

Engineering.

Official statistics, year ended 31st March—	1935.	1936.	1937.
Establishments (number)	196	204	206
Employees (number)	2,772	3,326	3,727
Salaries and wages paid	£502,118	£602,668	£774,907
Value of output	£1,413,701	£1,784,274	£2,095,990
Value added by manufacture	£855,960	£1,055,050	£1,253,502

Considerable activity has generally been experienced throughout the year in all engineering trades, and reports indicate that employment has increased slightly in some centres. Competition was generally keen but healthy. Difficulty was experienced earlier in the year in obtaining supplies of steel, but such delays are now of shorter duration. Much new commercial machinery was installed, whilst in jobbing-work, repairs, and renewals considerable activity was observed. Certain new departures in manufacture are reported. The outlook appears good.

Sauce, Pickle, and Vinegar Making.

Official statistics, year ended 31st March—	1935.	1936.	1937.
Establishments (number)	18	18	16
Employees (number)	236	250	254
Salaries and wages paid	£38,345	£41,583	£47,263
Value of output	£192,219	£217,209	£222,264
Value added by manufacture	£108,125	£120,920	£127,231
Imports, calendar years—			
Pickles (gallons)	944	2,375	5,870
Value	£731	£1,501	£2,804
Sauce and chutney (gallons)	8,702	11,057	16,938
Value	£10,781	£12,615	£15,625
Vinegar (gallons)	12,670	18,346	18,274
Value	£4,068	£5,656	£4,843

The industry has enjoyed a successful year, and despite keen competition both from overseas and local sources sales have shown increases ranging up to 10 per cent., which is attributed chiefly to the better spending-power of the public. In some cases there is a tendency to increase staff and to add to equipment. Prospects are considered good, especially as a large share of the market is assured to manufacturers as the result of tariff adjustments.

Soap and Candle Making.

Official statistics, year ended 31st March—	1935.	1936.	1937.
Establishments (number)	23	23	22
Employees (number)	513	492	553
Salaries and wages paid	£86,817	£89,187	£107,259
Value of output	£536,235	£574,191	£578,569
Value added by manufacture	£299,695	£296,128	£279,091

Conditions have, for the most part, been steady, and in the North an improved demand has been experienced. Employment appears on a par with last year. Several new lines of toilet preparations have been undertaken, with encouraging results. The production of candles continues to diminish.

Coach and Motor-body Building and Cycle-works.

Official statistics, year ended 31st March—	1935.	1936.	1937.
Establishments (number)	1,077	1,150	1,218
Employees (number)	5,473	6,731	8,185
Salaries and wages paid	£889,439	£1,138,974	£1,600,730
Value of output	£2,570,963	£3,222,626	£4,334,236
Value added by manufacture	£1,453,249	£2,002,383	£2,776,311

Motor-body builders have experienced an excellent year, and in many cases turnovers were appreciably above those for 1937. Production and sales appear to have increased upward of 30 per cent. New plant has been installed in some factories, and increases in employment up to 20 per cent. are reported, in order to cope with improved conditions.

Biscuits and Confectionery Making.

Official statistics, year ended 31st March—	1935.	1936.	1937.
Establishments (number)	57	60	60
Employees (number)	2,591	2,862	3,127
Salaries and wages paid	£273,078	£314,717	£392,606
Value of output	£1,481,575	£1,688,191	£1,964,130
Value added by manufacture	£734,421	£813,122	£992,743

Generally, excellent trading conditions were experienced with considerable expansion in business taking place, and some increase in staffs resulting. The public was spending freely, although, in regard to confectionery, it was ascertained that in some centres, owing to the unusually hot summer, a lull in sales was apparent during late months. Local competition remains keen.