

Coach and Motor-body Building and Cycle-works.

Official statistics, year ended 31st March—	1934.	1935.	1936.
Establishments (number) ..	1,024	1,077	1,150
Employees (number) ..	4,491	5,473	6,731
Salaries and wages paid ..	£693,082	£889,439	£1,138,974
Value of output ..	£1,963,497	£2,570,963	£3,222,626
Value added by manufacture ..	£1,117,235	£1,453,249	£2,002,383

Most firms in this industry have had an excellent year, in some cases turnover having increased by approximately one-third. Employment has expanded, and in some cases it has been impossible to satisfy the demand for skilled operatives. The attitude of the industry is generally one of optimism for the future.

Biscuits and Confectionery Making.

Official statistics, year ended 31st March—	1934.	1935.	1936.
Establishments (number) ..	57	57	60
Employees (number) ..	2,738	2,591	2,862
Salaries and wages paid ..	£312,012	£273,078	£314,717
Value of output ..	£1,379,760	£1,481,575	£1,688,191
Value added by manufacture ..	£691,125	£734,421	£813,122

Early during the recovery period manufacturers found business steadily improving, until a sound and stable basis of operations was reached. The present year has been good, sales having increased in some instances by 30 per cent. This fact, together with the shortening of the working-week, has resulted in an increase in staffs of some firms, while it has also been necessary to work a certain amount of overtime. Some difficulty has been experienced in procuring both youth and girl labour. Business still continues good, and prospects are favourable.

Furniture and Cabinet Making.

Official statistics, year ended 31st March—	1934.	1935.	1936.
Establishments (number) ..	281	285	308
Employees (number) ..	1,576	1,874	2,262
Salaries and wages paid ..	£233,300	£285,081	£376,261
Value of output ..	£516,365	£773,810	£1,029,948
Value added by manufacture ..	£347,121	£414,012	£539,765

Manufacturers report very busy conditions, with increases in turnovers ranging up to 35 per cent. in individual cases. It has been difficult to procure skilled labour. At the close of the period prospects were decidedly good, with the greater development of a tendency towards better quality buying.

Ham and Bacon Factories.

Official statistics, year ended 31st March—	1934.	1935.	1936.
Establishments (number) ..	39	43	49
Employees (number) ..	427	395	450
Salaries and wages paid ..	£91,000	£79,993	£92,444
Value of output ..	£755,716	£805,113	£918,500
Value added by manufacture ..	£225,411	£228,608	£281,963

Bacon-curers report favourable conditions during the year, with some increase in sales. In some instances there have been increases in staffs.

Bricks, Pipes, Tiles, and Pottery Making.

Official statistics, year ended 31st March—	1934.	1935.	1936.
Establishments (number) ..	43	54	58
Employees (number) ..	467	618	777
Salaries and wages paid ..	£82,664	£111,988	£142,242
Value of output ..	£212,263	£285,164	£347,562
Value added by manufacture ..	£197,984	£264,729	£320,554

With the continued improvement of all industries allied to the building industry, manufacturers of bricks, pipes, tiles, &c., have recorded marked advances in sales. Pottery-manufacturers found the year's activities to be definitely better and recorded increases in sales ranging up to 40 per cent. Staffs have had to be increased, in some cases quite materially. Indications for the coming year are good.

Flaxmilling.

Official statistics, year ended 31st March—	1934.	1935.	1936.
Establishments (number) ..	23	21	29
Employees (number) ..	258	316	506
Salaries and wages paid ..	£35,456	£42,160	£69,367
Value of output ..	£74,291	£80,711	£138,336
Value added by manufacture ..	£58,383	£68,911	£118,430