap, the production of talcum, face-powders, and shaving-cream is now undertaken.

Throughout the industry the production of candles continues to diminish, owing to the increasing availability of electric light.

Coach and Motor-body Building and Cycle-works.

Official statistics, year ended 31st March—	1933.	1934.	1935.
Establishments (number)	1,042	1,024	1,077
Employees (number)	4,560	4,491	5,473
Wages paid	£731,296	£693,082	£889,439
Value of output	£1,895,253	£1,963,497	£2,570,963
Value added by manufacture ..	£1,101,961	£1,117,235	£1,453,249

The above figures show a progressive improvement in the industry during recent years. The employment position is particularly gratifying, and indicates an increase of 981 employees during 1934–35. The general improvement reflected in the figures continues.

Biscuits and Confectionery Making.

Official statistics, year ended 31st March—	1933.	1934.	1935.
Establishments (number)	58	57	57
Employees (number)	2,512	2,738	2,591
Wages paid	£313,210	£312,012	£273,078
Value of output	£1,246,733	£1,379,760	£1,481,575
Value added by manufacture ..	£654,443	£691,125	£734,421